

Ecological / Environmental Site Attendance Record

Project / Site:	Stoke Park Stewardship	Surveyor:	Bradley Stokes
Project Number:	EV180101	Reason for Site Attendance:	Ecological walkover prior to commencement of works
Date:	16/01/18		
Time:	9.15		
Weather Conditions:	Rain = 0, Cloud = 6, Beaufort Scale = 3, Temp = 5 degrees		
<p>Rain: 0 = none, 1 = drizzle, 2 = light, 3 = moderate, 4 = heavy. Cloud: 0-8 oktas. Beaufort Scale: 0 = calm, 1 = light air (smoke drifts in wind), 2 = light breeze (leaves rustle, wind felt on face), 3 = gentle breeze (light flags extended, small twigs in constant motion); 4 = moderate wind (dust, leaves and loose paper raised, small branches move), 5 = fresh wind (small trees sway), 6 = strong wind (large branches move, whistling in phone lines, difficult to use umbrellas), 7-12 = inappropriate conditions.</p>			
Notes / Limitations:	Dense areas of bramble in some areas of the site make access difficult. Winter survey.		
Record of Site Visit			
<p>Walkover of area of stoke park between the Grange extending to approx 50m NE of the BT Tower. Vegetation surveyed from Sir Johns Lane down to the former hedgebank / ditch.</p> <p>Observations:</p> <p>Breeding Birds: Due to time of year, there is negligible potential for breeding birds. If clearance works extend into March, breeding bird surveys should be undertaken immediately prior to clearance works being undertaken.</p> <p>Mammals: A badger sett was noted just above the line of the former hedge and ditch approximately 15m south of the arch in the wall. There were four holes present within the sett, however they have all partly collapsed and show no evidence of recent activity such as digging or fresh bedding. The surrounding area was searched for latrines, fur or active tracks, on completion of the search no evidence was discovered.</p> <p>There were several rabbit latrines throughout the area and evidence of digging particularly along the line of the former ditch and hedge. Several rabbit holes were noted by spoil piles were covered with moss indicating that these had been abandoned for some time. Rabbits were noted on areas around the former WWII battery.</p> <p>Tree cover is predominantly self-set hawthorn, interspersed with bramble, this habitat is not particularly attractive for other mammal species such as squirrel. It is likely that field mice, voles and moles will be present. There is potential for these animals to be injured or killed if they do not move out of areas ahead of clearance.</p> <p>Hedgehogs: Potential to encounter hedgehogs particularly in depressions and ditches filled with leaves and other vegetation. Care to be taken when removing leaf litter from ditches and hollows.</p> <p>Amphibians: There is a pond within the field between the wall and the Grange. This has limited potential for amphibians as the pond is encompassed by stone walls on three edges and the fourth edge has been heavily used by dogs. There is potential for common amphibians to be present within vegetated areas and grassland.</p>			

Reptiles: Due to the dense vegetation cover and heavy use of the area by dog walkers, potential for reptiles is considered low, as there are few secure basking locations and due to the managed nature of the grassland, feeding opportunities are limited. There is potential for common reptiles such as slowworm and common lizard to be present, particularly in the area around the collapsed wall where there are large amounts of rock and other refugia.

Ground breaking activities should not be undertaken within the areas adjacent to the wall or in other rocky / rubble areas during the winter when reptiles are in brumation. All potential refugia should be removed by hand, ecological supervision required during excavation of stone around the wall.

Invertebrates: Ant hills in areas of open grassland should be preserved where possible. Areas are currently species poor with low invertebrate interest.