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UPDATE TO PHASE 1 HABITAT SURVEY UNDERTAKEN ON 19th OCTOBER 2012, OF KETTLE LAND, OFF MILL LANE, HAWKINGE

19th MAY 2015

INTRODUCTION

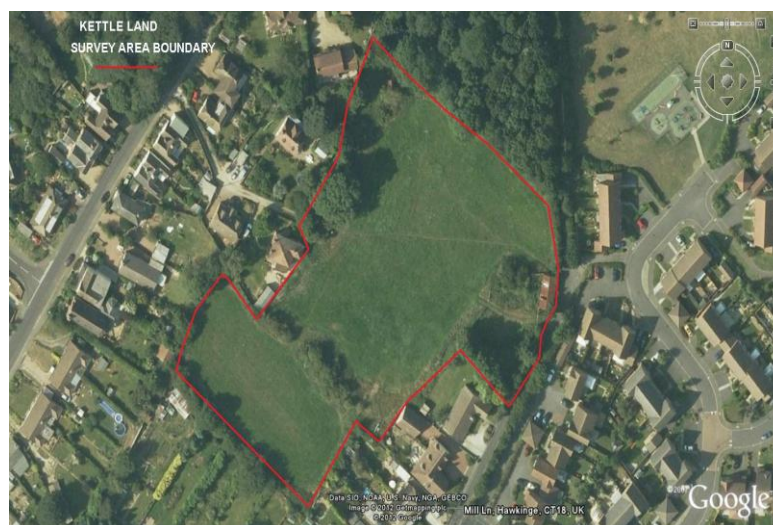
The proposed development area of the Kettle land at Mill Lane in Hawkinge Kent was subject to a further walkover survey on the 19th May 2015 to update the original Extended Phase 1/Protected Species Survey of the 19th October 2012, and to re-evaluate the reptile survey undertaken in 2013.(see original survey reports). The survey objective was to identify any significant changes at the site in relation to ecology since the previous surveys of 2012 & 2013.

Sean McMinn of Marsh Environmental carried out the most recent walkover survey on the 19th May 2015, a suitably qualified ecologist licensed by Natural England for protected species that includes bats, great crested newts and barn owls.

The Kettle land is located just off Mill Lane in Hawkinge, the site is surrounded by dwellings and gardens along the boundary lines to the south, east and west, bounded by Mill Lane to the east, properties in The Street to the west, Denys Road to the south west and a woodland to the north.

The site is an area of approximately 2 acres and consists mostly of amenity grassland bordered by some mature hedgerow and areas of overgrown scrub. There is also a pond at the northwest sector of the site that is dry and overgrown with bramble and nettle scrub and three derelict buildings on site.

The site is located at grid reference: TR 621616 140033



The area surveyed was the same as that in 2012 and the same methods were applied. The current survey concentrated on the buildings and grassland outlined in red on the figure above.

The site survey included searching for evidence of protected species such as reptiles, amphibians, birds, badgers, and bats and to identify any significant changes in ecology since the previous surveys in 2012 and 2013.

RESULTS

The current survey found further deterioration of some of the buildings since the visits in 2012 and 2013, a visual inspection of the remaining buildings found them in a condition unsuitable for bats being mostly derelict with collapsed roofs. There was evidence of a blackbirds nest in the building to the north of the site but wasn't thought to be active.

The small pond at the northern sector of the land was found to be dry and covered by overgrown bramble scrub and therefore considered unsuitable to support any populations of amphibians and reptiles.

The area of grassland was the same as that recorded during the previous surveys, and was found to be overgrown in places with additional areas of bramble scrub especially around the old farm building and along the south western edge of the site. It is considered unlikely that there is any change in the status of reptiles onsite following the results of the previous reptile survey of 2013.

The hedgerows and areas of bramble scrub provide suitable habitat for a range of the commoner breeding birds, it is considered unlikely that any rare breeding birds occur on site.

There was no evidence of other protected species within the development footprint.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall the results of the current, 2015 survey find there is no significant change in the ecology of the site from the previous surveys. Therefore the findings of the previous surveys (2012 & 2013) remain much the same.

The following is recommended:

- Undertake site clearance outside the bird nesting season (usually taken as March to mid-August inclusive in this part of Britain). If this is unavoidable, pre-clearance inspection by a suitably experienced ornithologist will be required to identify whether any nests are present, and take appropriate action. To comply with current bird legislation.
- There are opportunities to enhance the site's biodiversity, it is therefore recommended that consideration be given to providing a number of bat and bird boxes to be located around the general area in suitable locations under the supervision of a suitably experienced ecologist.

Sean McMinn

June 2015

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD 19th May 2015

View North



North West



North East



South



South



South West



Additional bramble growth



North West

