

Executive summary

- A desktop study was carried out to examine potential development sites in Stafford Borough.
- Potential development sites were examined for known protected species records, Habitats and geological features using data from Staffordshire Ecological Record.
- For each site a form was completed which set out implications for protected species, Habitats and Geology.
- Site forms also include initial recommendations for mitigation and management.
- In Eccleshall, it is recommended that five sites require further protected species surveys. Two sites have Habitats that are probably being used by protected or Biodiversity Action Plan species and those Habitats should be retained and enhanced.
- In Gnosall it is recommended that seven sites require further protected species surveys. Five sites have Habitats that are potentially being used by protected or Biodiversity Action Plan species and those Habitats should be retained and enhanced, with Habitat created to replace any losses.
- In Haughton it is recommended that five sites require further protected species surveys and one site requires a Habitat survey.
- In Great Haywood and Little Haywood it is recommended that five sites require further protected species surveys. Five sites have Habitats that are potentially being used by protected or Biodiversity Action Plan species and those Habitats should be retained.
- In Hixon it is recommended that nine sites require further protected species surveys. Two sites have Habitats that are probably being used by protected or Biodiversity Action Plan species and those Habitats should be retained and enhanced.
- In Stafford it is recommended that six sites require further protected species surveys. Four sites have Habitats that are probably being used by protected or Biodiversity Action Plan species and those Habitats should be retained and enhanced, with Habitat created to replace any losses. Habitat surveys are required for nine sites, with the installation of SuDS recommended at two sites to increase water storage.
- In Stone it is recommended that eight sites require further protected species surveys. Six sites have Habitats that are probably being used by protected or Biodiversity Action Plan species and those Habitats should be retained and enhanced, with Habitat created to replace any losses. A Habitat surveys is also required for one site.
- Protected species are an issue at most sites and if addressed adequately then development can be considered but this needs to be identified on a site by site basis.
- Of significance are a number of sites within Stafford and Stone which incorporate designated 'Sites of Biological Importance' or Habitat of such quality that future designation is to occur. Retention of these significant sites is fundamental, and if not possible then other sites should be considered for development as an alternative to maintain the integrity of these sites.



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1 Background

The Staffordshire Wildlife Trust was commissioned by the Forward Planning Section, of Stafford Borough Council to carry out a comprehensive ecological desk top study of proposed areas outlined for housing and employment development around Stafford, Stone, Eccleshall, Gnosall, Hixon, Great Haywood and Haughton. The study was to include the identification of priority species and Habitats which the Local Authorities have a duty to consider when determining planning applications. This includes Protected and Biodiversity Action Plan Species and Habitats.

2 Introduction

All potential development sites were assessed using a combination of existing species and Habitat records and aerial photographs. In a few cases, sites were visited to confirm impressions from the desk top exercise. Unfortunately time did not allow for all sites considered to be of potential interest or importance to be visited.

It should be noted that species and Habitat records are not comprehensive. The Borough has never been the subject of a complete, field by field survey. The completeness of species recording is largely dependant on the number of people who have sent in records over the years. Some species records are now rather old. For all sites it is preferable to carry out further Habitat and species survey work. The current study is designed to draw attention to the more obvious issues, which can then be addressed at an early stage.

Habitats such as woodlands, hedgerows, open mosaic Habitats on brownfield sites, ponds and semi-natural grassland should be retained where possible. If it is not possible to retain these Habitats then new areas of similar Habitat should be created.

Certain types of hedges, open mosaic Habitats on brownfield sites and ponds are now listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan as important. It has not been possible to assess any of these Habitats in the current study. We have noted where open mosaic Habitats on brownfield sites might occur, hedges and ponds should be apparent on Ordnance Survey maps. Sites with these Habitats should be assessed further.

For protected species the following are particularly important:

Bats – where there are mature trees and / or buildings a new survey should be carried out to determine whether bats are resident. If bats are resident development may not be possible. If development is possible, further detailed protection and mitigation proposals will be a legal requirement and further specialist work will be needed.

Great crested newts (GCN) – where there are ponds either on site or nearby, a new survey should be carried out to determine whether GCN are resident. If GCM are



resident development may not be possible. If development is possible, further detailed protection and mitigation proposals will be a legal requirement and further specialist work will be needed.

Badgers – very few sites will not have badgers either resident or nearby. Protection and or mitigation measures will be required.



3 Protected and Biodiversity Action Plan Species

Detailed guidance on species conservation is given in Staffordshire County Council's 'Planning Application Validation: Staffordshire requirements for Biodiversity and Geological Conservation', which can be found in Appendix 1. The following is a brief summary:

Protected Species¹

Relevant legislation

- European Protected Species (as listed on Schedules 2 and 4 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994.
- UK Protected Species (Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended))
- The Protection of Badgers Act 1992

Species which may be found in Stafford Borough include:

Bats (all British species)

Great crested newt

Natterjack toad (Cannock Chase only)

Otter

Dormouse

Adder

Grass snake

Slow worm

Common lizard

Water vole

Native white-clawed crayfish

Pine marten

A number of species of protected plants

A number of species of protected invertebrates

All wild birds are protected from killing and destruction of nests.

Schedule 1 birds (W&CA 1981), also receive further protection. They include Barn owl, Kingfisher, Little ringed plover, Peregrine falcon and many wetland birds. This is not a comprehensive list – for a full list see Natural England website. It is illegal to disturb these species while they are breeding.

Badgers

Broad guidelines for all the above species:

1. Note any existing records – these may be found using the Staffordshire Ecological Record database, which the Borough Council has access to. Protected species records are denoted by either a red dot in a red circle, or a red square. It is important to note any species on adjoining land as well.
2. State what appropriate surveys will be needed to inform potential development and mitigation proposals.
3. Produce a method statement for protection/ avoidance
4. Decide what avoidance or mitigation will be needed

¹ For a full species list see Defra's European Protected Species guidance note and Natural England's website

5. Where possible seek further enhancements
6. Highlighted species carry the strongest levels of protection and / or are most likely to be affected by development.

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Species

Relevant legislation and guidance

- UK BAP species (updated as of 2007)
- Species of Principal Importance in England listed in Section 74 CRoW Act 2000 (same as UK BAP in 2002)
- Staffordshire BAP species
- Any local/district BAP species
- PPS9, CRoW Act 2000 and NERC Act 2006 give guidance/confer duty to conserve)
-

Species which may be found in Stafford Borough include:

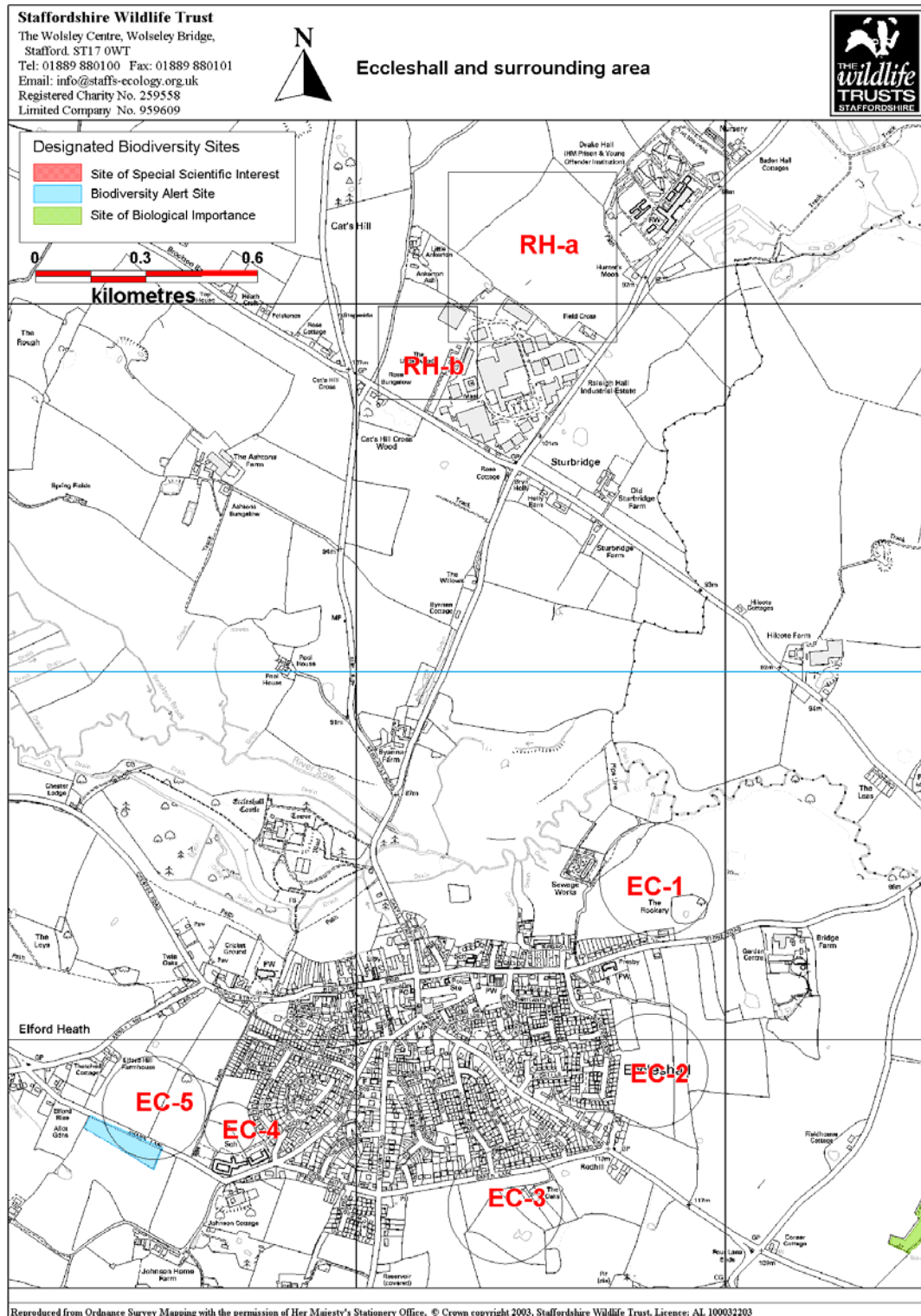
- Mammals: Brown hare, noctule bat, otter, pipistrelle bat, water vole
- Birds: Barn owl, farmland seed-eating birds, grey partridge, lapwing, nightjar, snipe, woodlark, skylark
- Reptiles, Fish: Atlantic salmon, grass snake
- Amphibians: Great crested newt, natterjack toad
- Invertebrates: Bog-bush cricket, ground-nesting solitary bees and wasps, small pearl-bordered fritillary, white-faced darter, native white-clawed crayfish
- Plants: Dyer's greenweed, hybrid bilberry, floating water plantain, grass wrack pondweed, native black poplar, pink meadow cap

Broad guidelines for all the above species:

1. Note any existing records – these may be found using the Staffordshire Ecological Record database, which the Borough Council has access to.
2. Where a population may be affected state that survey/s will be required.
3. Determine what protection, mitigation and enhancement will be needed to ensure there is no net loss of species. Secure enhancements where possible to achieve net gain.
4. Encourage other appropriate species on site - refer to UK, county or local BAP for targets.

4 Eccleshall & Surrounding Area

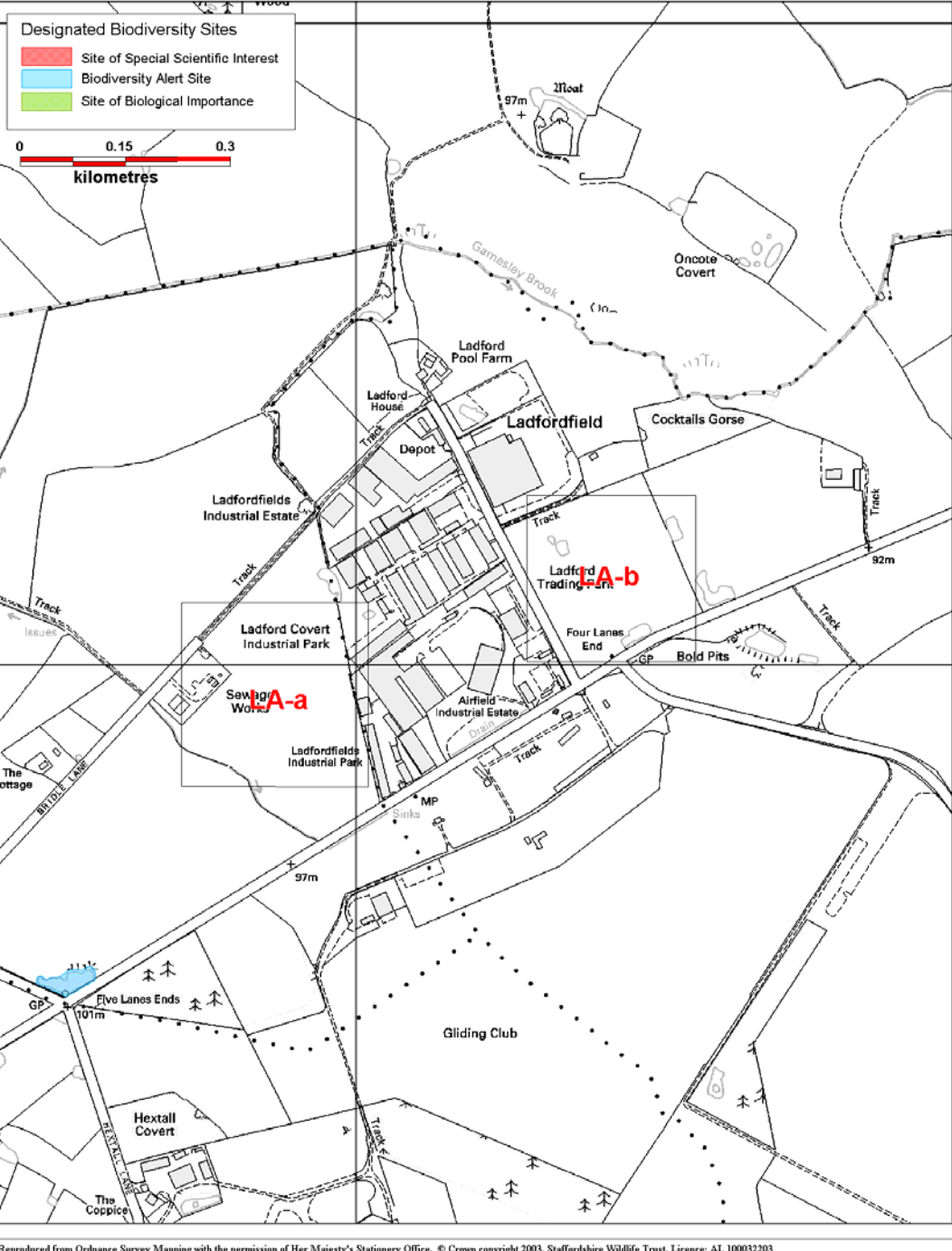
4.1 Maps of Potential Housing & Employment Development Sites



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Ladfordfield



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4.2 Site Forms for Eccleshall & Surrounding Area

SBC Site ID	EC-1
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SJ 838 294
Location (town / village)	Eccleshall
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Not of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Arable field with woodland copse.	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
N/A	Selection of Bird species such as Red Kite, Peregrine, but none of the recorded are likely to be breeding at site.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Arable	SJ 841 294	Attempt to retain arable section on eastern side as Skylark is known to use the site.
Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland	SJ 838 293	Unlikely to be of ancient origin.
Hedgerow with Trees	SJ 837 295	Attempt to retain hedgerow and tree species as site is used by Tree Sparrow

Site recommendations	
1.	Retain arable section on east side of site and hedgerow and trees

SBC Site ID	EC-2
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SJ 837 289
Location (town / village)	Eccleshall
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Not of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Site is dominated by agriculturally improved grassland	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Badger	Recorded within 500 metres of site (on EC-3)
Bat	Pipistrelle Bats have been recorded as roosting within 500 metres of the site.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Improved Grassland		
Intact Hedgerow		
Hedgerow with trees	SJ 838 291	May be used by Bats as foraging habitat.

Site recommendations	
1.	Protected species survey needed to establish the extent of usage of the site by Bats and Badgers



SBC Site ID	EC-3
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SJ 833 285
Location (town / village)	Eccleshall
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Not of SBI Quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Site consists of agriculturally improved grassland and arable land.	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Great Crested Newt	Recorded on north boundary of site.
Bats	Pipistrelle Bats have been recorded as roosting within 500 metres of the site.
Badger	Recorded within 500 metres of site

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Arable		
Improved Grassland		
Intact Hedgerow		
Standing water	SJ 835 286	Possible Great Crested Newt site

Site recommendations	
1	Great Crested Newt survey is required as there appears to be a network of small ponds on and adjacent to the site.
2	Protected species survey will establish the extent of usage of the site by Bats and Badgers.



SBC Site ID	EC-4
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SJ 826 287
Location (town / village)	Eccleshall
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Not of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments:	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Birds	Selection of Bird species such as, Peregrine, have been recorded in the locality, but none of the recorded are likely to be breeding at site.
Great Crested Newt	Recorded on the site.
Badger	Recorded, and confirmed as breeding, within 500 metres of the site.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Scattered Scrub		
Poor semi-improved grassland		
Intact Hedgerow		
Hedgerow with Trees		

Site recommendations	
1	Great Crested Newt survey required



SBC Site ID	EC-5
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SJ 824 288
Location (town / village)	Eccleshall
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Not of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Site consists of agriculturally improved grassland and arable	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Badger	Recorded, and confirmed as breeding, on the site.
Birds	Selection of Bird species such as, Peregrine, have been recorded in the locality, but none of the recorded are likely to be breeding at site.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Arable		
Improved Grassland		
Intact Hedgerow		
Scattered Scrub	SJ 825 289	Possible location of Badger Sett

Site recommendations	
1	Site will require badger survey

SBC Site ID	RH-a
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SJ 833 310
Location (town / village)	Eccleshall
Location (exact)	Sturbridge

Probable status of site	Not of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Series of fields comprising agriculturally improved/poor semi-improved grassland and arable.	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
N/A	

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Arable		
Improved Grassland		
Poor semi-improved grassland		
Intact Hedgerow	SJ 833 310	Records for Tree Sparrow and Yellowhammer (2 SBAP bird species) for the locality.

Site recommendations	
1	Attempt to retain hedgerows as site is likely to be used by Tree Sparrow and Yellowhammer

SBC Site ID	LA-a
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SJ859 259
Location (town / village)	Ladfordfields Industrial Estate
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Unlikely to be of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Arable field	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Great Crested Newt	Recorded within the locality
Bats	Brown-long eared bat recorded in the locality

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Arable		
Standing Water	SJ 859 261	Pond on the north-eastern boundary of the site
Hedgerow with trees		

Site recommendations	
1	Great Crested Newt survey required due to previous record and the presence of a network of ponds
2	Investigation of large hedgerow trees is advised to assess the likelihood providing roosting habitat for bats.

SBC Site ID	LA-b
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SJ864 261
Location (town / village)	Ladfordfields Industrial Estate
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Unlikely to be of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Arable field with two ponds (possibly retaining water throughout the year)	

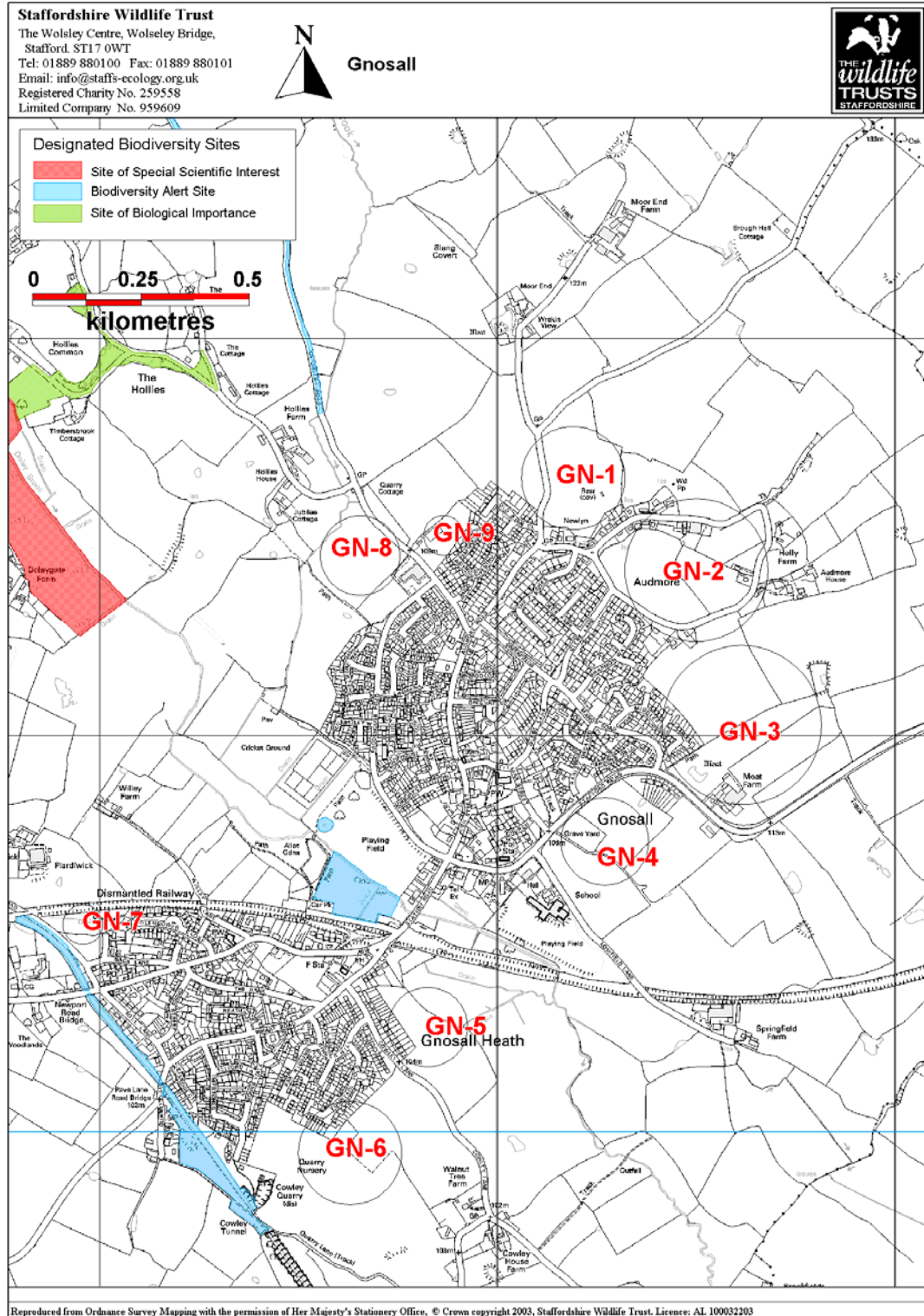
Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Great Crested Newt	Recorded within 200 metres of the site
Bats	Brown-long Eared Bat recorded in the locality

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Arable		
Standing water	SJ 863 261	Network of ponds present
Scattered Scrub		
Hedgerow with trees		

Site recommendations	
1	Great Crested Newt survey required due to previous record and the presence of a network of ponds
2	Investigation of large hedgerow trees is advised to assess the likelihood providing roosting habitat for bats.

5 Gnosall

5.1 Map of Potential Housing Development Sites



5.2 Site Forms for Gnosall

SBC Site ID	GN -1
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SJ832216
Location (town / village)	Gnosall
Location (exact)	Newlyn

Status of site	Not of SBI Quality
Confirmed by	SWT
Date	16.04.08
Comments: Arable and agriculturally improved fields	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Badger	Badger activity recorded within C.50m north-east of site, potentially could be using site as a foraging area.
Pipistrelle Bat	Records within 50m of site, likely to be using the site as a feeding area. Mature trees present within hedgerow potentially could be being utilised for roosting.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit	16.04.08	
Habitat	Location	Comments
Arable	Western side of Audmore Road.	
Improved grassland	Eastern side of Audmore Road.	
Hedgerow with trees	Dissecting improved fields.	Mature trees present in hedgerow.

Site recommendations	
1.	Further survey work required to establish use of site by protected species.

SBC Site ID	GN -2
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SJ834214
Location (town / village)	Gnosall
Location (exact)	Audmore

Status of site	Not of SBI Quality
Confirmed by	SWT
Date	16.04.08
Comments: Agriculturally improved fields of little diversity	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Pipistrelle Bat	Roosting within 1km of the site.
Badger	Recorded within 1km of the site.
Barn Owl	Recorded within 1km of the site, likelihood not resident.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit	16.04.08	
Habitat	Location	Comments
Improved grassland		
Hedgerow with trees		Mature trees present within hedgerow, potential nesting site for Pipistrelle bats or Barn Owl. Roadside hedgerows species-rich.

Site recommendations	
1.	Further survey work required to establish use of site by protected species.
2.	Retain hedgerow with trees if being utilised by Pipistrelle bats or barn owl, or alternative roosting sites will have to be provided.
3.	Retain species-rich hedgerow wherever possible



SBC Site ID	GN -3
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SJ836210
Location (town / village)	Gnosall
Location (exact)	

Status of site	Not of SBI Quality
Confirmed by	SWT
Date	16.04.08
Comments: Agriculturally improved fields of little diversity	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Bat Species	Maternity Roost within close proximity of the site, likely to be using the site as a feeding area.
Badger	Recorded within the site vicinity, potentially could be using site as a foraging area.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit	16.04.08	
Habitat	Location	Comments
Improved grassland		
Hedgerow with gaps		Trees present within hedgerow, potential roosting habitat for bats. Retain.
Pond		Marginal Vegetation present. Potential Great Crested Newt habitat but currently no records for the area.

Site recommendations	
1.	Further survey work required to establish use of site by protected species.
2	Retain hedgerow and trees



SBC Site ID	GN -4
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SJ832207
Location (town / village)	Gnosall
Location (exact)	

Status of site	Not of SBI Quality
Confirmed by	SWT
Date	16.04.08
Comments: Arable and agriculturally improved fields	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Pipistrelle Bat	Recorded activity within C.250m of the site, likely to be using the site as a feeding area.
Badger	Recorded within C.200m of the site, potentially could be using site as a foraging area.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit	16.04.08	
Habitat	Location	Comments
Improved grassland		
Pond	Eastern edge of more northerly of the two fields.	Dried up and encroached with nettles.

Site recommendations	
1.	Further survey work required to establish use of site by protected species.



SBC Site ID	GN -5
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SJ828202
Location (town / village)	Gnosall
Location (exact)	Gnosall Heath

Probable status of site	Not of SBI Quality
Confirmed by	SWT
Date	09.05.08
Comments: Land directly east of site of SBI quality, survey carried out see Appendix 2 site report 82/30/03 Doley Brook. Includes a network of species-rich wet drains.	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Pipistrelle Bat	Recorded at the site, likely to be utilising it for foraging.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Arable		
Semi-improved grassland		Rough grassland
Woodland	Northern corner of site.	Site boundary takes in a very small block of trees adjacent to the disused railway.

Site recommendations	
1.	Further survey work required to establish use of site by protected species.
2.	Protect botanically species-rich drains to the west through prevention of increased water run-off.



SBC Site ID	GN -6
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SJ826199
Location (town / village)	Gnosall
Location (exact)	Gnosall Heath

Probable status of site	Not of SBI Quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Arable Land	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Bat Species	Recorded adjacent, directly north to site, if using site likely to be utilising it for foraging.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Arable		

No specific Site recommendations



SBC Site ID	GN -7
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SJ819205
Location (town / village)	Gnosall
Location (exact)	Gnosall Heath

Probable status of site	Not of SBI Quality
Confirmed by	SWT
Date	07.05.08
Comments: A proportion of the site marshy grassland with some botanical species interest but not sufficient to warrant SBI status.	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Daubenton, pipistrelle & Noctule Bat	All three species of bat recorded in flight within 60m of the site.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Improved grassland		
Hedgerow	SJ819205	Potentially could be being used as a flight path by bats.
Drain		Some botanical interest along it
Marshy Grassland		Limited botanical interest

Site recommendations	
1.	Retain or provide additional hedgerow subject to the hedgerow regulations.



SBC Site ID	GN -8
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SJ826214
Location (town / village)	Gnosall
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Not of SBI Quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Arable land	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Badger	Active sett within C.500m north of site, potentially could be using site as a foraging area.
Pipistrelle Bat	Resident within 150m, likely to be using the site as a feeding area.
Barn owl	Recorded within 1km of the area, potentially using site for foraging.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Arable		Good habitat for the UKBAP species skylark and lapwing which have been recorded within 600m of site.
Hedgerow	North-west edge of field.	Potentially a flight path used by bats.

Site recommendations	
1.	Further survey work required to establish use of site by protected species.
2.	Retain Hedgerow where possible or establish new hedgerow.
3.	Provide rough grassland/foraging habitat, by retention of suitable habitat or by creation of new areas.



SBC Site ID	GN-9
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SJ826215
Location (town / village)	Gnosall
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Not of SBI Quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments:	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Badger	Active sett within C.250m north-west of site, potentially could be using site as a foraging area.
Pipistrelle Bat	Resident within 100m, likely to be using the site as a feeding area.

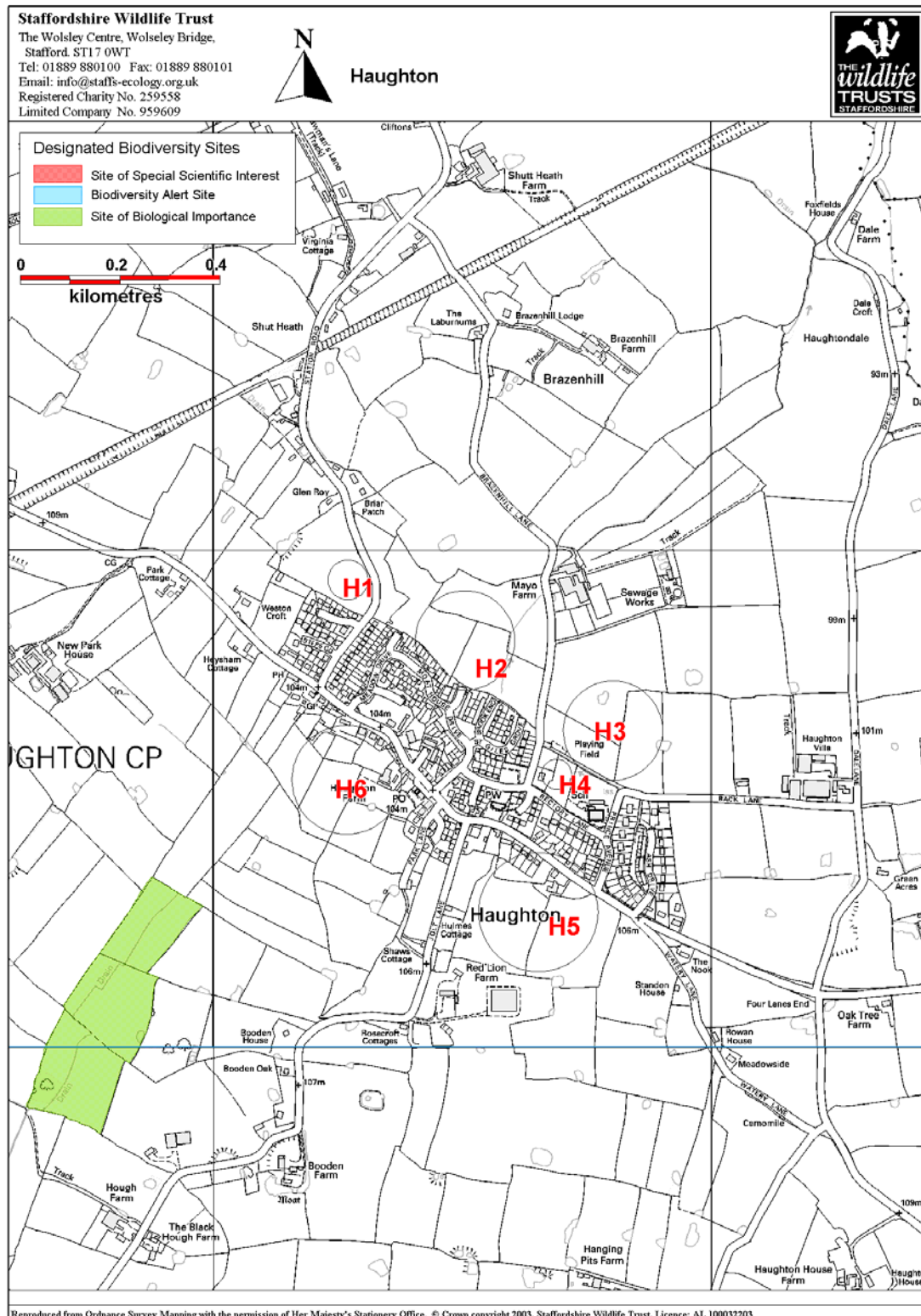
Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Species-poor semi-improved grassland		
Hedgerow	North-west edge of field.	Potentially a flight path used by bats.

Site recommendations	
1.	Further survey work required to establish use of site by protected species.
2.	Retain Hedgerow where possible or establish new hedgerow.



6 Haughton

6.1 Map of Potential Housing Development Sites



6.2 Site Forms for Haughton

SBC Site ID	
ID added by SWT	H1
Central Grid ref	SJ 862 209
Location (town / village)	Haughton
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Not of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Agriculturally improved grassland bordered by intact hedgerows	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Bat	Recorded as being in flight within 50 metres of the site.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Improved Grassland		
Intact Hedgerow		

Site recommendations	
1.	Due to presence of Bat species in the area, an investigation of large trees, mainly within the hedgerows, is recommended to establish if they support roosting potential.

SBC Site ID	
ID added by SWT	H2
Central Grid ref	SJ 865 207
Location (town / village)	Haughton
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Not of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Agriculturally improved grassland bordered by intact hedgerows with trees	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Bats	Pipestelle nurse colony recorded on the site

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Improved Grassland		
Hedgerow with trees		

Site recommendations	
1.	Due to presence of Bat species in the area, an investigation of large trees, mainly within the hedgerows, is recommended to establish if they support roosting potential.

SBC Site ID	
ID added by SWT	H3
Central Grid ref	SJ 867 206
Location (town / village)	Haughton
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Not of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	April 2008
Likely date	SWT
Comments: Agriculturally improved grassland and amenity grassland bordered by intact hedgerows with trees	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Bats	Pipestelle nursey colony recorded on the western boundary of the site

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Improved Grassland		
Hedgerow with trees		Retain where possible if supporting bat nursery colonies
Amenity Grassland		
Standing Open Water	SJ 867 207	

Site recommendations	
1	Due to presence of Bat species in the area, an investigation of large trees, mainly within the hedgerows, is recommended to establish if they support roosting potential.
2	Although there are no records for Great Crested Newts in the vicinity, as there is a pond (possibly seasonal) on site, a survey to establish the potential is recommended.



SBC Site ID	
ID added by SWT	H4
Central Grid ref	SJ 867 205
Location (town / village)	Haughton
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Not of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Agriculturally improved grassland bordered by intact hedgerows with trees	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Bats	Both Noctule and Pipestrelle have been recorded

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Improved Grassland		
Hedgerow with trees		

Site recommendations	
1	Due to presence of Bat species in the area, an investigation of large trees, mainly within the hedgerows, is recommended to establish if they support roosting potential.

SBC Site ID	
ID added by SWT	H5
Central Grid ref	SJ 866 202
Location (town / village)	Haughton
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Majority Not of SBI quality (see 2 below)
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Agriculturally improved grassland bordered by intact hedgerows with trees	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Bats	Recorded within 150 metres of the site

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Improved Grassland		
Hedgerow with trees		
Grassland habitat	SJ 864 203	Survey required

Site recommendations	
1	Due to presence of Bat species in the area, an investigation of large trees, mainly within the hedgerows, is recommended to establish if they support roosting potential.
2	Field at SJ 864 203 looks to be worthy of investigation judging by aerial photos

SBC Site ID	
ID added by SWT	H6
Central Grid ref	SJ 862 205
Location (town / village)	Haughton
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Not of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Fields comprising poor semi-improved grassland	

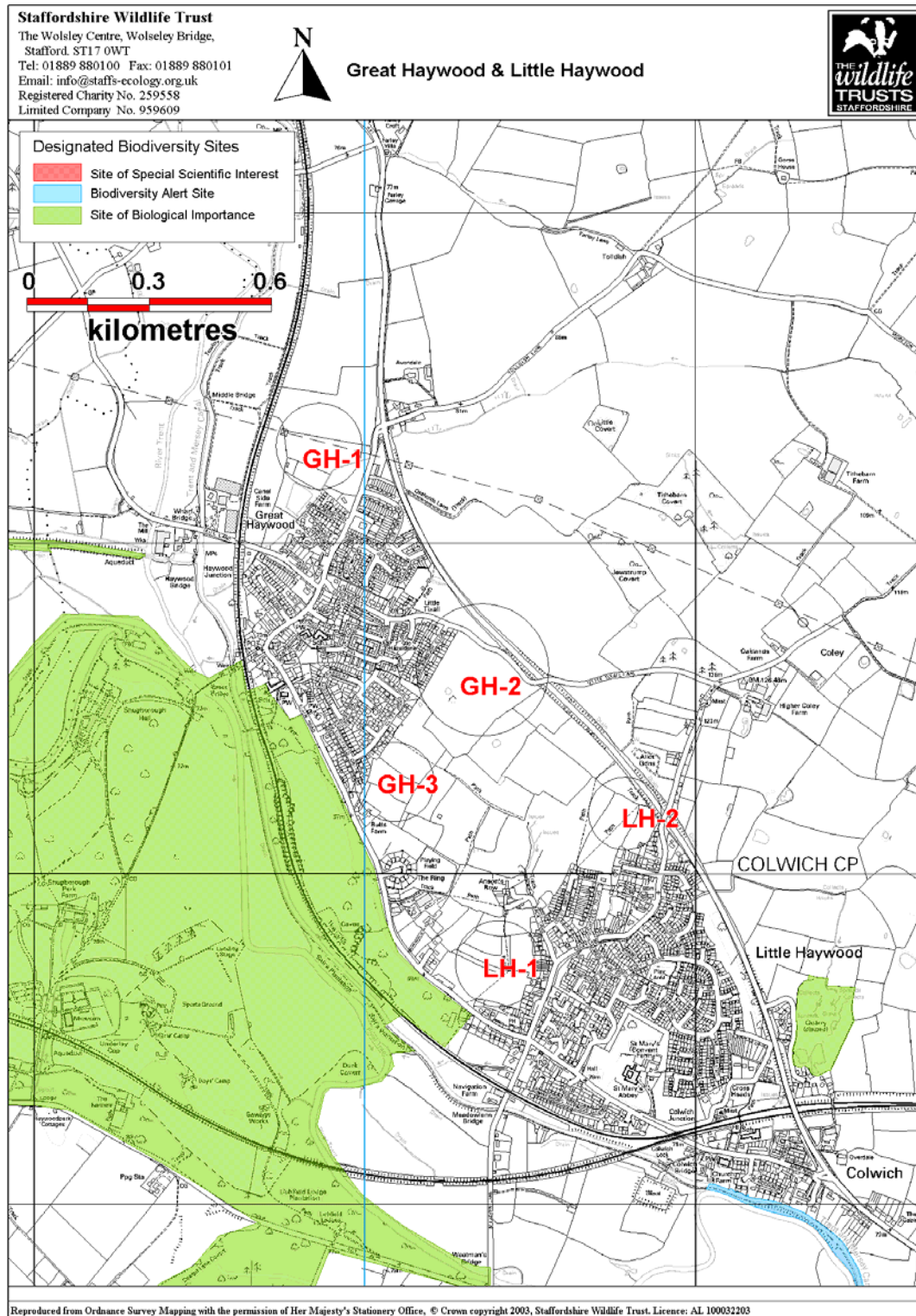
Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Bats	Recorded within 200 metres of the site

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Poor semi-improved grassland		
Hedgerow with trees		

Site recommendations	
1	Due to presence of Bat species in the area, an investigation of large trees, mainly within the hedgerows, is recommended to establish if they support roosting potential.

7 Great Haywood and Little Haywood

7.1 Map of Potential Housing development Sites



7.2 Forms for Great Haywood and Little Haywood

SBC Site ID	GH-1
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SK997232
Location (town / village)	Great Haywood
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Not of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments:	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Badger	Recorded within 50m of the site, potentially using the site for foraging.
Pipistrelle Bats	Roosting within 100m of the site and recorded in flight within the area. Likely to be utilising the site for foraging.
Barn Owl	Recorded as hunting within 100m of the site, likely to be using the rough grassland as hunting habitat.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Improved Grassland		
Semi-improved Grassland	SJ997230	The smaller south-westerly field supports rougher less improved grassland and may support some diversity.
Hedgerow with trees		Mature trees present within hedgerow potentially could be being utilised for roosting by bats and barn owl.

Site recommendations	
1.	Further survey work required to establish use of site by protected species.
2.	Retain mature trees if being utilised by bats and barn owl population.



SBC Site ID	GH-2
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SK003225
Location (town / village)	Great Haywood
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Not of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Arable and species-poor semi improved grassland	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Badger	Records within 100m of the site, likely to be using the site for foraging.
Pipistrelle Bat	Roosting within 200m of the site, likely to be utilising the site for foraging.
Daubenton & Whiskered Bat	Identified feeding within 450m of site, may potentially be using parts of the site for foraging.
Noctule & Brown Long-Eared Bat	Recorded within 850m of the site, may potentially be using parts of the site for foraging.
Hawfinch	UKBAP species recorded within 500m of the site, could be using the site for feeding.
Brown Hare	UKBAP species recorded within 1km of the site, may be using the site.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Arable		
Improved Grassland		
Standing Water	SJ002225	Small pond surrounded by trees within arable field. Potential Great Crested Newt habitat but currently no records for the area. Feeding habitat for bats recorded within the area.
Small woodland copse	SJ002224	Feeding habitat for bats and hawfinch recorded within the area.
Hedgerow with trees		Flight path and feeding areas for bats

Site recommendations	
1.	Further survey work required to establish use of site by protected species, includes Great Crested Newt survey.
2.	Retain hedgerow and woodland habitat or provide replacement refuge and feeding habitat.

SBC Site ID	GH-3
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SK000222
Location (town / village)	Great Haywood
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Not of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Improved grassland low in diversity.	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Badger	Records within 150m of the site, likely to be using the site for foraging.
Pipistrelle, Daubenton & Whiskered Bat	Identified within 500m of site, pipistrelle only species likely to be foraging at the site.
Noctule, Brown Long-Eared & Natterer's Bat	Recorded within 1km of the site, unlikely to be utilising the site.
Fieldfare & Redwing	Recorded within 1km of the site, potentially using the site for foraging.
Hawfinch	UKBAP species recorded within 500m of the site, may be using the site for feeding.
Brown Hare	UKBAP species recorded within 1km of the site, suitable habitat present to support this species.
Barn Owl	Found within 1km of the site, mature trees provide potential roosting sites, no rough grassland on site for.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Improved Grassland		
Hedgerow with trees		Feeding habitat for protected & UKBAP bird species found within the vicinity of the site. Used as flight paths by the large number of bat species found within the area and mature trees may be being used as roost sites.

Site recommendations	
1.	Further survey work required to establish use of site by protected species.
2.	Retain mature trees within the hedgerow if being used for roosting by bats or barn owl or provide alternative roosting sites.
3.	Retain hedgerow wherever possible or provide replacement hedgerow.

SBC Site ID	LH-1
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SK003217
Location (town / village)	Little Haywood
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Not of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Semi-improved field requires a field check	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Badger	Records within 200m of the site, likely to be using the site for foraging.
Pippistrelle, Bat	Roosting and identified in flight within 300m of the site, likely to be foraging at the site.
Noctule, Daubenton & Natterer's Bat	Identified in flight within 500m of the site, unlikely to be utilising the site.
Brown long- eared bat	Identified in flight within 1km of the site, unlikely to be utilising the site.
Bullfinch	SBAP species recorded within 1km of the site, may be using the site for feeding.
Hawfinch	UKBAP species recorded within 50m of the site, may be using the site for feeding.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Improved grassland		
Semi-improved grassland with scattered scrub	SK004217	Potentially some botanical diversity, requires a field check.
Semi-improved grassland	SK002217	In field tree present, potential bat roosting site.
Hedgerow with trees		Used as flight routes by bats within the area, mature trees also provide roosting opportunities for bats.

Site recommendations	
1.	Further survey work required to establish use of site by protected species.
2.	Retain mature trees where being utilised for roosting by bats or provide alternative roosting sites.
3.	Retain hedgerow wherever possible or provide replacement hedgerow as important feeding habitat for BAP bird species recorded within the area.
4.	Retain areas of scrub or provide alternative habitat as important refuge and feeding ground for BAP bird species and found within the area.

SBC Site ID	LH-2
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SK007221
Location (town / village)	Little Haywood
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Not of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Agriculturally improved fields of little botanical diversity.	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Badger	Records within 1km of the site, likely to be using the site for foraging.
Pippistrelle, Bat	Roosting colony within 300m of the site, likely to be foraging at the site.
Noctule bat	Identified in flight within 1km of the site, unlikely to be foraging at the site.
Bullfinch	SBAP species recorded within 1km of the site, may potentially be using the site for feeding.
Hawfinch	UKBAP species recorded within 100m of the site, likely to be using the site for feeding.
Brown hare	UKBAP species recorded within 1km of the site, suitable habitat present to support this species.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Improved grassland		
Hedgerow with trees		Used as flight routes by bats within the area, with mature trees providing roosting opportunities for bats. Hedgerow also provides refuge for brown hare and feeding habitat for UKBAP bird species present within the area.

Site recommendations	
1.	Further survey work required to establish use of site by protected species.
2.	Retain hedgerow wherever possible or provide replacement hedgerow as important habitat for protected species recorded within the area.

8.2 Forms for Hixon and Surrounding Areas

SBC Site ID	HI 1
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SJ004 262
Location (town / village)	Hixon
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Unlikely to be of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Agriculturally improved grassland, hedgerows with trees and a ditch system running across the site.	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Bats	Brown-Long Eared and Pipistrelle Bats have been recorded within the locality, thought to be roosting in adjacent house/barn.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Improved Grassland		
Hedgerows with trees		
Running Water		

Site recommendations	
1	Due to presence of Bat species in the area, an investigation of large trees, mainly within the hedgerows, is recommended to establish if they support roosting potential.

SBC Site ID	HI 2
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SJ009 260
Location (town / village)	Hixon
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Unlikely to be of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Agriculturally improved grassland, hedgerows with trees and a pond located in the north-east corner of the site.	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Bats	Brown-Long Eared and Pipistrelles have been recorded within the locality, thought to be roosting in adjacent house/barn.
Birds	Species of note include Barn Owl and Corn Bunting

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Improved Grassland		
Hedgerows with trees		
Standing Water	SK 091 260	Potential Great Crested Newt habitat

Site recommendations	
1	Due to presence of Bat species in the area, an investigation of large trees, mainly within the hedgerows, is recommended to establish if they support roosting potential.
2	Although there are no records for Great Crested Newts in the vicinity, as there is a pond on site therefore a survey to establish the potential is recommended.



SBC Site ID	HI 3
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SJ007 259
Location (town / village)	Hixon
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Unlikely to be SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	May 2008
Comments: Agriculturally improved grassland and hedgerows with trees	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Bats	Pipistrelles have been recorded within the locality, thought to be roosting in adjacent house/barn.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Improved grassland		
Hedgerows with trees		

Site recommendations	
1	Due to presence of Bat species in the area, an investigation of large trees, mainly within the hedgerows, is recommended to establish if they support roosting potential.

SBC Site ID	HI 4
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SJ005 257
Location (town / village)	Hixon
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Unlikely to be of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	May 2008
Comments: Arable field surrounded by hedgerow with trees	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Bats	Pipistrelles have been recorded within the locality, thought to be roosting in adjacent house/barn.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Hedgerow with trees		
Arable land		

Site recommendations	
1	Due to presence of Bat species in the area, an investigation of large trees, mainly within the hedgerows, is recommended to establish if they support roosting potential.
2	Although there are no records for Great Crested Newts in the vicinity, as there is a pond on the edge of the site therefore a survey to establish the potential is recommended.



SBC Site ID	HI 5
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SJ003 255
Location (town / village)	Hixon
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Unlikely to be of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	May 2008
Comments: Field consisting of poor semi-improved grassland with some hedgerows	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Birds	Barn Owl has been recorded on adjacent fields.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Poor semi-improved grassland		Possible feeding habitat for Barn Owls
Intact hedgerow		

Site recommendations	
1	Attempt to retain suitable Barn Owl habitat on or adjacent to site.

SBC Site ID	HI 6
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SJ002 261
Location (town / village)	Hixon
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Unlikely to be of SBI quality but requires visit to confirm aerial photos
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	May 2008
Comments: Combination of agriculturally improved and poor semi-improved grassland with scattered scrub/trees	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Bats	Brown-Long Eared Bats have been recorded as present and possibly roosting in an adjacent barn.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Improved grassland		
Poor semi-improved grassland		
Scattered scrub		

Site recommendations	
1	Due to presence of Bat species in the area, an investigation of large trees is recommended to establish if they support roosting potential.

SBC Site ID	HA-a
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SJ002 264
Location (town / village)	Hixon
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Unlikely to be of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	May 2008
Comments: Arable field bordered by hedgerows with trees	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Bats	Brown-Long Eared Bats have been recorded as present and possibly roosting in an adjacent barn.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Arable land		
Hedgerow with trees		

Site recommendations	
1	Due to presence of Bat species in the area, an investigation of large trees, mainly within the hedgerows, is recommended to establish if they support roosting potential.

SBC Site ID	HA-b
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SJ997 266
Location (town / village)	Hixon
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Unlikely to be of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	May 2008
Comments: Arable field	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Birds	Host of farmland seed-eating birds have been recorded in the locality such as Yellowhammer, Tree Sparrow. Site is also recorded as supporting Skylark.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Arable Land		

Site recommendations	
1	Breeding bird survey is recommended.

SBC Site ID	HA-c
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SJ993 259
Location (town / village)	
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Unlikely to be of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	May 2008
Comments: Arable field	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Birds	Host of farmland seed-eating birds have been recorded in the locality such as Yellowhammer, Tree Sparrow. Site is also recorded as supporting Skylark.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Arable Land		

Site recommendations	
1	Breeding bird survey is recommended.

SBC Site ID	
ID added by SWT	W1
Central Grid ref	SJ 977 266
Location (town / village)	Weston
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	Unlikely to be of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Agriculturally improved grassland	

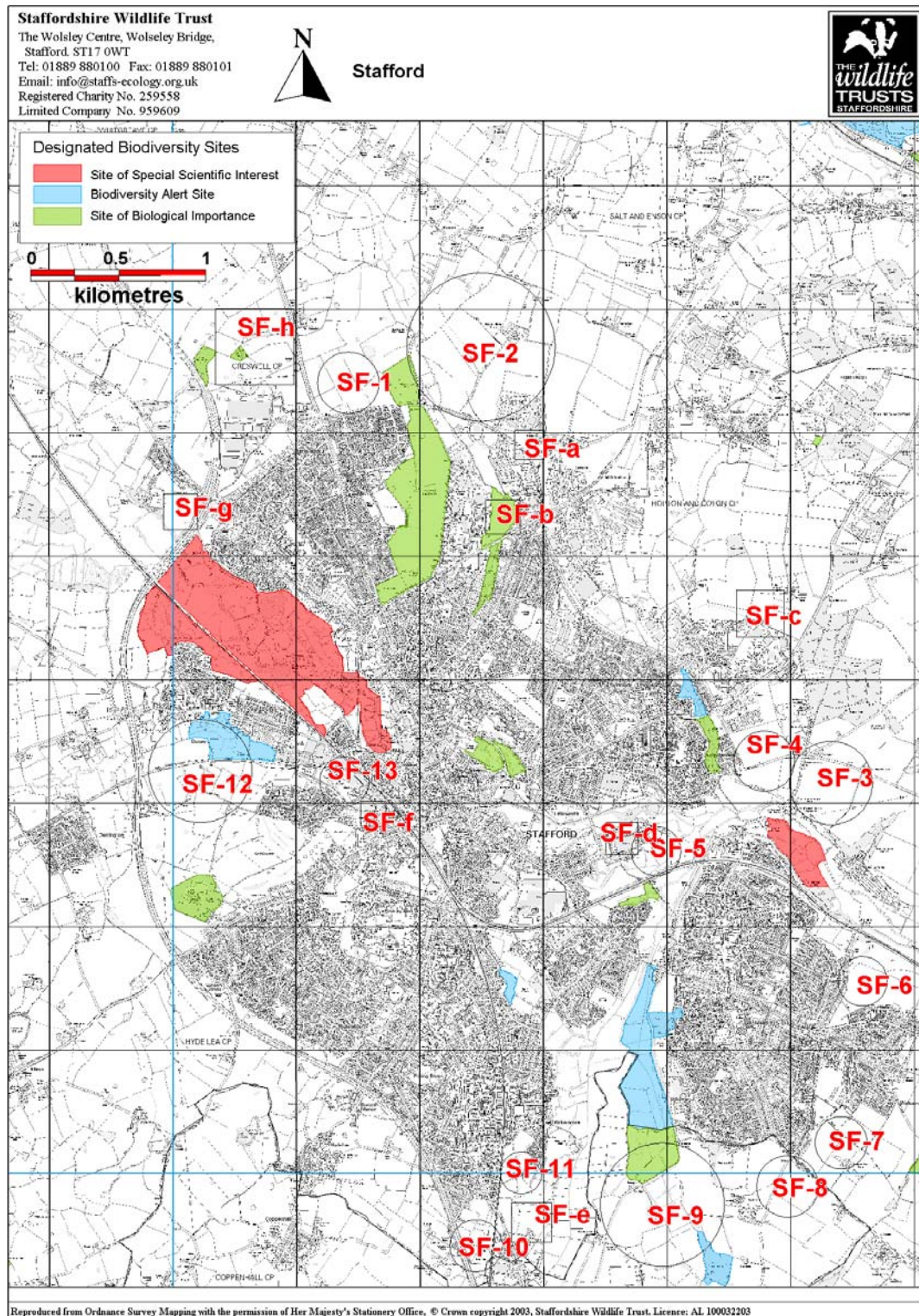
Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Birds	A large flock of Lapwing have been recorded in the adjacent field
Water vole	Recorded within the locality

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Improved Grassland		

Site recommendations	
1	Breeding bird survey is recommended to establish if the site is being used by lapwing.
2	Any work undertaken should consider and mitigate for the loss of Water vole habitat.

9 Stafford

9.1 Map of Potential Housing & Employment development Sites



9.2 Forms for Stafford

SBC Site ID	SF - 1
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SJ914264
Location (town / village)	Stafford
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	N/A
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	
Comments:	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Great crested newt	Recorded from within or near site. It is likely to be necessary to protect populations and / or provide mitigation. Further survey work will be required to inform this.
Barn owl	Recorded from within or near site. Provide nest boxes and habitat corridors that include rough grassland
Bats	Noctule bats recorded from within site. Survey trees to determine whether this species is resident on the site. Species protection measures may be necessary.
Badgers	Recorded from within or near site
Fieldfare and lapwing	Recorded from within or near site.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Arable		
Open water (standing)	Field ponds	Retain habitat
Hedges		Retain where possible
Improved grassland		
Scrub	Mainly around ponds	

Site recommendations
1 Survey, protect and mitigate for great crested newts.
2 Retain pond and hedge Habitats
3 Survey bats, protect and mitigate where necessary
4 Provide habitat and nest sites for barn owls
5 Protect or mitigate for badgers
6 Provide habitat for lapwing and field fare

SBC Site ID	SF - 2
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SJ925267
Location (town / village)	Stafford
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	
Comments:	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Possible GCN	Ponds within site and immediately outside site to north
Farmland bird species	Provide adequate nesting habitat and protect populations from disturbance from e.g. dog walking
Barn Owl	Provide nest boxes and habitat corridors that include rough grassland

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Open water (running)	Marston Brook	
Arable		
Improved grassland		

Site recommendations
1 Create habitat along course of Marston Brook to enhance Brook. SUDS to decrease flow rates in brook.
2 Survey fields to west of Marston Road which may be of interest
3 Provide habitat and nest sites for barn owls



SBC Site ID	SF3
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SJ953233
Location (town / village)	Stafford
Location (exact)	Southeast of crematorium

Probable status of site	Contains 2 Grade 2 Geological Sites around St Thomas Priory Farm
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	
Comments:	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Badger	Recorded from within site
Lapwing	Provide adequate nesting habitat and protect population from disturbance from e.g. dog walking

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Arable		
Hedges		

Geology		
Feature	Location	Comments
Several geological features of note	To south of site	Retain/ enhance with advice from SRIGS Group

Site recommendations
1 Protect or mitigate for badgers
2 Protect and mitigate for lapwings
3 Retain and / or enhance geological features



SBC Site ID	SF4
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SJ948234
Location (town / village)	Stafford
Location (exact)	South of fire station

Probable status of site	N/A
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	
Comments:	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Badger	Recorded from near site
Lapwing	Provide adequate nesting habitat and protect population from disturbance from e.g. dog walking

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Arable		
Hedges		
Grassland		

Site recommendations
1 Small grassland to southeast of site near St Thomas Priory Farm may be of interest.
2 Consider creating habitat links towards Kingston Pool Covert (to west of site), to open countryside to south of site and to crematorium site to east of site
3 Protect or mitigate for badgers
4 Protect and mitigate for lapwings



SBC Site ID	SF5
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SJ939227
Location (town / village)	Stafford
Location (exact)	North of Queensville and railway line

Probable status of site	
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	
Comments:	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Black Poplar	Recorded from within site. Protect trees.
Water vole	Recorded from within site. Protect species, retain and enhance appropriate habitat
Otter	Recorded from within or near site. Protect species, retain and enhance appropriate habitat
Badger	Recorded from near site.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Grassland		Survey required
Scrub		
Open water (running)		

Site recommendations
1 Survey whole site for Habitats and protected species.
2 Protect and mitigate for water voles
3 Protect and mitigate for otters
4 Protect and mitigate for badgers if necessary



SBC Site ID	SF6
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SJ955216
Location (town / village)	Stafford
Location (exact)	Between Weeping Cross and railway

Probable status of site	Ungraded SBI
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	
Comments:	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Skylark	Provide adequate nesting habitat and protect population from disturbance from e.g. dog walking
Badger	Recorded from within site

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Poor semi-improved grassland		
Arable		

Site recommendations
1 Protect or mitigate for badgers
2 Protect species, retain and enhance appropriate habitat for lapwings



SBC Site ID	SF 7
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SJ954203
Location (town / village)	Stafford
Location (exact)	South of Walton-on-the-Hill

Probable status of site	N/A
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	
Comments:	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Lapwing	Protect population from disturbance from e.g. dog walking
Grey partridge	Provide adequate nesting habitat and protect population from disturbance from e.g. dog walking

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Arable		
Hedges		Mainly poor, double hedge to northwest of site may be of interest

Site recommendations
1 Protect and mitigate for lapwings and grey partridge

SBC Site ID	SF 8
ID added by SWT	
Central Grid ref	SJ950200
Location (town / village)	Stafford
Location (exact)	South of Wildwood

Probable status of site	N/A
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	
Comments:	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Lapwing on adjacent field	Protect population from disturbance from e.g. dog walking
Badgers	Recorded from within site

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Arable		
Improved grassland		

Geology		
Feature	Location	Comments
Possibly several geological features of note	To north and west of site	Retain/ enhance with advice from SRIGS Group

Site recommendations
1 Protect or mitigate for badgers
2 Protect and mitigate for lapwings
3 Retain and / or enhance geological features



SBC Site ID	SF 9
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SJ940197
Location (town / village)	Stafford
Location (exact)	Between Wildwood and Acton Trussell

Probable status of site	The Larchery is a BAS
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	
Comments: The Biodiversity Alert Site known as the Larchery should probably be extended to include the ponds to the north of the site. Hazlestrine Brickworks is a geological site, and is probably also of at least BAS status	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Badger	Recorded from within or near the site
Pipistrelle bat	Recorded from within or near the site
Water Vole	Recorded from within or near the site

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Arable		
Grassland		
Woodland		
Hedges		
Open water (standing)	Pond, canal and field drains	

Geology		
Feature	Location	Comments
Several geological features of note	To north and east of site, including Hazlestrine Brickworks	Retain/ enhance with advice from SRIGS Group



Site recommendations
1 Habitat survey of Hazlestrine Brickworks and consider status
2 Consider extending the Larchery BAS
3 Survey and consider status of canal and field drains
4 Retain and / or enhance geological features, including Hazlestrine Brickworks
5 Protect or mitigate for badgers
6 Protect or mitigate for pipistrelle bats
7 Protect or mitigate for water vole

SBC Site ID	SF-10
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SJ925195
Location (town / village)	Stafford
Location (exact)	S of Moss Pit between M6 and A449

Probable status of site	
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	
Comments:	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Lapwing	Provide adequate habitat for nesting and protect population from disturbance from e.g. dog walking
Badger	Recorded from within or near the site
Brown Hare	Recorded from within or near the site

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Grassland		Probably poor semi-improved
Scrub		

Site recommendations
1 Protect or mitigate for badgers
2 Protect or mitigate for brown hares
3 Protect or mitigate for lapwings



SBC Site ID	SF -11
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SJ928200
Location (town / village)	Stafford
Location (exact)	Northeast of Acton Gate

Probable status of site	
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	
Comments:	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Barn owl	Recorded from within or near the site

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Grassland		Probably poor semi-improved
Arable		
Hedges		
Open water (running)	In field drains	Adjacent former BAS around the field drains to north-east

Site recommendations
1 Protect or mitigate for barn owls
2 Site contains watercourses which feed into the floodplain of the River Penk. A hydrological study of the possible effects of any development on the River Penk should be undertaken. If development goes ahead the site should provide increased storage, through use of SuDS etc, beyond the existing capacity of the site. Provision of habitat for otter and water vole should also be considered



SBC Site ID	SF12
ID added by SWT	n/a
Central Grid ref	SJ902233
Location (town / village)	Stafford
Location (exact)	Doxey, north and south of disused railway

Probable status of site	partial SBI / BAS
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	
Comments: Site requires SBIs and BAS re-survey ASAP	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Badger	Recorded from within or near the site
Water vole	Watercourses require up-to-date survey, particularly land between disused railway and Doxey Road.
Otter	Recorded from within or near the site

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth, Local Knowledge, BAS site description	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Scrub		
Watercourses		
Arable		
Neutral grassland		
Open Mosaic		
Bare ground / concrete		Former farm buildings and garden either side of lane at Burleyfields
Ponds		

Site recommendations
1 Survey BAS, including current status of water voles. Note extent of Open Mosaic habitat within and near BAS.
2 Survey SBI and consider extending along disused railway eastwards
3 Initial survey of hedges along green land to south of site.
4 Protect or mitigate for water voles
5 Protect or mitigate for badgers
6 Protect or mitigate for otters



SBC Site ID	SF13
ID added by SWT	n/a
Central Grid ref	SJ914232
Location (town / village)	Stafford
Location (exact)	NE of Martin Drive

Probable status of site	
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	
Comments:	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Water vole	Recorded from within or near the site

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Scrub		
Grassland (probably poor semi-improved)		
Open Mosaic (UK BAP Habitat)		May be present on site
Buildings		
Open water (running)	Doxey drain	

Site recommendations
1 Initial survey to confirm Habitats present.
2 Protect watercourse and prevent increased water run-off.
3 Protect or mitigate for water voles



SBC Site ID	SF - a
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SJ929259
Location (town / village)	Stafford
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	N/A
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	
Comments:	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Lapwing	Recorded from within or near the site
Badger	Recorded from within or near the site

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Improved grassland		
Open water (standing)		

Site recommendations
1 Protect pond.
2 Protect or mitigate for badgers
3 Protect and mitigate for lapwings

SBC Site ID	SF - b
ID added by SWT	92/25/63
Central Grid ref	SJ927253
Location (town / village)	Stafford
Location (exact)	Astonfields

Status of site	SBI
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	
Comments:	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Water vole	Recorded from within or near the site
Bird species	Many bird records for the area

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Neutral grassland		
Open mosaic		
Wetland		
Open water (running)	Marston Brook	

Site recommendations
1 Integrity of wider Astonfields site would be threatened by the loss of this half, resulting in the loss of a number of protected and rare species and Habitats of importance. Do not develop.
2 Resurvey



SBC Site ID	SF - c
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SJ948245
Location (town / village)	Stafford
Location (exact)	

Probable status of site	
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	
Comments:	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Barn owl	Two sightings, but probably not resident.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Arable		

Site recommendations
1 Survey and protect or mitigate for barn owls as necessary (if barn owls resident on site)

SBC Site ID	SF - d
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SJ936227
Location (town / village)	Stafford
Location (exact)	North of Queensville and railway line

Probable status of site	N/A
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	
Comments:	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Black Poplar	Recorded from within site. Protect trees.
Water vole	Recorded from within site. Protect species, retain and enhance appropriate habitat
Otter	Recorded from within or near site. Protect species, retain and enhance appropriate habitat
Badger	Recorded from near site.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Buildings		
Amenity grassland		
Bare ground		

Site recommendations
1 Survey whole site for Habitats and protected species
2 Protect and mitigate for water voles
3 Protect and mitigate for otters
4 Protect and mitigate for badgers if necessary



SBC Site ID	SF - e
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SJ929197
Location (town / village)	Stafford
Location (exact)	near Acton Gate

Probable status of site	
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	
Comments:	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
N/A	

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Grassland		Probably poor semi-improved
Hedges		
Open water (standing)	Field drains to north of site	Adjacent former BAS around the field drains to north-east

Site recommendations
1 Site contains watercourses which feed into the floodplain of the River Penk. A hydrological study of the possible effects of any development on the River Penk should be undertaken. If development goes ahead the site should provide increased storage, through use of SuDS etc, beyond the existing capacity of the site. Provision of habitat for otter and water vole should also be considered.



SBC Site ID	SF -f
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SJ916229
Location (town / village)	Stafford
Location (exact)	Land to west of railway station

Probable status of site	BAS
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	
Comments: Balancing lake and surrounding land probably of BAS Status, particularly given the presence of water voles.	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Water Vole	Balancing lake

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Scrub		
Open water (standing)		Balancing lake
Open water (running)		Several watercourses on site
Amenity grassland		Rugby pitches
Bare ground		Car park
Grassland		
Open mosaic (UK BAP Habitat)		May be present
Buildings		

Site recommendations
1 Survey around lake
2 Assess suitability of buildings for bats and survey if indicated.
3 Protect water vole population by ensuring there is suitable habitat around lake
4 Protect watercourses and prevent increased water run-off.



SBC Site ID	SF - g
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SJ901254
Location (town / village)	Stafford
Location (exact)	Near M6 junction 14 Cresswell

Probable status of site	N/A
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	
Comments:	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Otter	Along watercourse, which passes under M6 into Doxey Marshes Nature reserve
Badger	Recorded from within or near the site
Bats	Two species recorded from within or near site.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Poor semi-improved grassland		
Open water (running)		
Scrub		

Site recommendations
1 Install SUDS and flood storage to reduce flooding in Tillington Drain
2 Provide habitat and mitigation to allow otters to travel along watercourses in both directions
3 Survey to determine whether bats are resident on site, for example in mature trees. Protect bats where present and provide suitable foraging habitat.
4 Protect or mitigate for badgers



SBC Site ID	SF - h
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SJ9907267
Location (town / village)	Stafford
Location (exact)	

Status of site	Two current SBIs are present on the site, 92/06/36 New Plantation and 92/06/56 Little Gorse along with a historic BAS 92/06/74 Sleeper Spinney. A re-survey identified these sites to no longer be of sufficient quality to retain their designation. However two additional SBIs were identified 92/06/57 Little Gorse (north of) and 92/06/78 Little Gorse (north-east of). Refer to Appendix 2 for copies of the reports.
Confirmed by	SWT
Date	08.05.08
Comments:	The SBIs support wet woodland and a small pond which are regarded as UK BAP Priority Habitat.

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Great crested newt	Known to be on industrial development site to south. Ponds within site are likely to be suitable.
Badger	Many records from within or near site.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge / SBI site files	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Broadleaved woodland		Area of wet woodland of SBI quality
Open water (standing)	Field ponds	SBI quality
Improved grassland		
Hedges		



Open water (running)		Land drains into Marston Brook to south east and to the River Sow to the west.
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Site recommendations	
1. Install SUDS and flood storage to reduce flooding in River Sow and Marston Brook.	
2. Protect and mitigate for great crested newts.	
3. Retain UK BAP habitat and enhance degraded woodland habitat.	
4. Protect and or mitigate for badgers.	



SBC Site ID	
ID added by SWT	SE 1
Central Grid ref	SJ892241
Location (town / village)	Stafford
Location (exact)	Either side of Seighford Road

Probable status of site	N/A
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	
Comments:	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Badger	Recorded from within or near the site
Barn Owl	Recorded from within or near the site
Lapwing	Recorded from within or near the site

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Poor semi-improved grassland		
Hedges		
Open water (standing)	Field ponds	
Arable		

Site recommendations
1 Protect or mitigate for badgers
2 Protect and mitigate for lapwings
3 Protect and mitigate for barn owls



SBC Site ID	
ID added by SWT	D 1
Central Grid ref	SJ896221
Location (town / village)	Derrington
Location (exact)	East and south of Derrington

Probable status of site	Possibly part BAS
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	
Comments: Planted woodland and rough grassland areas	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Farmland birds	Probably on arable land
Bats	Recorded from within or near the site
Badgers	Recorded from within or near the site

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth and Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Arable		
Grassland		
Broad leaved plantation		
Open water (standing)	SJ895220	
Open water (running)		
Hedges		Large mature hedges around pond

Site recommendations
1 Retain sufficient nesting habitat for farmland bird species
2 Watercourses are tributaries of the Doxey Brook and this land may have implications for increased flood storage to alleviate problems in Stafford. If development goes ahead the site should provide increased storage, through use of SuDS etc, beyond the existing capacity of the site.
3 Survey rough grassland and hedges on site to determine whether site or part site contains important Habitats.
4 Survey to determine whether bats are resident on site. Provide protection and mitigation measures if bats are present.
5 Protect or mitigate for badgers

SBC Site ID	
ID added by SWT	WD 1
Central Grid ref	SJ900211
Location (town / village)	Stafford
Location (exact)	Southwest of Western Downs, outside M6 corridor

Probable status of site	N/A
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	
Comments:	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Arable		
Hedges		Appear to be in poor / defunct condition
Open water (standing)	Field pond	
Open water running		Small watercourses flowing toward A518, and eventually joining Doxey Brook

Site recommendations
1 Watercourses are tributaries of the Doxey Brook and this land may have implications for increased flood storage to alleviate problems in Stafford. If development goes ahead the site should provide increased storage, through use of SuDS etc, beyond the existing capacity of the site.



SBC Site ID	
ID added by SWT	MP 1
Central Grid ref	SJ919198
Location (town / village)	Stafford
Location (exact)	West of Moss Pit and outside M6 corridor

Probable status of site	Hedges may be of SBI / BAS status
To be confirmed by	
Likely date	
Comments:	

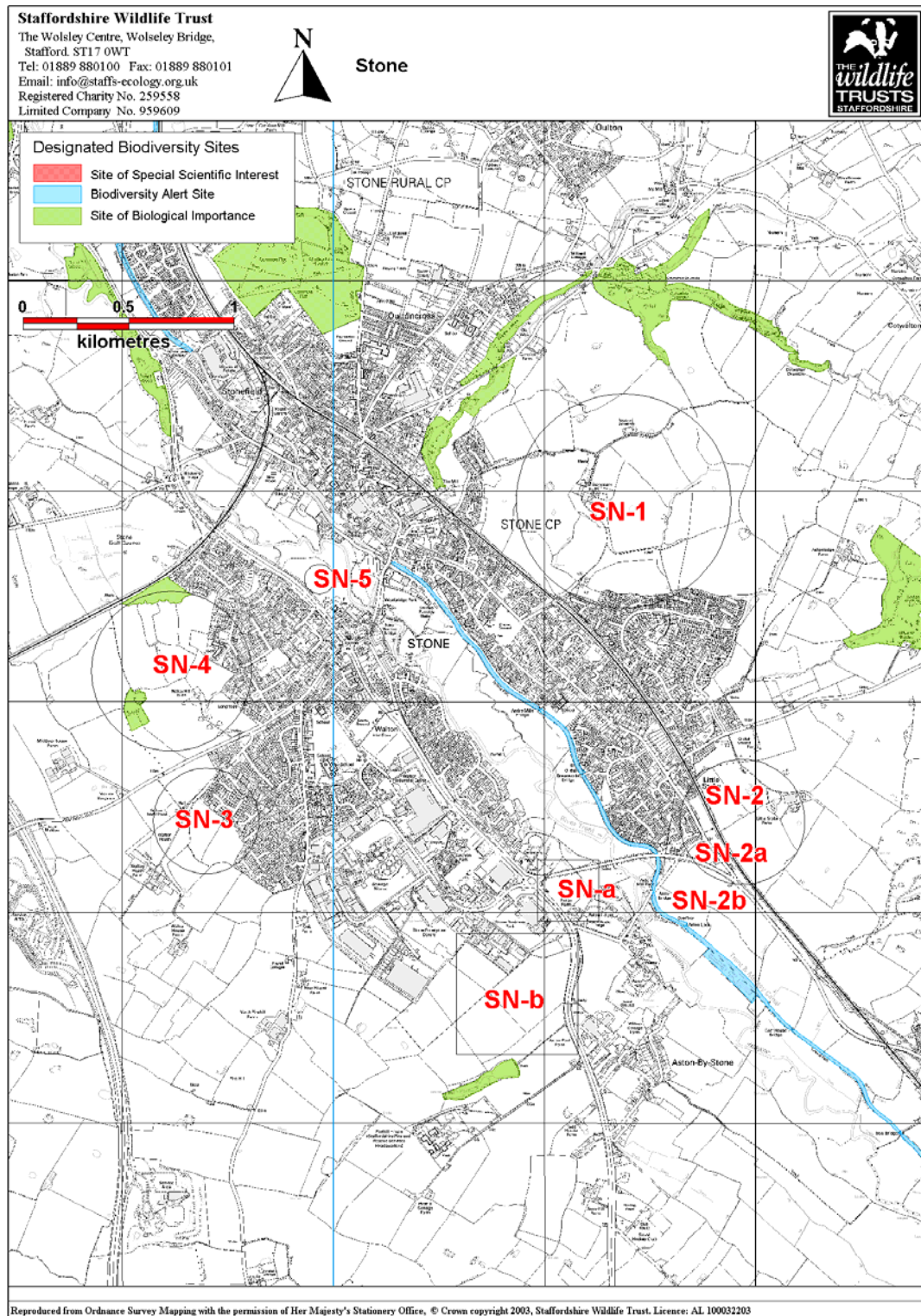
Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Badger	Considerable badger activity in this area.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth and Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Hedges		Several hedges of note.
Arable		

Site recommendations	
1 Survey hedges and consider status, especially those around Barn Bank Lane and to the north of site.	
2 Protect or mitigate for badgers	

10 Stone

7.1 Map of Potential Housing & Employment development Sites



7.2 Forms for Stone

SBC Site ID	SN-1
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SJ913336
Location (town / village)	Stone
Location (exact)	Directly south-west of Stone Park

Probable status of site	Not of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments:	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Pipistrelle Bat	Roosting within 200m of the site, likely to be using the site for foraging, with mature trees providing potential roost sites.
Whiskered Bat	Recorded in flight within 1km of the site, potentially utilising parts of the site for foraging with mature trees providing potential roost sites.
Badger	Sett within 150m of the site, with numerous sightings for the area, likely to be utilising the site for foraging.
Water Vole	Colony present within 300m of the site, however population has declined and unlikely to be present on the site though watercourses are present, requires survey to determine.
Great Crested Newt	Recorded within 150m of the site, a number of small water bodies are present and likely to support a Great Crested Newt population.
Barn Owl	Identified in flight within 500m of the site, potentially using the site for foraging, with mature trees present potential roost sites.
Fieldfare, Redwing & Brambling	Recorded within 1km of the site, potentially using the site for foraging, will not be breeding at the site.
Brown Hare	UKBAP species, activity recorded within 400m of the site, suitable habitat present to support this species currently within the site.
Lapwing	UKBAP species breeding within 1km of the site, suitable breeding habitat present, potentially breeding at the site.
Skylark	UKBAP species found within 400m of the site, potentially

	could be resident.
Yellow hammer, tree sparrow, linnet & spotted flycatcher	Selection of Staffordshire BAP species found within 1km of the site, parts of the site provide foraging habitat for these species.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
G1- Standing Water	SJ910340, SJ910339, SJ908339 & SJ909337	Series of ponds present on the site, potential Great Crested Newt breeding habitat.
G2- Running Water		Banks of watercourse are wooded not likely to be suitable habitat for water vole.
A111- Broadleaved Semi-natural Woodland		Mainly restricted to banks of watercourse, trees are also scattered across the site. Important refuge and feeding sites for the variety of birds and bats found within the area.
B4- Improved Grassland		
J11- Arable		Habitat for Lapwing and skylark to be potentially found residing and breeding within.
J23- Hedgerow with Trees		The hedgerows themselves are important flight routes for bats and provide food for resident important bird species. Mature trees may also be being utilised as roosting sites.

Site recommendations	
1.	Further survey work required to establish use of site by protected species, including great crested newt, badger, water vole & bat surveys.
2.	Retain hedgerow and woodland habitat or provide replacement refuge and feeding habitat for variety of protected and BAP species birds.
3.	Retain a proportion of suitable habitat if lapwing and skylark are breeding on the site.
4.	Retain mature trees if being used for roosting by bats or barn owl or provide alternative roosting sites.
5.	Protect watercourses and standing water through prevention of increased water run-off.

SBC Site ID	SN-2
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SJ919323
Location (town / village)	Stone
Location (exact)	Little Stoke

Probable status of site	Not of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Predominantly improved grassland, semi-improved grassland requires a check but unlikely to be of SBI quality.	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Great Crested Newt	A very large colony is present 400m to the north-east of the site, likely to be breeding on the site.
Badger	Activity recorded on the site, site falls within badgers territory and using the site for foraging.
Barn Owl	Recorded within 350m of the site, rough grassland on site may be being used for foraging. Mature trees require checking for signs of roosting.
Redwing	Identified in flight within 400m of the site, potentially utilising the site for foraging.
Song thrush, dunnock and skylark	UKBAP species, song thrush and dunnock present within 500m, skylark present within 100m of the site. Likely to be utilising hedgerows, scrub and woodland for refuge and feeding. Rough grassland suitable breeding habitat for the ground nesting skylark.
Bullfinch	SBAP species within 800m of the site, may be using hedgerows, scrub and woodland for refuge and feeding.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
B4- Improved Grassland		
B6- Semi-improved Grassland	SJ918327	Areas of rougher looking grassland with scattered scrub, ideal barn owl hunting habitat and potential habitat for skylark to be breeding within.
G1- Standing Water	SJ997230	Pond with some trees around margin, Great Crested Newts potentially breeding in pond.
A22- Scattered Scrub	SJ918327	Some scrub, refuge and feeding habitat for range of birds.
J23- Hedgerow with trees		Refuge and feeding habitat for range of birds.

Site recommendations	
1.	Further survey work required to establish use of site by protected species, including Great Crested Newts & Badger survey.
2.	Retain hedgerow and open scrub habitat or provide replacement refuge and feeding habitat for variety of protected and BAP species birds.
3.	Retain a proportion of suitable habitat if skylark are breeding on the site.
4.	Retain mature trees if being used for roosting by barn owl.

SBC Site ID	SN-2
ID added by SWT	SN-2a
Central Grid ref	SK917322
Location (town / village)	Stone
Location (exact)	Little Stoke

Probable status of site	Not of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Agriculturally improved field.	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Badger	Activity recorded on the site, with a number of records for the area. Likely to be using the site for foraging only but need to check if sett present.
Redwing, Fieldfare & Brambling.	Redwing recorded within 300m of the site, Fieldfare & Brambling recorded within 750m, potentially using the site for foraging, unlikely to breeding at the site.
Barn Owl	Recorded in flight within 200m of the site, grassland on site may be being used for foraging. Mature trees within the hedgerow require checking for signs of roosting but unlikely to be resident.
Pipistrelle Bat	Recorded in flight within 750m of the site, may be using the site for foraging, mature trees within hedgerow potential roost sites.
Whiskered/Brandt's Bat	Recorded in flight within 750m of the site, mature trees within hedgerow are potential roost sites but unlikely to be resident as limited foraging habitat within site.
Selection of UKBAP species within 1km of the site including Dunnock, Skylark, Linnet, Yellowhammer, Grey Partridge & Tree Sparrow.	Hedgerow provides nesting habitat for Yellowhammer, Dunnock and Linnet. Skylark recorded at the site maybe breeding in the grassland but looks improved and may not be suitable habitat.
Bullfinch	SBAP species within 1km of the site, potentially feeding and nesting within hedgerow.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
B4- Improved Grassland		
J23- Hedgerow with Trees	Field Boundary	The hedgerows themselves are important flight routes for bats but the field is isolated by a road with no connections to other hedgerows. However they provide food and nesting sites for resident important bird species. Mature trees may also be being utilised as roosting sites for barn owl and bats.

Site recommendations	
1.	Further survey work required to establish use of site by protected species, including badger, barn owl & bat surveys.
2.	Retain important hedgerow habitat or provide replacement refuge, nesting and feeding habitat for variety of protected and BAP species birds.
3.	Retain a proportion of suitable habitat if skylark are breeding on the site.
4.	Retain mature trees if being used for roosting by bats or barn owl.

SBC Site ID	SN-2
ID added by SWT	SN-2b
Central Grid ref	SK917320
Location (town / village)	Stone
Location (exact)	Aston Bridge (east of)

Probable status of site	Not of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Arable field	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Water Vole	Population present along the Trent and Mersey Canal.
Freshwater Crayfish	Very old records, may no longer be present along the Trent and Mersey Canal.
Otter	Present along the Trent and Mersey Canal.
Badger	Activity recorded on the site, with a number of records for the area. Likely to be using the site for foraging only but need to check if sett present.
Barn owl	Recorded in flight within 100m of the site, grassland on site may be being used for foraging. Mature trees within the hedgerow require checking for signs of roosting but unlikely to be resident.
Pipistrelle	Recorded in flight within 1km of the site, may be using the site for foraging, mature trees within hedgerow potential roost sites.
Whiskered/Brandt's Bat	Recorded in flight within 1km of the site, mature trees within hedgerow are potential roost sites but unlikely to be resident as limited foraging habitat within site.
Redwing, Fieldfare & Brambling	Redwing recorded within 50m of the site, Fieldfare & Brambling recorded within 1km, potentially using the site for foraging, unlikely to breeding at the site.
UKBAP ground nesting birds, Lapwing & Skylark	Lapwing have been recorded on the site, with skylark within 50m of the site. Both species could be potentially nesting and feeding within the arable field.

Selection of UKBAP species within 1km of the site including Dunnock, Linnet, Yellowhammer & Tree Sparrow.	Hedgerow provides nesting and feeding habitat.
Bullfinch	SBAP species within 1km of the site, potentially feeding and nesting within hedgerow.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
J11- Arable		
J23- Hedgerow with trees		Appears quite gappy and defunct in places, only small number of trees within the hedge, limited to south-western corner of boundary.

Site recommendations	
1.	Further survey work required to establish use of site by protected species, including badger, barn owl and bat surveys.
2.	Protect water vole and otter population by ensuring there is suitable habitat along and adjacent to canal.
3.	Protect and prevent increased water run-off into the canal.
4.	Retain important hedgerow habitat or provide replacement refuge, nesting and feeding habitat for variety of protected and BAP species birds.
5.	Retain mature trees if being used for roosting by bats or barn owl.
6.	Retain a proportion of suitable habitat if skylark or Lapwing are breeding on the site.

SBC Site ID	SN-a
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SK911321
Location (town / village)	Stone
Location (exact)	Forge Farm

Probable status of site	Not of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Agriculturally improved field	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Badger	Activity recorded on the site, with a number of records for the area. Likely to be using the site for foraging only but need to check if sett present.
Barn owl	Recorded in flight within across the site, grassland on site may be being used for foraging. Mature trees within the hedgerow require checking for signs of roosting but unlikely to be resident.
Pipistrelle & Whiskered/Brandt's Bat	Recorded in flight within 1km of the site, may be using the site for foraging, mature trees within hedgerow potential roost sites.
Redwing, Fieldfare & Brambling	Redwing recorded within 260m of the site, Fieldfare & Brambling recorded within 1km, potentially using the site for foraging, unlikely to breeding at the site.
Selection of UKBAP species within 1km of the site including Dunnock, Linnet, Yellowhammer, Tree Sparrow & Common Starling.	Hedgerow provides nesting and feeding habitat.
Bullfinch	SBAP species within 1km of the site, potentially feeding and nesting within hedgerow.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Improved grassland		
Hedgerow with trees		Only small number of trees within the hedge, limited to western boundary against the road. Mature trees potential roost sites for bats and some bird species.

Site recommendations	
1.	Further survey work required to establish use of site by protected species, including badger, barn owl and bat surveys.
2.	Retain important hedgerow habitat or provide replacement refuge, nesting and feeding habitat for variety of protected and BAP species birds.
3.	Retain mature trees if being used for roosting by bats or barn owl.

SBC Site ID	SN-b
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SK908315
Location (town / village)	Stone
Location (exact)	Aston Pool Farm

Probable status of site	Not of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	April 2008
Comments: Semi-improved grassland present but likely to be species-poor.	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Badger	Activity recorded within 100m of the site, with a number of records for the area. Likely to be using the site for foraging only but need to check if sett present.
Barn owl	Recorded roosting within 400m of the site, with a number of records of barn owl in flight within the area. Potentially utilising the grassland on site for foraging.
Pipistrelle & Whiskered/Brandt's Bat	A potential breeding colony of pipistrelle & roosting site for Whiskered bats is present within 1km of the site. Potentially foraging over pond within 50m of the site, no important hedgerows appear to be present on the site linking with pond to act as flight routes for bats.
Great Crested Newt	Breeding in ponds within 500m of the site, with a network of ponds within the area including one 50m to the south of the site. Likely to be using terrestrial habitat on the site to move between ponds.
Redwing, Fieldfare & Brambling	All three bird species recorded within 500m of the site. Large flocks of redwing and fieldfare have been recorded within the area and likely to be using the hedgerow and grassland on site for foraging, will not be breeding on the site. Brambling unlikely to be using the site as favour woodland.

Selection of UKBAP species within 1km of the site including Skylark, Dunnock, song thrush, Linnet, Yellowhammer, Grey Partridge, Tree Sparrow & Common Starling.	Hedgerow and grassland provides nesting and feeding habitat.
Bullfinch	SBAP species within 1km of the site, potentially feeding and nesting within hedgerow.

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Semi-improved grassland	SK910318 SK906 316	Likely to species-poor.
Improved Grassland		
Hedgerow		Some of the hedgerows appear to have been removed.

Site recommendations	
1.	Further survey work required to establish use of site by protected species, including badger, barn owl and bat surveys.
2.	Retain important hedgerow habitat or provide replacement refuge, nesting and feeding habitat for variety of protected and BAP species birds.

SBC Site ID	SN-3
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SK893323
Location (town / village)	Stone
Location (exact)	Walton Heath

Probable status of site	Unlikely to be of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	May 2008
Comments:	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Bats	Brown-long Eared Bat recorded as hibernating in the locality
Water Vole	Recorded in the vicinity but unlikely to be using the site

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Poor semi-improved grassland		
Scattered scrub		
Hedgerow with trees		
Arable		

Site recommendations	
1.	Follow generic guidance on Bats.



SBC Site ID	SN-4
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SK892331
Location (town / village)	Stone
Location (exact)	Micklow House Farm

Probable status of site	Site support 2 SBIs
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	May 2008
Comments: SBIs are 'Stone (west of)'(site code; 83/93/25) and 'Micklow Wood'(site code; 83/92/09), Both sites were last surveyed in 1983.	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Bats	Brown-long Eared Bat recorded as hibernating

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Poor semi-improved grassland		
Scattered scrub		
Hedgerow with trees		

Site recommendations	
1.	Priority for the site is to conduct an SBI survey to gather up-to-date information regarding the current status of the two SBIs.

SBC Site ID	SN-5
ID added by SWT	N/A
Central Grid ref	SK899336
Location (town / village)	Stone
Location (exact)	North of A34

Probable status of site	Unlikely to be of SBI quality
To be confirmed by	SWT
Likely date	May 2008
Comments: Site comprises poor semi-improved grassland with scattered scrub	

Protected species implications (see also generic species information)	
Species	Notes
Otter	Recorded in and along the River Trent
Bats	Pipistrelle Bats recorded in the locality
Barn Owl	Recorded to the south of the site
Knifisher	Recorded on River Trent near the site
Water Vole	Recorded to the south of the site near Walton Bridge

Habitats		
Inferred	GoogleEarth / Local Knowledge	
Confirmed by site visit		
Habitat	Location	Comments
Poor semi-improved grassland		
Scattered scrub		
Hedgerow with trees		

Site recommendations	
1.	None of the listed species have been recorded on the site but surveys would be recommended to establish presence or absence.
2.	None of the listed species have been recorded directly on the site but the opportunities for creating habitat to benefit the species, or to compliment Crown Meadows LNR should ideally be a condition of planning



9 Summary of Key Findings

The desk study has identified records for a number of protected species either at the sites or within close proximity, and highlighted priority habitats of county conservation significance. In relation to any development, avoidance or mitigation of potential impacts on such species or Habitats should be sought. There is also scope to enhance biodiversity across all of the sites and this should be considered on a site by site basis. Section 3. **Protected and Biodiversity Action Plan Species** should be referred to for further information on the legislation which protects these species. In reference to all the sites it is important to note that the absence of records should not be taken as confirmation that a species is absent from the area.

9.1 Eccleshall & surrounding area

For sites found within Eccleshaw and its surrounding area the vast majority of associated Habitat can be characterised as a mosaic of arable and ‘improved’ intensively managed agricultural grassland of relatively low conservation value. With respect to notable and legally protected species, assessment of records have confirmed the presence of Great Crested Newts on one site, EC4, with suitable breeding Habitat e.g. ponds, found on a further three sites, EC3, LA-a and LA-b. Great Crested Newts are protected under UK and EU legislation, further survey work should be recommended as part of any planning application affecting these sites and suitable mitigation measures would have to be sought in relation to any potential development.

Badgers have been identified within the vicinity of two sites, EC2 and EC3 and breeding on one site, EC5. Habitats within the former mentioned sites provide suitable foraging Habitat for badgers, with a loss of this Habitat representing a reduction in this feeding Habitat. Recommendations should include the retention of this favourable Habitat for badgers wherever possible. Further survey work is also required to confirm ‘current use’ of the badger sett, with suitable mitigation measures secured for any potentially disturbing or damaging work around the area.

The desk study has also identified bats roosting and within flight within the vicinity of four sites, EC2, EC3, LA-a and LA-b. These sites provide suitable foraging Habitat in the form of hedgerow, with mature trees potential roost sites. Development of these sites may directly impact roosting bats, therefore a survey must be completed prior to the commencement of any work at these sites. Main foraging Habitat should also be retained, through retention of the best hedgerows, where this is not possible opportunities should be sought for hedgerow planting as part of any development.

Two sites, EC1 and EC5, have Habitats that are being used by Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan bird species. Breeding birds could also potentially be utilising all boundary vegetation. Retention of important hedgerow habitat is favoured, with scope for enhancing the value of existing hedgerow through the infilling of gaps and planting hedgerow trees. No net loss of habitat should occur so where important hedgerows cannot be retained, new Habitat should be planted as part of the planning consent.



9.2 Gnosall

Improved, intensively managed agricultural grassland and arable typify the sites around Gnosall. A small fragment of more species-rich wet grassland can be found at GN-7 but a site visit has confirmed the grassland not to be of SBI quality though some species of botanical interest were noted. GN-5 in addition has habitats of note adjacent to the site, refer to Appendix 2, 82/30/03 Doley Brook for the full site report. Though these habitats of importance are not directly present on the site any future development works would adversely impact on the site unless suitable mitigation is put in place.

All of the sites (GN-1 to GN-9) have records for badgers and bats within close proximity, preliminary surveys will identify the full use of the sites by these two protected species. This may either negate the need for any detailed surveys or show that further investigation is needed.

Suitable breeding Habitat for Great Crested Newts has also been identified at site GN-3. Although there are no records for Great Crested Newts in the area, the species is under-recorded and we do not know their full distribution. As the West Midlands are one of the strongholds for the species in Britain, it should generally be assumed that any pond in the county could be used by Great Crested Newts, even if there are no previous records in the area.

Barn owls have been recorded within the vicinity of GN-2 and GN-8, though protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 they are unlikely to be resident at the site. However whether or not barn owls are found to be present at the current time, provision of a safe nesting place within the development should be a condition of planning consent, to allow future breeding to occur and conserve the species in the area. Mitigation should also be sought for the loss of any substantial area of barn owl foraging Habitat, with the creation of new areas of rough grassland on the sites.

9.3 Haughton

Assessments of aerial photography for the area have revealed that the majority of Habitat comprises of agriculturally improved grassland, with the exception of a field within H5 which requires further investigation through survey work (refer to site form on page x).

All of the sites (HN1 to HN6) have records for bats within close proximity, preliminary surveys will identify the full use of the sites by this protected species. This may either negate the need for any detailed surveys or show that further investigation is needed. The sites are likely to be used for foraging by the large number of bats in the area and where development is taking place the loss of a substantial area of foraging Habitat should be mitigated by extra planting of trees and shrubs to replace those lost. In addition a record for a roosting colony has been identified on site H2. If this is the case, a roost could be damaged or disturbed by



development works if not detected. As all bat species are protected by law if bats are suspected, a bat survey should be carried out with this information available before the application is determined.

Suitable breeding Habitat for Great Crested Newts has also been identified at site H3. Again although there are no records for Great Crested Newts in the area, it should generally be assumed that any pond in the county could be used by Great Crested Newts, even if there are no previous records and a survey should be commissioned prior to planning consent for any development works.

9.4 Great Haywood and Little Haywood

The area is generally typified by low diversity grassland of little conservation interest. A field within LH-1 from aerial photographic evidence may potentially have some botanical species interest warranting it SBI status. A walkover survey is required to corroborate this and will show if further investigation is needed.

All of the sites (GH-1 to LH-2) have records for badgers and bats within close proximity, preliminary surveys will identify the full use of the sites by these two protected species. This may either negate the need for any detailed surveys or show that further investigation is needed.

Four out of five sites (excluding GH-1) have Habitats that are being utilised by both UK and Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan bird species. Sites GH-2 and LH-1 in particular have a good network of hedgerow, scrub and a woodland copse, which provides important cover, nesting sites and foraging habitat for the range of important bird species present in the area. This favourable Habitat wherever possible should be retained to maintain habitat in situ with minimal adverse impact. Opportunities should also be sought across all the sites for the creation of new Habitats through hedgerow planting and restoration, and the provision of nest boxes. Retention of any hedgerow will also in addition maintain important foraging habitat and flight routes for the large bat population in the area and provide refuge sites for brown hare, another UK BAP species recorded for the area.

9.5 Hixon and surrounding area

The area is dominated by intensively managed improved grassland of little botanical diversity, along with expanses of arable. Sites HI-5 and 6 support some semi-improved grassland, which in the case of HI-5 represents important foraging ground for barn owl recorded within the vicinity. The Barn owl is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. In addition, the barn owl has further special protection which makes it illegal to intentionally or recklessly* (*added by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act) disturb them at or near the nest. A preliminary survey will identify if suitable nesting sites are present. This may either negate the need for any detailed surveys or show that further investigation is needed.

Whether or not barn owls are found to be present at the current time, provision of a safe nesting place within the development should be a condition of planning consent,



to allow future breeding to occur and conserve the species in the area. Retention of suitable foraging ground or the creation of new areas of rough grassland will ensure no loss of feeding Habitat. The large tracts of arable land also support an associated population of UK BAP birds including seed eating varieties and ground nesting skylark and lapwing. Breeding bird surveys are recommended, with suitable mitigation proposals following from the survey.

Six out of ten of the sites in the area (HI-1 TO HI4, HI-6, HA-a and WI) have records for bats within close proximity, preliminary surveys will identify the full use of the sites by this protected species. This may either negate the need for any detailed surveys or show that further investigation is needed. However, it is likely that the extensive hedgerow network at these sites are potentially being utilised as foraging Habitat and flight routes. Main foraging Habitat should be retained, through retention of the best hedgerows, where this is not possible opportunities should be sought for hedgerow planting as part of any development.

Suitable breeding Habitat for Great Crested Newts has also been identified at two sites HI-2 and HI-4. Although there are no records for the area the number of ponds scattered throughout this part of the district, along with interconnecting hedgerows and ditches, make it likely that Great Crested Newts could be present in many ponds including those on the two sites. Therefore, Great Crested Newt surveys should be carried out at the appropriate time of year.

Water voles, a further legally protected species, have been recorded in the area of site WI. A full survey should be undertaken to determine their presence and distribution. If present at the site, the effect of the works on the water vole population, stream banks and bankside vegetation should be assessed. In many cases, as long as the water vole burrows are not being blocked or destroyed by engineering works or bank revetments, the voles can be worked around by ensuring that refuge Habitat is retained. Any existing vegetation and natural Habitat should be retained and ideally enhanced, to help safeguard this threatened species.

9.6 Stafford

The sites around Stafford support an array of habitats, of particular note are habitats identified at sites SF-1, SF-4, SF-9, SF-12, SF-13, SF-h and SF-b. Of the aforementioned sites SF-h has been visited and the findings emphasise that this site supports habitats that are of County conservation significance. The remaining sites require Habitat surveys to assess/confirm their status. Black poplar has also been recorded at two sites SF-d and SF-5, this is an endangered native tree and a UK BAP species and should be protected and retained.

The desk study has also identified bats roosting and within flight within the vicinity of four sites, SF-1, SF-9, SF-g and D1. These sites provide suitable foraging Habitat in the form of hedgerow, with mature trees potential roost sites. Development of these sites may directly impact roosting bats, therefore a survey must be completed prior to the commencement of any work at these sites. Main foraging habitat should also be



retained, through retention of the best hedgerows, where this is not possible opportunities should be sought for hedgerow planting as part of any development. Badgers have been identified on and around fifteen out of twenty-five sites within Stafford (refer to section 9 for the list of sites). habitats within the former mentioned sites provide suitable foraging habitat for badgers, with a loss of this Habitat representing a reduction in this feeding Habitat. Recommendations should include the retention of this favourable Habitat for badgers wherever possible. Further survey work is also required to confirm the presence or absence of any setts with suitable mitigation measures secured for any potentially disturbing or damaging work around identified setts.

Suitable breeding habitat for Great Crested Newts has also been identified at a small number of sites within Stafford including SF-1, SF-2, SF-9, SF-12, SF-a and D1. Assessment of records have confirmed the presence of individuals near site SF-2 and although there are no records for Great Crested Newts in the area of the other sites potentially they are present and a survey would be warranted.

Otter records have been identified at sites SF-5, SF12, SF-d and SF-g. Otter surveys are required to confirm the presence/ absence of these mammals and any areas which may need special consideration and protection. Similarly water voles have been recorded within the vicinity of seven sites (refer to section 9 for list of sites) around Stafford, the current population status is uncertain and further survey work is required to confirm the presence of individuals and to again identify any areas which need special consideration and protection.

Barn owls have been recorded within the vicinity of five sites, SF-1, SF-2, SF-11, SF-c and SE1 though protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 they are unlikely to be resident at the site. However whether or not barn owls are found to be present at the current time, provision of a safe nesting place within the development should be a condition of planning consent, to allow future breeding to occur and conserve the species in the area. Mitigation should also be sought for the loss of any substantial area of barn owl foraging habitat, with the creation of new areas of rough grassland on the sites.

A substantial proportion of sites support lapwing with one site supporting skylark, SF-2, SF-b and D1 are particularly important for bird assemblages with retention of hedgerows a priority for these sites. Where skylark and lapwing are present they are likely to be utilising hedgerows, scrub and woodland for refuge and feeding and rough grassland /arable for breeding. It is essential that nesting areas are not disturbed during the breeding season and where Habitat cannot be retained for feeding and refuge mitigation for Habitat loss should be incorporated into planning agreements.

9.7 Stone

Sites found within the area of Stone offer a variety of habitats, including grassland, woodland, arable, scattered scrub, standing water and linear features such as hedgerow with trees. Of particular importance is the variety of habitats identified at SN-4 which are recognised to be off County importance and are subsequently designated as two 'Sites of Biological Importance'. However survey data for these



sites are rendered over ten years old and more information regarding the sites biological resource is required prior to any planning consent.

The desk study has also identified bats roosting and within flight within the vicinity of all nine sites (SN-1 to SN-5). These sites provide suitable foraging Habitat and flight routes in the form of hedgerow, with mature trees potential roost sites. A survey is required prior to the commencement of any development at these sites to ascertain its full use by this species. Surveys should be followed by suitable mitigation where bats are present, no work should be carried out before a DEFRA licence has been granted. A DEFRA licence lays out mitigation and any further surveys to be carried out, and is evaluated by English Nature, so covers all the issues.

Badgers are another issue for many of the sites, with records for the vicinity of six out the nine sites. The presence of badgers does not usually prevent development, however steps need to be taken by the developers to safeguard badgers on the site and ensure their future welfare. Assessment of records for Great Crested Newts has determined the presence of individuals around sites SN-1 and SN-2, with standing water present at both these sites they are likely to be candidate sites for this species. Great Crested Newt surveys should be carried out at the appropriate time of year to confirm their presence with suitable mitigation secured prior to development.

Otters, protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, have been identified along the River Trent flowing through SN-5. An otter survey is required to confirm the presence/ absence of these mammals and any areas which may need special consideration and protection. Similarly water voles have been recorded within the vicinity of sites SN-4 and SN-5, the current population status is uncertain and further survey work is required to confirm the presence of individuals and to again identify any areas which need special consideration and protection.

The presence of arable land at sites SN-1 and SN-2b have attracted skylark and lapwing, with records on or near the site. Skylark are protected under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 making it illegal to intentionally take, damage or destroy their nests while in use or being built, whilst lapwing are amber listed species. and are also part of the Saffordshire biodiversity Action plan. As these birds may be using the site for nesting, it is essential that nesting areas are not disturbed during the breeding season. The conservation of these birds must be an important consideration in planning decisions if targets to halt their decline are to be met, and mitigation for Habitat loss should be incorporated into planning agreements wherever possible.

A number of UK and SBAP bird species have also been identified on the majority of sites (excluding SN-3, SN-4 and SN-5). SN-1 and SN-2 in particular support woodland and scattered scrub, important refuge, feeding and nesting Habitat for a wide variety of bird assemblages. The remaining sites have an extensive network of hedgerow. The retention of these important habitats should be a material consideration, with replacement Habitat created if needed to ensure no net loss. Sites

In addition Barn owls have been recorded within the vicinity of SN-2b and SN-b, though protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 they are unlikely to be resident at the site. However whether or not barn owls are found to be present at the current time, provision of a safe nesting place within the development should be a



condition of planning consent, to allow future breeding to occur and conserve the species in the area. Mitigation should also be sought for the loss of any substantial area of barn owl foraging habitat, with the creation of new areas of rough grassland on the sites.

10 Conclusion

On the whole the mitigation measures proposed for the species and habitats highlighted are a proportional and appropriate response to the nature conservation issues raised by the potential development of the named sites. Protected species are an issue at most sites and if addressed adequately then development can be considered but this needs to be identified on a site by site basis.

Of significance are a number of sites within Stafford and Stone which incorporate designated 'Sites of Biological Importance' or habitat of such quality that future designation is to occur. The loss of these sites would result in the loss of a number of protected and rare species and habitats of importance. Retention of these significant sites is fundamental, and if not possible then other sites should be considered for development as an alternative to maintain the integrity of these sites.