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v3

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
Racecourse Road
East Ayton
North Yorkshire

Landscape Architects ■ Urban Designers ■ Ecologists ■ Horticulturists

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Version History

Original (previous version), issued 11th August 2017.

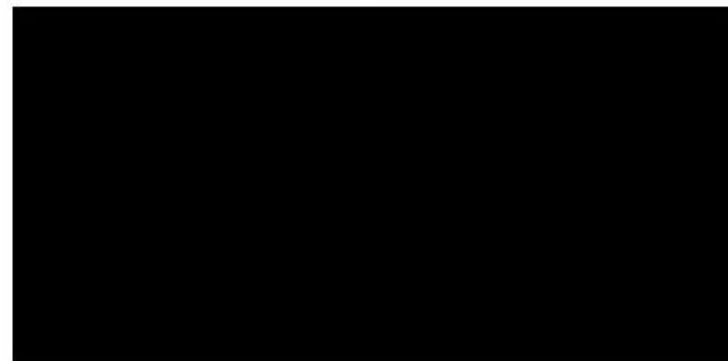
Previous version, version 2 (v2): amendments to site boundary, issued 14/10/2017.

This report, version 3 (v3): amendments to reflect latest proposals at the site, issued 17/11/2017.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Smeeden Foreman Limited has been commissioned by KCS Developments Ltd to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of their site to the north of Racecourse Road, East Ayton, North Yorkshire (central grid reference SE 99857 85583), hereafter referred to as the 'site'.

This report will include the following information gathered by a desk study and phase I habitat survey:

- Proximity to designated sites;
- Proximity to existing records of protected species; and,
- Site habitat appraisal and potential to support protected species.

A review of the above information will be made to identify any protected species which may be affected by the development proposals. Where potential impacts on protected species are identified the need for mitigation measures and requirements for further surveys will be discussed.

The report has been commissioned to inform the application to develop the site for housing, comprising 96 residential units (refer to Ellis Healey drawing No. 1706 PL 101 C).

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located on the outskirts of the village of East Ayton. It occupies an area of approximately 3.2 hectares and comprises arable cropland, rough grassland, dense scrub, hedgerows and trees; refer to *Figure 01* below.



Figure 01: Aerial view / site location

The site is bound to the north partly by a fence beyond which lies arable cropland; to the south by a hedgerow and Racecourse Road, beyond which lie arable cropland; to the west by a hedgerow and fence, beyond which lie a built up residential area; and, to the east there is no landscape feature which defines the boundary of the site, a hedgerow and track, and arable cropland lie beyond it.

3.0 BASELINE INFORMATION

3.1. Methodology

The ecological interest of the site and its surroundings has been investigated by a combination of the following.

- Desk study of existing sources of information including:
 - Magic map, a government website for nature conservation information;
 - The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP);
 - The Scarborough Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP); and,
 - Aerial photographs.
- Existing protected species records and statutory / non-statutory designated sites information within 2km of the development site was obtained from the North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYEDC) and North Yorkshire Bat Group.
- Field survey of the site and immediate surroundings which was undertaken on 12th July 2017.

3.2. Nature Conservation Designated Sites

3.2.1. Statutory Designations

The site contains no statutorily designated nature conservation sites; however there are four within 2km of the site boundary, detailed in *Table 01* below.

Table 01: Statutory designations

| Site Name | Designation | Grid Ref. | Location (m) | Notes |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------|------------------|--|
| Spiker's Hill Quarry | SSSI | SE 980 861 | 1,875 north west | The site is listed as of national importance in the Geological Conservation Review. Spiker's Hill Quarry is a key locality in the elucidation of the Lower and Middle Oxfordian biostratigraphy and palaeoenvironments within the Yorkshire Basin. |
| Raincliffe and Forge Valley Woods | SSSI | SE 985 862 | 1,500 north west | Mixed deciduous woodland. Several species of orchid: early purple-orchid, broad-leaved helleborine and bird's-nest orchid. Small areas of calcareous grassland at the southeast end of the valley. There are several well-developed tufa springs. The woodland supports a rich population of breeding birds including nuthatch, treecreeper, garden warbler, wood warbler, redstart and black-cap. |
| Betton Farm Quarries | SSSI | TA 002 856 | 241m east | The site is listed as of national importance in the Geological Conservation Review. It is an important palaeoecological locality in the classic Coral Rag of Yorkshire. |