

APPENDIX H

– Responses from the Lancashire Environment Record Network, the West Yorkshire Ecology Service and Greater Manchester Ecology Unit

From: [REDACTED] <Nik.Bruce@lancashire.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 May 2020 15:39
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Rossendale Local Plan, Little Tooter Quarry, Bacup. Proposed Gypsy Transit Site Allocation, 4 pitches
Attachments: Rossendale Borough Council_Little Tooter Quarry r.pdf; Guidance for users of LER interactive PDFs v1-3.pdf

Hi Nathaele

I've run the data search for Little Tooter Quarry area, the results are attached as an interactive PDF, let me know if you need them in any other format or more information about any of the features/layers shown (the layer attribute data are embedded within the PDF). I've also attached a brief guide to using interactive PDFs.

There are no records of Lancashire Key Species within the Quarry. The nearest records are imprecise records (shown centralised to the 1km) for Scots Pine and Welsh Poppy. Whilst these have a national status they are both widely planted/naturalised, and in this part of the county we do not consider them to be significant.

I have included [Natural England's Priority Habitat Inventory](#). Again no features identified are present within the Quarry.

The only information we hold relating specifically to the Quarry area are from the county-wide Phase 1 Habitat Survey and the geological equivalent. Both of these surveys are now quite old:

Phase 1 Habitat Survey Target Note

Feature ID	7613
Survey Name	Lancashire Phase 1 Habitat Survey
Surveyors	ARD
Date	01/03/1988
Original Grid Ref	SD887245
Description	New plantation, broadleaves mainly Sorbus aucuparia, Betula pendula, B. pubescens some Alnus glutinosa c. 8 years old. Underlying acid grassland.

Geological Site Record

Site Key	876
Site Name	Sharney Ford Quarry
Grid Ref	SD887245
Description	The quarry is very muddy and some slopes are collapsing, since the Accrington mudstones, worked at the present day form large loose scree slopes. The exposure, on the south and west quarry faces is horizontally dipping, heavily shattered, and jointed throughout, very fissile, and the colour varies from blue-grey-green when fresh, but due to the high iron content appear brown-yellow on weathering
Condition	Poor : 9/11/1978
Period	Carboniferous

Let me know if you need any more assistance with this.

Regards

Nik
[REDACTED]

From: Bruce, Nik

Sent: 22 May 2020 12:34

To: [REDACTED] <NathaeleDavies@rossendalebc.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Rossendale Local Plan, Little Tooter Quarry, Bacup. Proposed Gypsy Transit Site Allocation, 4 pitches

Hi Natalie

I'll run a data search for this site which should provide the background evidence you need on features of ecological interest..

As the site lies on the Calderdale boundary you may also wish to consider contacting West Yorkshire Ecology:

West Yorkshire Joint Services, Nepsahw Lane South, Morley, Leeds, LS27 7JQ

[REDACTED]
<http://www.wyjs.org.uk/ecology/>

In terms of the wetland and heath network mapping, the draft that was produced has not been included within the Lancashire Ecological Network. During the preparation of the final report it became apparent that the mapping provided did not match the description of the methodology used. It appears that the mapping provided was an early draft using a different methodology, the mapped results of the final methodology had been deleted. Consequently we felt it was not appropriate to include the wetland and heath network at this stage. This is explained in the published report available from our file share site: <https://ftps.lancashire.gov.uk/>

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Regards

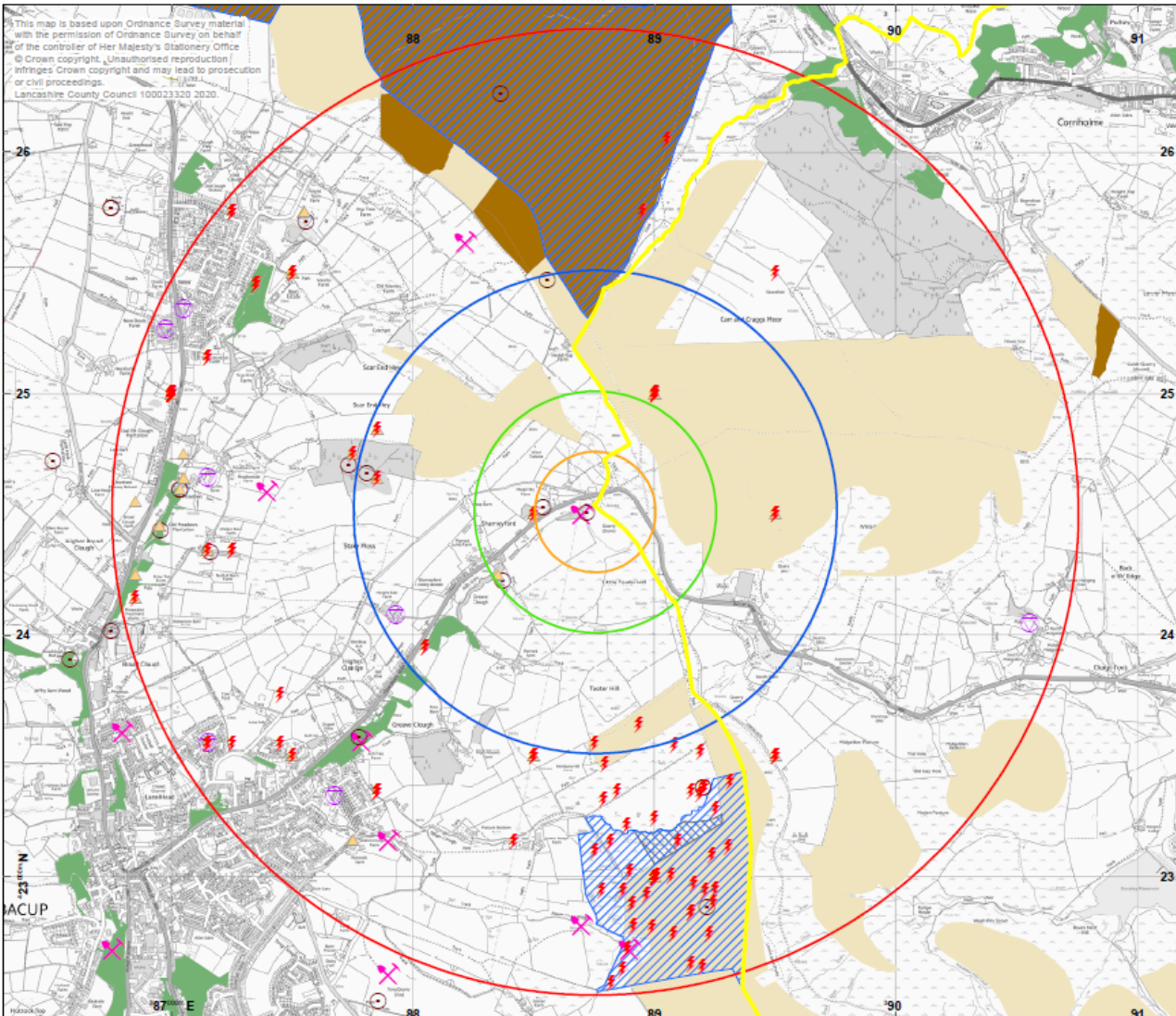
Nik Bruce

Lancashire Environment Record Network

C/O Planning and Environment,
Lancashire County Council,
PO Box 100,
County Hall,
Preston. PR1 0LD

Tel: [REDACTED]

Web: <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/learn.aspx>

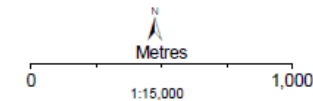


Project:
Little Tooter Quarry
Client:
Rossendale Borough Council
Grid Ref: 388764 424510

Legend

- LERN Boundary
- 250 m Buffer
- 500 m Buffer
- 1 km Buffer
- 2 km Buffer
- Lancashire Key Species
- SLBG Other Bat Record
- Lancashire INNS
- Phase 1 Target Note
- Geological Site Record
- Biological Heritage Sites
- Local Geodiversity Sites
- Priority Habitats Inventory**
- Blanket bog
- Deciduous woodland
- Grass moorland
- Lowland fens
- Upland flushes, fens and swamps

**N.B. THIS IS AN INTERACTIVE PDF
LAYERS CAN BE TURNED ON OR OFF
TO AID CLARITY.**



Boundaries of statutory designations (Natura 2000, SSSI etc) are included for information only. Definitive information for these designations should be obtained from Natural England.

Lancashire Key Species records are plotted at the centre of the area to which they relate (the precision of each record is given in the accompanying attribute data and spreadsheet).

NBN Atlas occurrence download at <https://nbnatlas.org> accessed on Fri Oct 20 12:44:41 UTC 2017. See supporting documentation for citations and further information.

Lancashire Environment Record Network
CIO Planning Group
Environment Directorate,
Lancashire County Council,
PO Box 100,
County Hall,
Preston, PR1 1LD



lem@lancashire.gov.uk <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/lem.aspx>

From: Masheder, Robert [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 May 2020 19:02
To: Nathaele Davies
Subject: Rossendale Local Plan, Little Tooter Quarry, Bacup. Proposed Gypsy Transit Site Allocation, 4 pitches
Attachments: Map 2_jpg; Notable species plus distances.xlsx; 20191220 WY Local Sites Selection Criteria 20 December 2019 RMHF_pdf

Dear Nathaele

We refer to your email regarding site reference 6267 in the Local Plan inquiry and your request for information over the border in Calderdale, West Yorkshire.

Attached is a map which sets out all of the notable species records which we hold within 2km of the proposed site. It also high-lights merlin and golden plover records as both are Annex II species listed in the South Pennine Moors (Phase 2) Special Protection Area (SPA) citation. Other species which may be also relevant in this context are curlew, snipe, lapwing, twite and wheatear which all fall under the description of "upland breeding bird assemblage" which is also on the SPA citation. The proposed allocation site could fall within the "functionally linked land" used by SPA birds for feeding and loafing. In this respect we would expect that the allocation would require a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation (2017, as amended) as set out in Regs. 63 and 64. The SPA lies 4.1km to the north and 5.2km to the east, but the golden plover and merlin records strongly suggest that the proposed allocation is within feeding range of birds breeding on the European designated site.

This is likely to require data on bird activity both during the day and at night (golden plover feed at night) for the site and any land likely to be impacted by the allocation.

Any breeding birds on or around the site may be significant, but not in the context of the HRA.

The attached spreadsheet details records held by West Yorkshire Ecology Service (the ecological records centre for Calderdale). These are coloured by distance from the proposed allocation site as red <500m, amber 500 to 1000m and yellow 1000-2000m. Curlew was recorded only 400m from the site. There are records of twite, a rare breeding birds, but these are over 20 years only. This does not imply that they no longer use the area.

The bat records for noctule and common pipistrelle are unlikely to be impacted by changes in light levels however the *Myotis* bats on the list may be attracted to the waterbody in the quarry and they are light sensitive and may be impacted in this reportedly dark location.

The attached map also includes information on Local Wildlife Sites, none of which lie within 2km of the proposed allocation. We have also included the most up to date version of the Local Wildlife Site Selection Criteria for West Yorkshire and would recommend that any habitats which are likely to be impacted by the proposed allocation are tested against these. There may be areas of upland acid grassland or heathland which are of LWS quality.

We have also included shaded areas the Calderdale Wildlife Habitat Networks (WHN) for grassland, heathland and woodland. The first two of these are most likely to be impacted by any allocation because of their proximity.

The WHN was drawn up to meet the requirements of NPPF para 170d

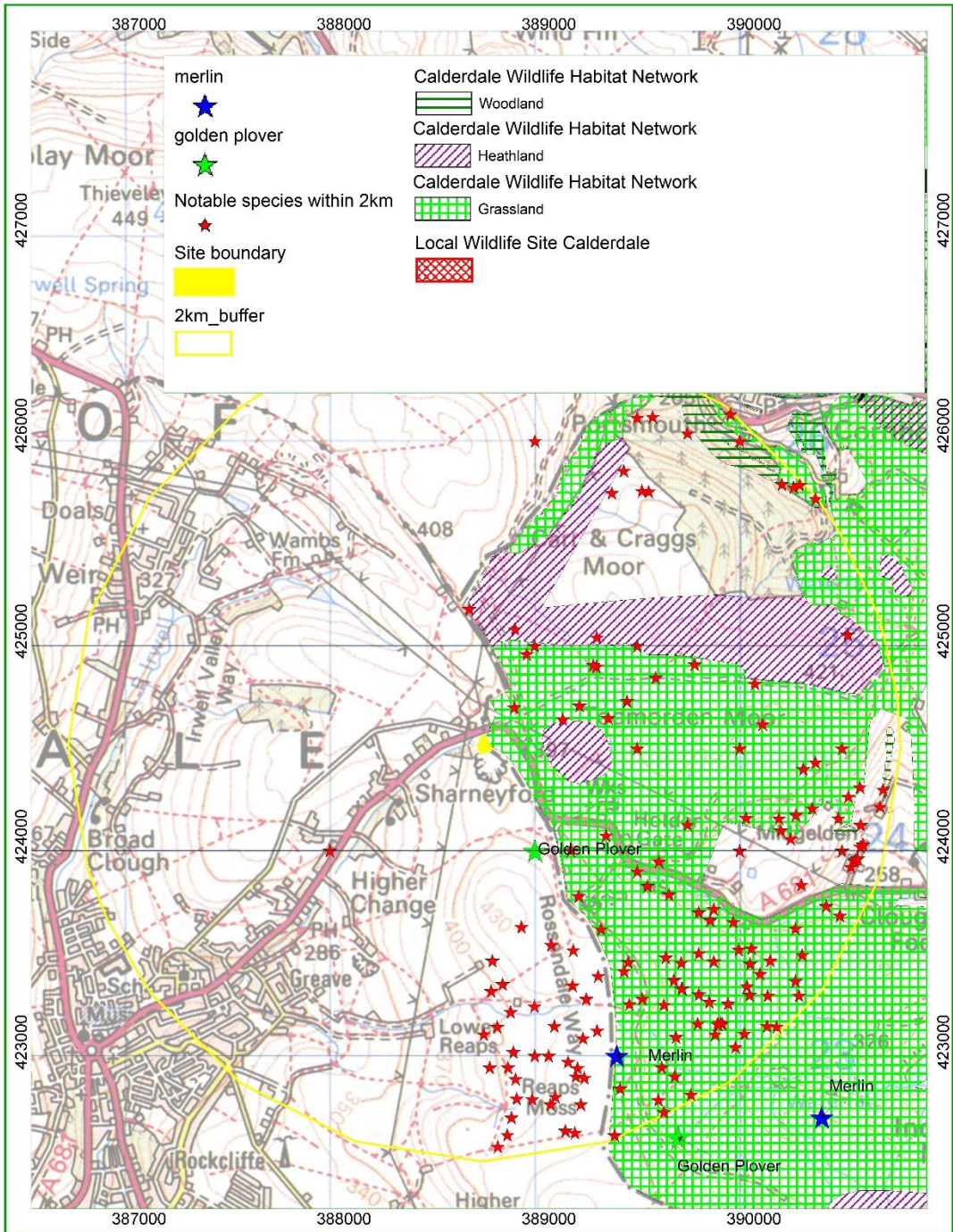
"d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures"

The network is made up of land identified from existing species data, Phase 1 Habitat Maps, other habitat surveys and aerial photographs as being important for the maintenance of corridors for 5 broad habitat classes grassland, woodland, heathland, wetland and other (often post-industrial sites) and their associated species.

We hope that this information is useful to you.

Yours sincerely

Robert Mashedor
Senior Ecologist



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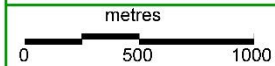


Scale 1:25000
At Size A4



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**FIGURE 1:
SPECIES &
DESIGNATED
SITES**



From: Derek Richardson [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 May 2020 21:14
To: Michael Atherton [REDACTED]
Subject: Rossendale Local Plan, Little Tooter Hill Quarry, Bacup. Proposed Gypsy Transit Site Allocation - Preliminary Ecological Assessment

Mike

We have now carried out a preliminary ecological assessment (PEA) of the site, including a desk-based assessment and a site visit and inspection by an experienced and suitably qualified ecologist.

To answer the specific questions raised by the Inspector -

* Yes, the site visited has been visited by an ecologist and a preliminary ecological assessment has been carried out.

* The allocation site itself is of low ecological importance, although it is close to potentially important upland wetland habitats to the south on the old quarry floor. These habitats are directly connected to the site.

* There are no existing records of protected species associated with the site. It is not designated for its ecological value.

* The actual allocation site is primarily rough, species-poor neutral grassland with some soft rush (*Juncus effusus*) with a lot of fly tipping evident. It sits on a slightly raised platform above the rest of the quarry floor. The on-site habitats were not of substantive

ecological value.

* Part of the wetland to the south is within the wetland and heathland network for Lancashire as identified by LCC, although the site itself is not within the network. The wetland is a potentially functional stepping stone part of the network, being the right habitat and approximately 800m south of Heald and Deerplay Moor and 1km north of Reaps Moss, which are core parts of the network

* Indirect impacts on wetland habitats to south of the proposed development site are considered possible, particularly caused by changes to site drainage and encroachment.

* Further, more detailed surveys of the wetland habitats will need to be carried out to inform any detailed development proposals, including botanical surveys and surveys for invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians

* Ecological mitigation would need to involve retention and protection of the wetland habitats within the old quarry. No foul or surface water drainage from the site should be allowed to drain into the wetland because of risks of pollution (note that the site is below the level of the road). The site should be separated from the wetland by permanent robust fencing

Description of the wetland habitats within the quarry floor (outside the allocation site)

The old quarry floor supports wetland habitats including open water, water horsetail swamp and (probably) bog as cotton-grass was present, as well as other sedges. The site was very dry when inspected (late May 2020, in a very dry period) although it is very likely to hold much more water in the winter months. There was no obvious heathland habitat present.

The wetland area looks relatively botanically diverse and would benefit from more detailed survey. Two small ponds were present.

Derek

Derek Richardson
Principal Ecologist
Strategic Infrastructure
Planning and Transport
Growth