

**STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

AN ECOLOGICAL STUDY

CHEADLE SITES



May 2011



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Executive summary

- A desktop study and field surveys were carried out to examine potential development areas in Staffordshire Moorlands District.
- Potential development areas were examined for known protected species records, habitats and geological features using data from Staffordshire Ecological Record.
- All potential development sites were surveyed in Summer & Autumn 2010 with any woodland site revisited in Spring 2011.
- For each area information is provided which sets out implications for protected sites and species, habitats and geology.
- Habitat data provided comprises 2010/11 survey data for the potential development sites, 2010/11 data or previous survey data is used where appropriate for other land.
- Previous habitat survey data used comprised: 2000 Sites of County Biological Importance (SBI) survey and the current rolling programme of SBI re-surveys.
- For species information, all species lists include a search area of 2 kilometres because the intention is for the species lists to be regarded as a guide to the likely key issues.
- All available species information from a wide range of dates is included in the Appendices; the most current / relevant information is noted within the text of the report.
- For each area, brief initial recommendations for mitigation and management are suggested. It is anticipated that these recommendations could be brought forward as reasonable biodiversity measures within any development scheme.
- All designated sites and protected and Biodiversity Action Plan species should be protected from development, where this is not possible adequate mitigation may be possible as a last resort.
- In the case of Monk's Wood it is strongly recommended that the area is protected against development. Further consideration should be given to providing habitat links between this area and the south.

Please note:

Data in the report is as up-to-date as possible, however information is continually updated. There are unavoidable delays in adding new species to the Staffordshire Ecological Record database. Publication of data about any area inevitably results in additional records being supplied by naturalists and the general public.

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Monk's Wood Site of Biological Importance (SBI) Site Report

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Staffordshire Wildlife Trust was commissioned by the Forward Plans Team of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to carry out a comprehensive ecological desk top study, and phase 1 habitat survey of areas considered for development. In 2009, 13 areas in Staffordshire Moorlands (two in Biddulph, five in Cheadle and 6 in Leek), were visited and a phase one survey was conducted. Where appropriate, an extended phase one survey was carried out on sites that were suspected to reach Site of Biological Importance or Biological Alert Site criteria.

In 2010, a small number of sites in the Cheadle area were added to the inventory of sites to be surveyed. This report focuses on the additional sites in the Cheadle area.

The study includes the identification of priority species and habitats which the planning authority have a duty to consider when determining planning applications. This includes Protected and Biodiversity Action Plan Species and habitats.

Maps were produced showing search areas, surveyed sites and habitats. These are collated in an annexe document “Staffordshire Moorlands District Local Development Framework – An Ecological Study – Maps”

1.2 Protected and Biodiversity Action Plan Species

Species lists are given for each site in the Appendices. These are based on existing data compiled in the Staffordshire Ecological Record database. For many areas species records are not comprehensive, and further survey work is usually required to inform the development process. All species lists include a search area of 2 kilometres around the LDF site boundary given. This is because most species are mobile and the intention is for the species lists to be regarded as a guide to the likely key issues only, and not absolute.

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 14. 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 Staffordshire Moorlands District include:

Bats (all British species)

Great crested newt

Otter

Dormouse

¹ For a full species list see Defra’s European Protected Species guidance note and Natural England’s website
Staffordshire Moorlands Local Development Framework - Cheadle
Ecological Study

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 District 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
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 Staffordshire Moorlands District 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 District Council has access to. BAP species records are denoted by either a green dot in a green circle, or a green square
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.

1.3 Site designations

Several site designations may apply in the District, these include:

European designations – Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area, RAMSAR site.

National designations – Site of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserve

The Government body - Natural England - will advise on the above.

County designations - Sites of County Biological Importance and Biodiversity Alert Sites. These are surveyed, monitored and designated by a panel of experts from across the county. Published guidelines describing how sites are selected are available²

1.4 General recommendations

Habitats such as woodlands, hedgerows, ponds, heathland and semi-natural grassland should be retained where possible.

Where possible links between habitats and existing features should be created and enhanced. Consideration will be required as to whether an area can provide links between blocks of existing habitats.

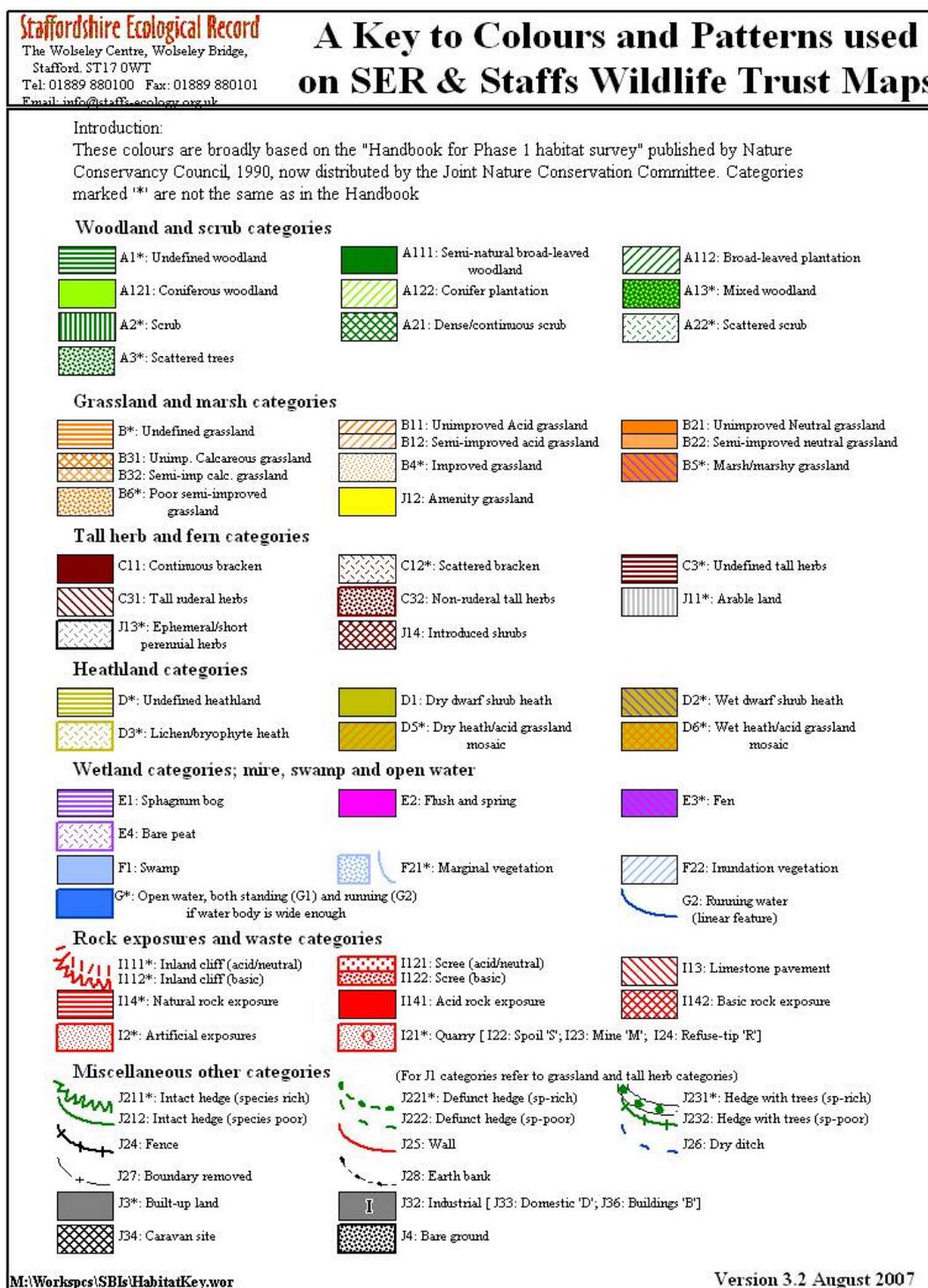
Size of habitat is also thought to be important because larger areas of habitat and larger populations of species are thought to be more resistant to change than smaller ones. Therefore reduction in individual blocks of habitat, or reduction in the overall hecterage are considered to be detrimental.

If it is not possible to retain these habitats then new areas of similar habitat should be created. Opportunites for these may best be created within Green Infrastructure within development sites.

² Webb *et al* 'Guidelines for the Selection of Sites of County Biological Importance in Staffordshire', 2007, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.

In general larger areas of habitat are best, and links should be provided between similar habitats. This is particularly important because it is considered that species will stand the best chance of being able to adapt to change (for example climate change) if they are able to move in response.

Figure 1: Colour coding for habitat maps



2. Cheadle Site Information

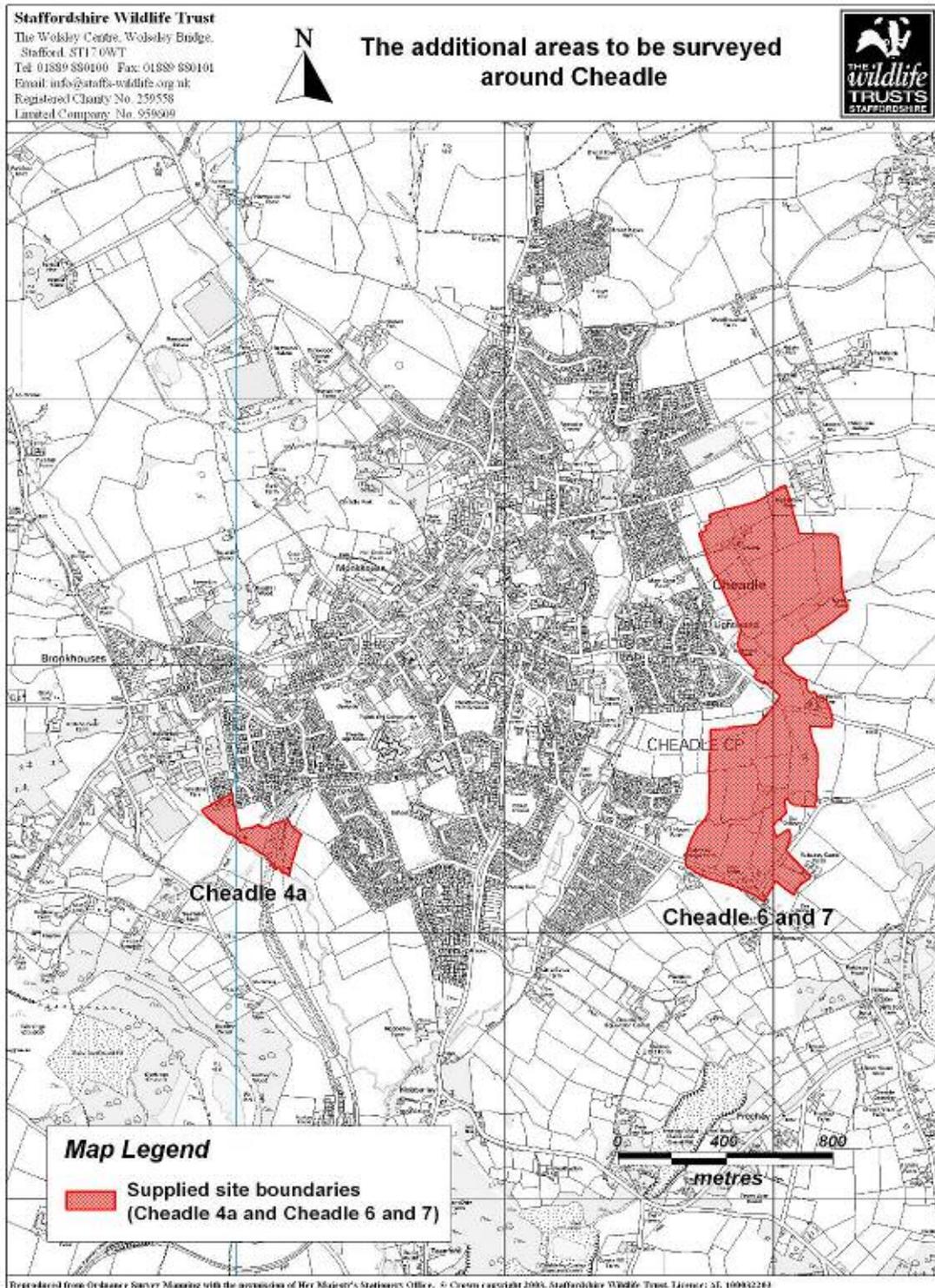


Figure 2: Location of the Cheadle Sites

**2.1 Cheadle 4a
Designated Sites**

Huntley Wood Site of County Biological Importance and Ancient Woodland is located to the south of Cheadle 4a.

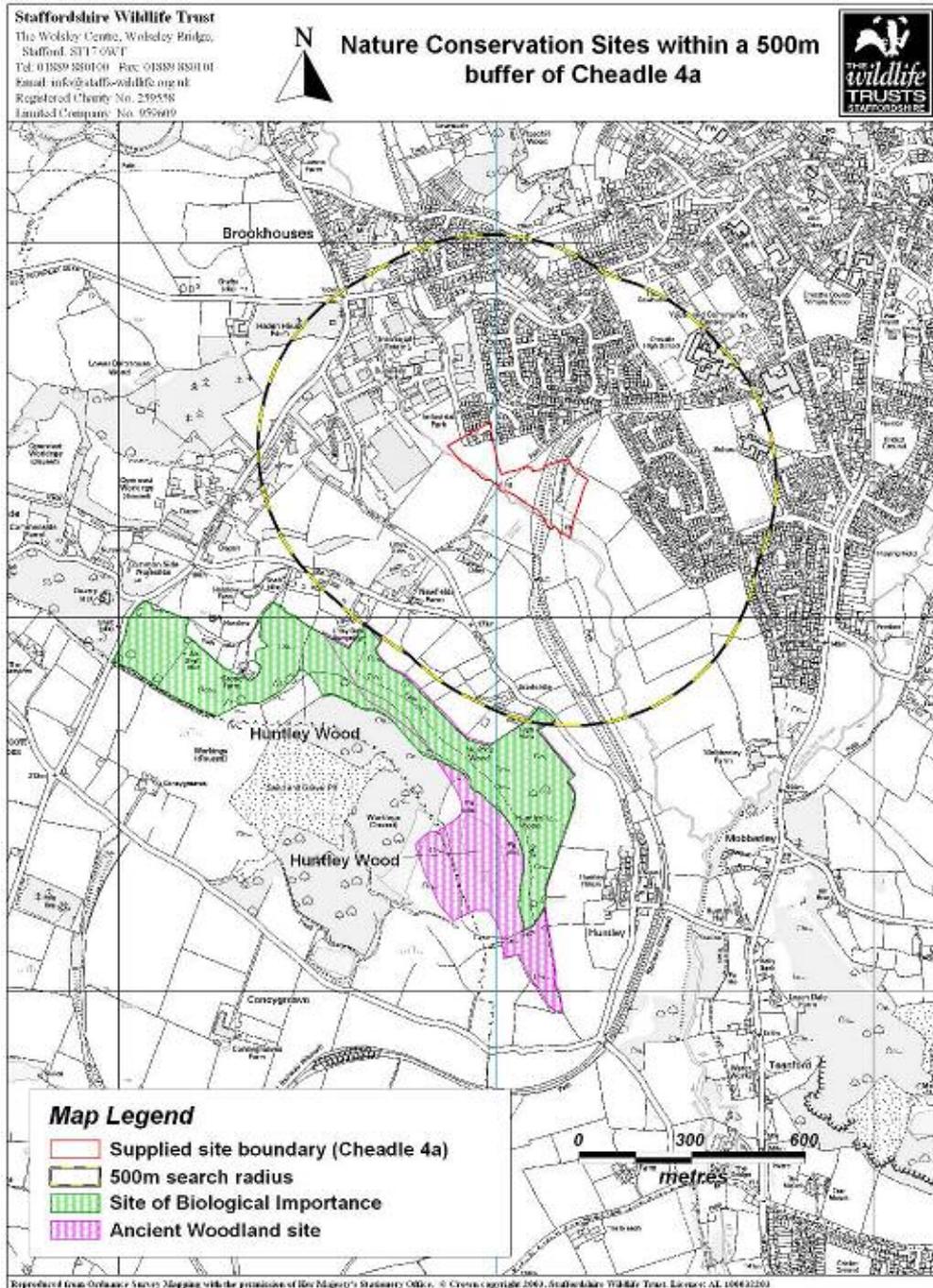


Figure 3: Cheadle 4a Designated Sites within 500m

Habitats

The area was given an initial survey during autumn 2010 and then re-visited in May 2011. The main habitats are tall herb, alder and willow scrub, marshy grassland, a linear wooded area along the watercourse, which is a stream running along the south-western border, and a dismantled railway to the eastern part which contains scrub along it. There are agriculturally improved fields on the far eastern side.

Surrounding habitat includes an industrial estate, housing estate and agricultural land.

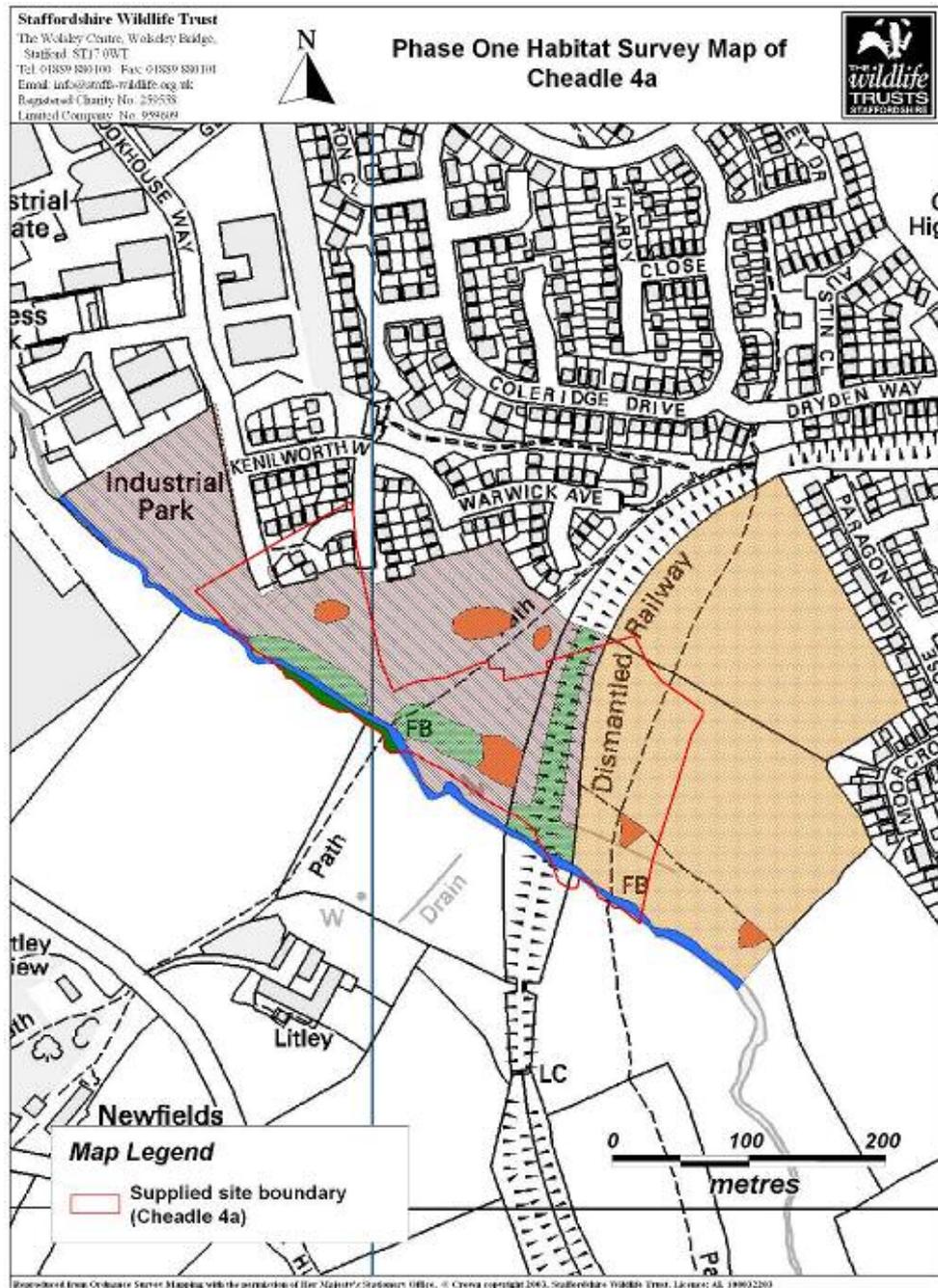


Figure 4 - Habitat map of Cheadle 4a

Protected Species: Cheadle 4a

English Name	Further Comments	Recommendation
Adder	Suitable habitat	Possible reptile survey. Protect tall herb and wetland habitats.
Barn Owl	Suitable habitat/ Potential foraging on site	Retain tall herb and scrub habitats.
Bluebell	Not recorded on site but potential.	Retain scrub and trees.
Brambling	Suitable habitat/ Potential foraging on site. Seed/ insect feeder.	Protect scrub habitats
Common Frog	Seen on site.	Retain wetland habitats, particularly around stream
Common Kingfisher	Potential on site.	Protect watercourses and provide buffering habitat
Common Pipistrelle	Likely to forage within the Site/ Roosting potential in trees	Retain trees. Bat survey.
Common Lizard	No recent records / However potentially suitable habitat present	Retain tall herb habitat. Possible reptile survey
Common Toad	Potential habitat.	Retain wetland habitats, particularly around stream
Eurasian Badger	Potential foraging on site.	Mitigation where possible; this will depend on size and location of badger groups affected on any given site
Eurasian Hobby	Potential foraging on site. Feed on dragonflies.	Retain wetland habitats, particularly around stream
European Otter	Suitable habitat – stream.	Otter survey required Retain wetland habitats, particularly around stream
European Water Vole	Potentially suitable habitat - stream/ Potential on site	Water Vole survey Retain wetland habitats, particularly around stream
Fieldfare	Winter visitor, feeding in a range of habitats. Does not breed in England.	Retain scrub.
Firecrest	Potential habitat.	Retain trees and scrub.
Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish	Suitable habitat - stream / Potential on site	Crayfish survey; protect watercourse from pollution
Grass Snake	Potential on site, suitable habitat	Retain wetland habitats, particularly around stream Possible reptile survey
Great Crested Newt	Potential on site.	GCN survey and mitigation may be required
Little Ringed Plover	Will breed on derelict land.	Retain tall herb habitat and stream.
Myotis Bat Species	Likely to forage within the Site / Roosting potential	Bat survey required Protect foraging habitats
Peregrine Falcon	More common in built-up areas now.	Unlikely to use site.
Redwing	Winter visitor, feeding in a range of habitats	Retain scrub.
Slow-worm	No recent records / However	Reptile survey recommended

	potentially suitable habitat present	
Smooth Newt	Potential on site.	Would be identified during GCN survey.
Soprano Pipistrelle	Likely to forage within the Site/ Roosting potential in trees	Retain trees

Biodiversity Action Plan Species: Cheadle 4a

English Name	Further Comments	Recommendation
Adder	Suitable habitat	Possible reptile survey. Protect tall herb and wetland habitats.
Barn Owl	Suitable habitat/ Potential foraging on site	Retain grassland and tall herb habitat or provide compensatory habitat.
Barn Swallow	Feeding potential on site. Insect feeders.	Retain grassland and tall herb habitats or provide compensatory habitat.
Brambling	Suitable habitat/ Potential foraging on site. Seed/ insect feeder.	Protect scrub and tall herb habitats or provide compensatory habitat.
Brown Hare	Grassland and tall herb within site may be potentially suitable habitat	If grassland and tall herb is affected by development provide compensatory habitat.
Cinnabar	Feeds on ragwort which is present.	Protect tall herb habitat or provide compensatory habitat.
Common Bullfinch	Feed on tree buds, woodlands, orchards and hedges	Retain scrub and trees along watercourse and alder/ willow scrub on field.
Common Carder Bee	Uses small holes in ground for nesting.	Conserve any bare patches of ground.
Common Cuckoo	Parasite of dunlins, meadow pipits etc	Retain trees and scrub.
Common Kestrel	Hunts small mammals and birds, potential habitat in tall herb area	If grassland is affected by development provide compensatory habitat.
Common Kingfisher	Suitable habitat/ potential on site	Protect watercourses and provide buffering habitat
Common Pipistrelle	Likely to forage within the Site/ Roosting potential in trees	Retain trees. Bat survey
Common Redstart	Main diet insects.	Protect trees, scrub and streamside habitat.
Common Snipe	Invertebrate feeder, including worms.	Retain tall herb and marshy grass habitats.
Common Spiny Digger Wasp	Uses small holes in ground for nesting. Nectar feeder.	Conserve any bare patches of ground. Retain tall herb – nectar sources.
Common Toad	Potential habitat.	Retain wetland habitats, particularly around stream
Common Wasp	May use site for feeding/ nesting/ overwintering. Nectar feeder.	Retain trees and bare ground for nesting/ overwintering and tall herb habitat for nectar sources.
Common Whitethroat	May use site for nesting (scrub) and feeding.	Retain scrub and tall herb habitats.
Dingy Skipper	Potentially present on	Retain habitat on dismantled

	dismantled railway, in any bare open patches.	railway.
Dunnoek	Suitable habitat/ potential on site	Retain scrub and trees.
Early Mining Bee	Uses small holes in ground for nesting. Nectar feeder.	Conserve any bare patches of ground. Retain tall herb habitat for nectar sources.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Insect and seed feeder.	Retain scrub and trees.
European Otter	Suitable habitat – stream.	Otter survey required Retain wetland habitats, particularly around stream
European Water Vole	Potentially suitable habitat - stream/ Potential on site	Water Vole survey Retain wetland habitats, particularly around stream
Fieldfare	Winter visitor, feeding in a range of habitats. Does not breed in England.	Retain scrub.
Firecrest	Potential habitat.	Retain trees and scrub.
Four-coloured Cuckoo Bee	Uses small holes in ground for nesting. Nectar feeder.	Conserve any bare patches of ground. Retain tall herb habitat for nectar sources.
Galingale	Wet habitats, possibly by stream or marshy grassland.	Retain wet areas.
Goldcrest	Potential habitat.	Retain trees and scrub.
Gooden's Nomad Bee	Uses small holes in bare ground for nesting. Nectar feeder.	Conserve any bare patches of ground. Retain tall herb habitat for nectar sources.
Grass Snake	Potential on site, suitable habitat	Retain wetland habitats, particularly around stream Possible reptile survey
Great Crested Newt	Potential on site.	GCN survey and mitigation may be required
Green Woodpecker	Potential habitat.	Retain trees and scrub.
Grey Mining Bee	Uses small holes in bare ground for nesting. Nectar feeder.	Conserve any bare patches of ground. Retain tall herb habitat for nectar sources.
Grey Wagtail	Insect feeder. Often found by stream-sides.	Retain stream and surrounding habitat.
Gynne's Mining Bee	Uses small holes in bare ground for nesting. Nectar feeder.	Conserve any bare patches of ground. Retain tall herb habitat for nectar sources.
Honey Bee	Potentially use trees for nesting	Retain trees
Hornet	Potentially use trees for nesting	Retain trees
House Martin	Feeding potential on site. Insect feeders.	Retain grassland and tall herb habitats or provide compensatory habitat.
House Sparrow	Mainly a seed feeder.	Retain trees and scrub.
Jacob's Ladder	Potential on old railway slopes.	Retain railway slopes.
Large Red-tailed Bumble Bee	Uses small holes in bare ground for nesting. Nectar feeder.	Conserve any bare patches of ground. Retain tall herb habitat for nectar sources.
Leaden Spider Wasp	Uses small holes in bare ground for nesting. Nectar feeder.	Conserve any bare patches of ground. Retain tall herb habitat for nectar sources.

Lesser Redpoll	Seed feeder, particularly alder and birch.	Retain scrub and trees.
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Potential habitat.	Retain trees and scrub.
Little Ringed Plover	Will breed on derelict land.	Retain tall herb habitat and stream.
Marsh Tit	Insect and seed feeder.	Retain trees and scrub
Meadow Pipit	Insect feeder. Potential habitat – grassland	Retain improved grassland or provide compensatory habitat.
Mealy Redpoll	Seed feeder, particularly alder and birch.	Retain scrub and trees.
Mistle Thrush	Insect and seed feeder.	Retain trees and scrub and tall herb.
Native Black Poplar	Potential on old railway site or along streamside.	Retain trees on old railway and along streamside.
Northern Lapwing	Potential nesting in improved grassland.	Retain improved grassland or if to be developed then carry out work out of birds breeding season.
Northern Wheatear	More common in uplands but may be seen in passage.	Unlikely to use site.
Ornate Tailed Digger Wasp	Uses small holes in bare ground for nesting. Nectar feeder.	Conserve any bare patches of ground. Retain tall herb habitat for nectar sources.
Peregrine Falcon	More common in built-up areas now.	Unlikely to use site.
Pied Flycatcher	Possibly uses site for feeding.	Retain trees, scrub tall herb habitat.
Redwing	Winter visitor, feeding in a range of habitats	Retain scrub and buffer habitat
Reed Bunting	Possible use of wetland and farmland habitats for feeding.	Retain streamside habitat and improved grassland or provide compensatory habitat.
Sand Martin	Uses riversides for nesting.	Conserve streamside habitat.
Sky Lark	Ground nesting in agricultural fields.	Retain improved grassland or if to be developed then carry out work out of birds breeding season.
Small Heath	Grassland and tall herb within site is potentially suitable habitat	Retain grassland habitat
Song Thrush	Invertebrate feeder, particularly snails. Possible use of trees/ scrub for nesting.	Retain trees, scrub and tall herb habitats.
Soprano Pipistrelle	Likely to forage within the Site/ Roosting potential in trees	Retain trees. Bat survey.
Spotted Flycatcher	Possible use of site for feeding.	Retain scrub, trees.
Stock Dove	Possible use of trees and scrub for feeding/ nesting	Retain scrub, trees.
Stonechat	Possible use of trees/ scrub for feeding.	Retain scrub, trees.
Sword-grass moth	Can be found in open woodland.	Unlikely to use site.
Tall Hawkweed	Potentially present in tall herb	Retain tall herb habitat.

	habitat.	
Tree Pipit	Possibly uses trees/ scrub for feeding.	Retain trees, scrub.
Wall	Possibly uses tall herb/ scrub habitat for feeding.	Retain scrub and tall herb habitats.
West European Hedgehog	Possibly uses site for feeding/ hibernating.	Retain trees, scrub and tall herb and streamside habitats.
Wild Pansy	Potentially present in less dense patches in tall herb.	Retain tall herb habitat.
Willow Tit	Potential habitat – willow/ alder scrub.	Retain scrub.
Willow Warbler	Potential habitat – scrub, trees	Retain scrub and trees
Wood Warbler	Potential habitat – scrub, trees	Retain scrub and trees

Summary of recommendations for the area

The area comprises grassland and scrub habitats, which either provide, or have the potential to provide for a range of protected and Biodiversity Action Plan species. While the area does not support any habitats of local or national importance, if development is allowed, then adequate compensatory habitat should be provided nearby.

2.2 Cheadle 6 and 7

Designated Sites: Cheadle 6 and 7

Three Sites of County Biological Importance (SBIs) and two Ancient Woodland Sites are present in the 500m buffer search of Cheadle 6 and 7. These are Cheadle Fish Ponds SBI located to the north, Freehay SBI to the south, and adjacent to this Rakeway House Farm SBI and Rakeway Ancient Woodland. The second Ancient Woodland site is Monks Wood which lies partially within the actual boundary of Cheadle 6 and 7.

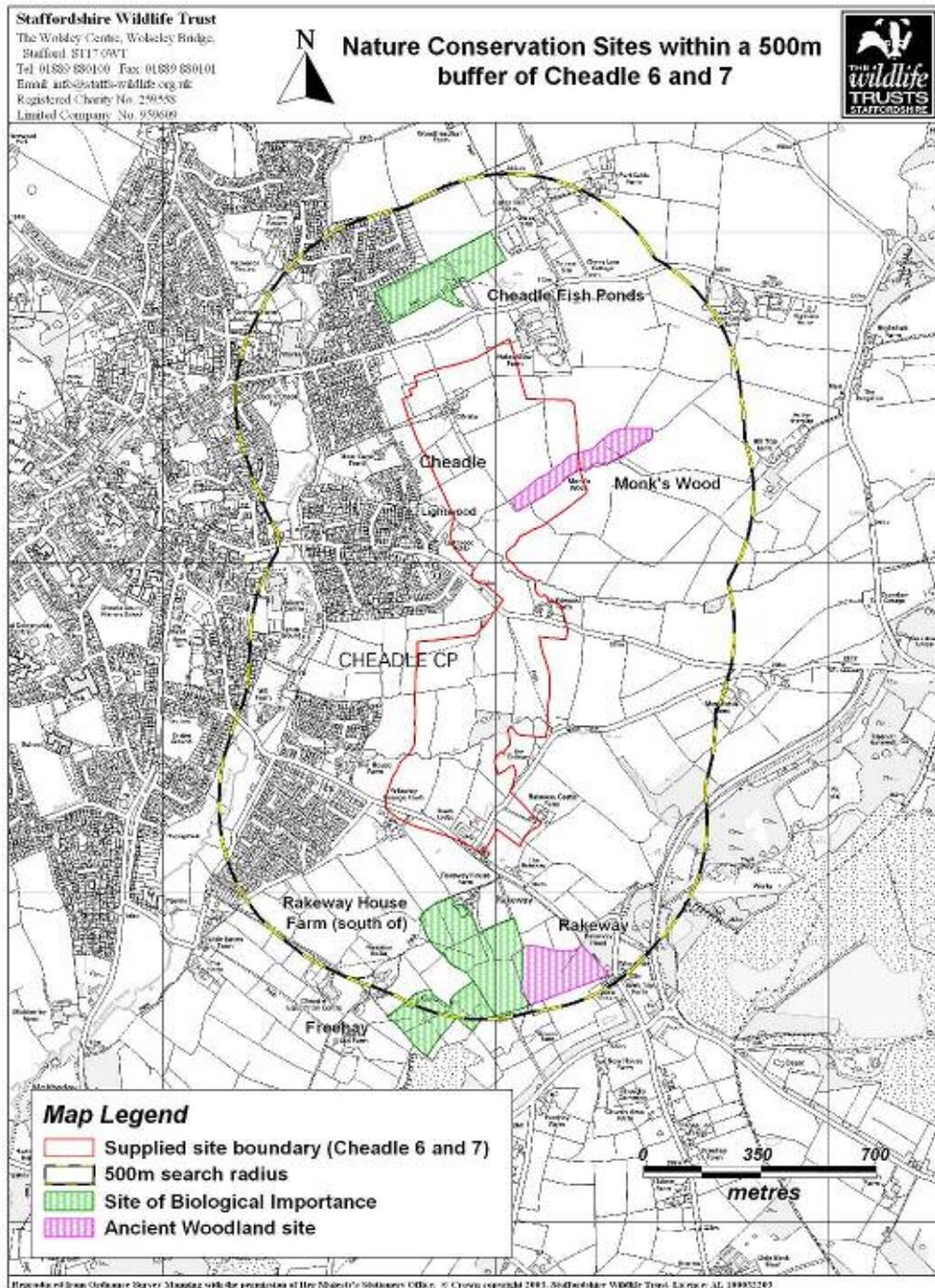


Figure 5: Cheadle 6 and 7: Designated Sites within 500m

Habitats: Cheadle 6 and 7

The area was given an initial survey during autumn 2010 and then more botanically interesting parts were re-visited in May 2011. This resulted in Monk's Wood on the site being found to be of Site of Biological Importance (SBI) quality. The site will be taken forward to the Staffordshire Local Sites Partnership for grading.

The main habitats in Cheadle 6 and 7 are agriculturally improved fields as well as broad leaved semi-natural woodland. There are many hedgerows, some of which are botanically diverse and hedgerows provide suitable habitat for many fauna species as well as acting as natural corridors. There are a number of small streams running through the site and also a couple of ponds. There is a patch of scrub to the south of the site, as well as several patches of marshy grassland by a streamside. Some existing farms/ buildings are present within the site and a B-road runs through the centre.

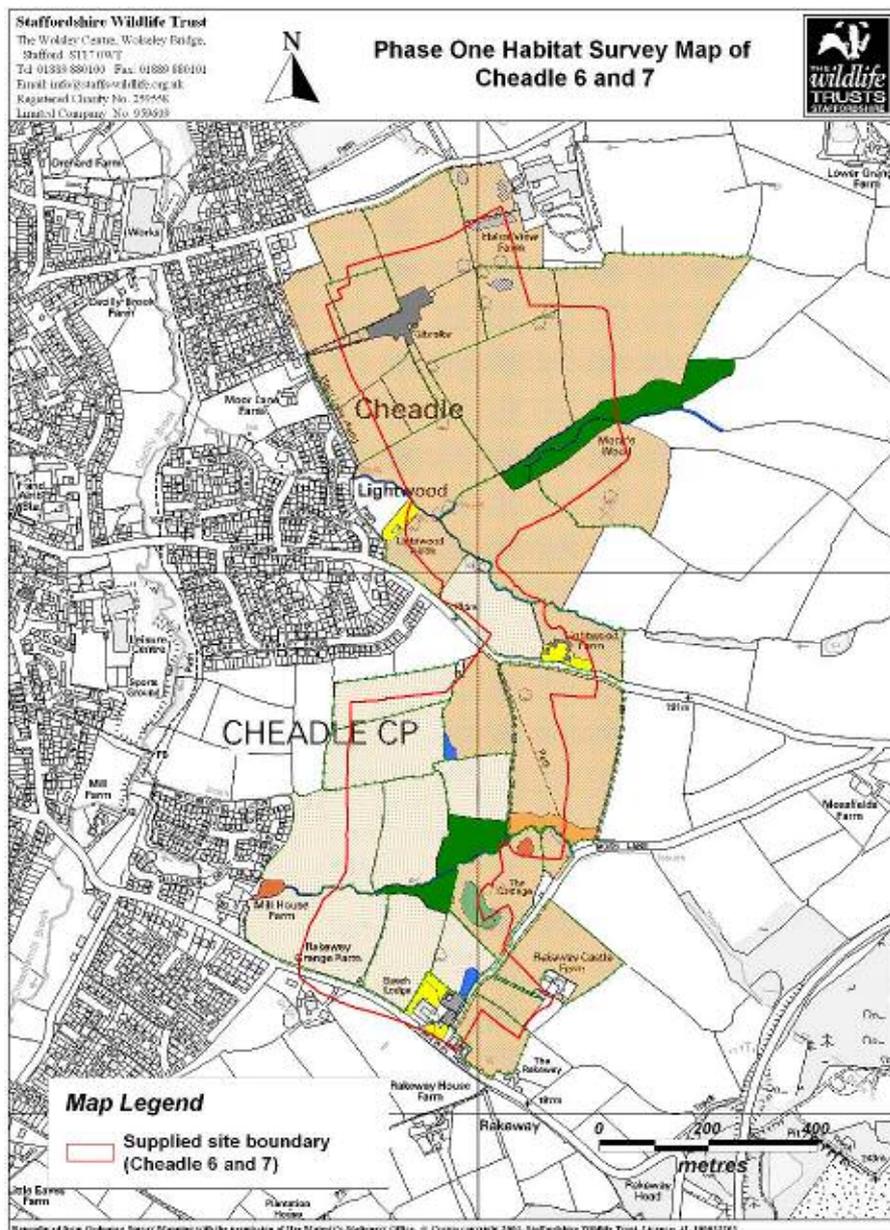


Figure 6: Habitat map of Cheadle 6 and 7

Protected Species: Cheadle 6 and 7

English Name	Further Comments	Recommendations
Barn Owl	Suitable habitat/ Potential foraging on site	Retain grassland habitat or provide compensatory habitat.
Bluebell	Recorded on site in Monks Wood.	Retain woodland.
Brambling	Suitable habitat/ Potential foraging on site. Seed/ insect feeder.	Protect woodland and surrounding farmland.
Brown Long-eared Bat	Likely to forage within the Site. Potential roosting in existing buildings.	Bat survey required, particularly if existing buildings with open roof voids are affected. Protect foraging habitats
Common Frog	Likely to be on site, open standing water including a couple of ponds and small streams.	Retain wetland habitats.
Common Kingfisher	Potential on site.	Protect watercourses and provide buffering habitat
Common Pipistrelle	Likely to forage within the Site/ Roosting potential in trees	Retain trees. Bat survey.
Common Toad	Potential habitat.	Retain wetland habitats
Daubenton's Bat	Likely to forage within the Site / Roosting potential	Bat survey required Protect foraging habitats
Eurasian Badger	Potential foraging on site.	Mitigation where possible; this will depend on size and location of badger groups affected on any given site
Eurasian Hobby	Suitable habitat/ Potential foraging on site. Feed on dragonflies.	Retain wetland habitats
European Otter	Unlikely that the streams are large enough to support otters.	Possible otter survey.
European Water Vole	Potentially suitable habitat - stream/ Potential on site	Water Vole survey Retain wetland habitats, particularly around the streams.
Fieldfare	Winter visitor, feeding in a range of habitats. Does not breed in England.	Retain scrub.
Firecrest	Potential habitat.	Retain woodland and scrub.
Grass Snake	Potential on site, suitable habitat	Retain wetland habitats, particularly around streams. Possible reptile survey
Great Crested Newt	Potential on site.	GCN survey and mitigation may be required
Little Ringed Plover	Will breed on derelict land.	Retain tall herb habitat and streams.
Noctule Bat	Potential for roosting and feeding on site.	Bat survey required, check trees for potential to support this species and protect foraging habitat.
Pennyroyal	Can be found in moist habitats.	Protect wetter habitats such as streamsides and wetter grassland

		patches.
Peregrine Falcon	More common in built-up areas now. Nests on high buildings.	Unlikely to be on site.
Redwing	Winter visitor, feeding in a range of habitats	Retain scrub.
Smooth Newt	Probably present on site.	Would be picked up in GCN survey.
Soprano Pipistrelle	Likely to forage within the Site/ Roosting potential in trees	Bat survey. Retain trees.
Wood Lark	Usually favours heath with woodland.	Retain woodland.

Biodiversity Action Plan Species: Cheadle 6 and 7

English Name	Further Comments	Recommendations
Barn Owl	Suitable habitat/ Potential foraging on site	Retain grassland and tall herb habitats or provide compensatory habitat.
Barn Swallow	Feeding potential on site. Insect feeders.	Retain grassland or provide compensatory habitat.
Brambling	Suitable habitat/ Potential foraging on site. Seed/ insect feeder.	Protect woodland and surrounding farmland.
Brown Hare	Grassland within site may be potentially suitable habitat	If grassland is affected by development provide compensatory habitat.
Brown Long-eared Bat	Likely to forage within the Site. Potential roosting in existing buildings.	Bat survey required, particularly if existing buildings with open roof voids are affected. Protect foraging habitats
Cinnabar Moth	Feeds on ragwort which is likely to be present.	Protect grassland or provide compensatory habitat.
Common Bullfinch	Feed on tree buds, woodlands, orchards and hedges	Retain scrub and woodland.
Common Carder Bee	Uses small holes in ground for nesting. Nectar feeder.	Conserve any bare patches of ground and some surrounding grassland for nectar.
Common Cuckoo	Parasite of dunlins, meadow pipits etc	Retain woodland and scrub.
Common Cudweed	Prefers bare, sandy ground.	Retain some bare patches.
Common Kestrel	Hunts small mammals and birds, potential habitat in tall herb area	If grassland is affected by development provide compensatory habitat.
Common Kingfisher	Suitable habitat/ potential on site - streamsides.	Protect watercourses and provide buffering habitat
Common Linnet	Insect and seed feeder.	Retain hedgerows.
Common Pipistrelle	Likely to forage within the Site/ Roosting potential in trees	Bat survey. Retain trees
Common Redstart	Main diet insects.	Protect trees, scrub and

		streamside habitat.
Common Snipe	Invertebrate feeder, including worms.	Retain marshy grass habitats.
Common Swift	Aerial feeder. Nests on high buildings.	Unlikely to use site, but potential for roosting in any high buildings.
Common Toad	Potential habitat.	Retain wetland habitats, particularly around stream
Common Wasp	May use site for feeding/ nesting/ overwintering. Nectar feeder.	Retain trees and bare ground for nesting/ overwintering and tall herb habitat for nectar sources.
Common Whitethroat	May use site for nesting (scrub) and feeding.	Retain scrub, hedgerows.
Dingy Skipper	Potentially present in any bare open patches.	Retain habitat
Dunnock	Suitable habitat/ potential on site	Retain scrub and trees.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Insect and seed feeder.	Retain scrub and trees.
Eurasian Woodcock	Potential in woodland/ scrub habitats	Retain scrub and woodland.
European Otter	Unlikely that the streams are large enough to support otters.	Possible otter survey.
European Water Vole	Potentially suitable habitat - stream/ Potential on site	Water Vole survey Retain wetland habitats, particularly around the streams.
Feathered Gothic Moth	Rough grassland habitat	Invertebrate survey recommended.
Fieldfare	Winter visitor, feeding in a range of habitats. Does not breed in England.	Retain scrub.
Firecrest	Potential habitat.	Retain woodland and scrub.
Goldcrest	Potential habitat.	Retain woodland and scrub.
Grass Snake	Potential on site, suitable habitat	Retain wetland habitats. Possible reptile survey
Great Crested Newt	Potential on site.	GCN survey and mitigation may be required
Green Woodpecker	Potential habitat.	Retain woodland and scrub.
Grey Wagtail	Insect feeder. Often found by streamsides.	Retain streams and surrounding habitat.
Honey Bee	Potentially use trees for nesting. Nectar feeder.	Retain woodland and hedgerows. Also buffering grassland habitat.
Hornet	Potentially use trees for nesting. Nectar feeder.	Retain woodland and hedgerows. Also buffering grassland habitat.
House Martin	Likely to be present on site. Forage over open grassland.	Retain grassland habitat.
House Sparrow	Feeding potential on site. Insect feeders.	Retain grassland and scrub/ hedgerow habitats or provide compensatory habitat.
Jack Snipe	Habitat – wetter areas. Winter visitor.	Retain streamsides.

Large Red-tailed Bumble Bee	Uses small holes in bare ground for nesting. Nectar feeder.	Conserve any bare patches of ground. Retain some grassland habitat for nectar sources.
Lesser Redpoll	Seed feeder, particularly alder and birch.	Retain scrub and trees.
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Potential habitat.	Retain trees and scrub.
Little Plover	Will breed on derelict land.	Retain tall herb habitat and stream.
Marsh Tit	Insect and seed feeder.	Retain trees and scrub
Meadow Pipit	Insect feeder. Potential habitat – grassland	Retain improved grassland or provide compensatory habitat.
Mealy Redpoll	Seed feeder, particularly alder and birch.	Retain scrub and trees.
Mistle Thrush	Insect and seed feeder.	Retain trees and scrub and tall herb.
Mouse Moth	Habitat – trees and flowering plants	Retain woodland and some grassland
Native Black Poplar	Possibly present	Retain trees
Noctule Bat	Potential for roosting and feeding on site.	Bat survey required, check trees for potential to support this species and protect foraging habitat.
Northern Lapwing	Potential nesting in improved grassland.	Retain improved grassland or if to be developed then carry out work out of birds breeding season.
Northern Wheatear	More common in uplands but may be seen in passage.	Unlikely to use site.
Pennyroyal	Can be found in moist habitats.	Protect wetter habitats such as pond and streamsides.
Peregrine Falcon	More common in built-up areas now. Nests on high buildings.	Unlikely to be on site
Redwing	Winter visitor, feeding in a range of habitats	Retain scrub and buffer habitat
Reed Bunting	Possible use of wetland and farmland habitats for feeding.	Retain streamside habitat and improved grassland or provide compensatory habitat.
Rosy Rustic	Inhabits a wide range of habitats but is often found in disturbed places	Retain disturbed/weedy areas
Sand Martin	Uses riversides for nesting.	Conserve streamside habitat.
September Thorn Moth	A species of Parkland and Woodland	Retain suitable habitat
Skylark	Possibly use site.	Retain grassland
Small Heath	A species of grassland	Retain areas of grassland
Small Phoenix	Occurs in woodlands, gardens, overgrown areas.	Retain areas of suitable habitat.
Small Square-spot Moth	Inhabits wet woodland and marshy places	Retain appropriate wet habitats
Soprano Pipistrelle	Likely to forage within the	Bat survey. Retain trees.

	Site / Roosting potential	
Spotted Flycatcher	Possibly uses site for feeding/ nesting	Retain woodland and buffer habitat
Stock Dove	Possible use of trees and scrub for feeding/ nesting	Retain scrub, trees.
Stonechat	Possible use of trees/ scrub for feeding.	Retain scrub, trees.
Streak Moth	Occurs on heathland and moorland	Unlikely to be on site
Sword-grass Moth	A species of moorland and rough pasture in the Uplands	Unlikely to be on site.
Tree Pipit	Possibly uses trees/ scrub for feeding.	Retain woodland, scrub.
West European Hedgehog	Possibly uses site for feeding/ hibernating.	Retain trees, scrub
Willow Tit	Potential habitat – willow/ alder scrub.	Retain scrub.
Willow Warbler	Potential habitat – scrub, trees	Retain scrub and trees
Wood Lark	Usually favours heath with woodland.	Retain woodland.
Wood Warbler	Potential habitat – scrub, trees	Retain scrub and trees

Summary of recommendations for the area

The area supports habitats that are of county importance in Monk's Wood, Cheadle Fish Ponds, Freehay and Rakeway. These habitats should also be considered in the wider context of neighbouring habitats where the loss of the site would be to the detriment of links between habitats. The site also supports, or has the potential to support, a range of protected and Biodiversity Action Plan species.

It is recommended that the protect wetlands habitats, hedges and woodland are priority for the area while providing compensatory habitat for other losses.

Appendix 1

Monk's Wood Site of Biological Importance (SBI) Site Report

Ecological Site Report

Produced in GeoConservation © SER, HWEHT 2003

Administrative Areas based on the National Biodiversity Network Dictionary © NBN, 1999-2002

Site Key: **04/23/33**Site Type: **Lowland mixed deciduous
woodland {P}**Site Name: **Monk's Wood**Grid Ref: **SK023433 (centred on)**

Civil Parish Cheadle, Staffordshire Moorlands, Staffordshire, England

GB Vice-County Staffordshire,

Keywords

Keyword	Details	Date
Local Site Status		
Historical BAS (ex-Grade 2 SBI)		no date
Potential SBI		10/5/11
uncategorised local keywords		
Original Recorder Code	6332	no date

Biotopes (Habitats)

Code	Habitat	Area (ha)
A111	Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural	2.48ha

Dimensions

Dimension	Value/units
altitude	170-195m
area	2.48ha

Contacts

record compiler	20/6/11	Price, L
field surveyor (staff)	10/5/11	Skinner, Estelle
field surveyor (staff)	10/5/11	Price, L
landowner	2011	Campbell, J.W & D.M

Site DescriptionSource: *Skinner, E. (2011)*

Summary: Monk's Wood is located within Cheadle CP, in the Staffordshire Moorlands district. The site covers an approximate total of 2.48 hectares, which comprises of semi-natural broad-leaved woodland. This woodland is listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory.

The woodland canopy is mainly dominated by Pedunculate oak with occasional Rowan and Silver Birch, and locally frequent patches of Beech and Sycamore. There is a small amount of Ash, Common Hawthorn, Wild Cherry and Guelder-rose. The understory consists of Bramble, Holly, Field Rose, Hazel and Honeysuckle. This wood has a good age structure. The ground flora is made up of Greater Stitchwort, Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage and Wood Anemone with rarely occurring Wood-sorrel.

A drain runs through the western end of the wood and a wet ditch runs along the North-West

edge of the woodland, creating wetter areas. These areas contained species such as Marsh-marigold, Brooklime, Soft Rush and Fool's-water-cress. A majority of this woodland is dominated by Bluebells, with occasional clearings in the eastern section, allowing light to reach the ground floor. There is also a good amount of fallen deadwood occurring throughout the woodland.

There is some damage to this woodland due to public interference i.e. litter, fire damage and bike ramps.

Source: *Description*

Summary: An open wood dominated by oak. The ground flora is not very diverse.

Bibliography

described **Skinner, E. (2011)**

Churnet Valley Living Landscapes Partnership Project, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust (Wolseley Centre)

End of Report

Species List

Produced in GeoConservation © SER, HWEHT 2003

Site Key: 04/23/33

Site Name: Monk's Wood, Cheadle

Grid Ref: SK023433

Habitat: Woodland: broadleaved

13/09/1982

Recorder(s): Stevenson, K.R.**fern***Pteridium aquilinum* Bracken**flowering plant***Acer pseudoplatanus* Sycamore*Alnus glutinosa* Alder*Betula pendula* Silver Birch*Chamerion angustifolium* Rosebay Willowherb*Deschampsia flexuosa* Wavy Hair-Grass*Digitalis purpurea* Foxglove*Holcus lanatus* Yorkshire-Fog*Ilex aquifolium* Holly*Juncus effusus* Soft Rush*Quercus robur* Pedunculate Oak dominant*Rubus fruticosus agg.* Bramble*Solanum dulcamara* Bittersweet*Urtica dioica* Common Nettle*Habitat:* Woodland: broadleaved

10/05/2011

Recorder(s): Skinner, E.
Price, L.**fern***Dryopteris dilatata* Broad Buckler-fern rare*Pteridium aquilinum* Bracken occasional**flowering plant***Acer pseudoplatanus* Sycamore locally frequent*Alnus glutinosa* Alder occasional*Anemone nemorosa* Wood Anemone occasional*Anthoxanthum odoratum* Sweet Vernal-grass locally frequent*Anthriscus sylvestris* Cow Parsley rare*Apium nodiflorum* Fool's-water-cress rare*Betula pendula* Silver Birch occasional*Caltha palustris* Marsh-marigold rare*Cardamine amara* Large Bitter-cress rare*Cardamine flexuosa* Wavy Bitter-cress occasional*Carex pilulifera* Pill Sedge rare*Cerastium fontanum* Common Mouse-ear occasional*Chamerion angustifolium* Rosebay Willowherb occasional*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage rare*Cirsium arvense* Creeping Thistle rare*Corylus avellana* Hazel occasional*Crataegus monogyna* Hawthorn occasional*Dactylis glomerata* Cock's-foot rare

Species List

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<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair-Grass	occasional
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	rare
<i>Epilobium</i>	Willowherb	occasional
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	locally frequent
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	occasional
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	rare
<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	Common Hemp-nettle	occasional
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	occasional
<i>Galium palustre</i>	Marsh-bedstraw	rare
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert	occasional
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	occasional
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	occasional
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	frequent
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	Creeping Soft-grass	locally frequent
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	dominant
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	occasional
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft-rush	locally frequent
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	occasional
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood-sorrel	rare
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Canary-grass	occasional
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass	rare
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough Meadow-grass	rare
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry	rare
<i>Pyrus</i>	Pyrus	rare
<i>Quercus</i>	Quercus	rare
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak	frequent
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser Celandine	occasional
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	frequent
<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	Field-rose	occasional
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	locally frequent
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry	rare
<i>Rumex</i>	Rumex	rare
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	occasional
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	occasional
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort	rare
<i>Stellaria alsine</i>	Bog Stitchwort	locally frequent
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort	occasional
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed	rare
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	locally abundant
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime	rare
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	occasional
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder-rose	rare
<i>Viola</i>	Violet	rare