baker shepherd gillespie

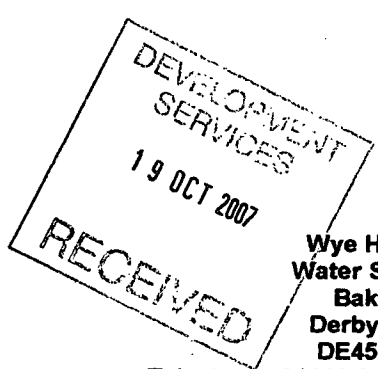
ecological consultants

A Protected Species Survey of the proposed Marina, Market Bosworth

By

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1.0 Introduction

A protected species survey of the proposed site for the marina at Market Bosworth was undertaken by Kate Fisher on the 19th of December 2000.

The site of the proposed development is a large arable field, approximately 300mx300m, which is bisected by a man-made drainage ditch (see attached map). The eastern boundary of the field, a hedge on top of a bank with a shallow drainage ditch at its base, lies adjacent to the Ashby canal. The northern hedge borders another arable field and the hedges to the south and west border the B585 and the road north to Carlton respectively. 'Friezland' cottages and gardens are located in the south-west corner of the field.

The southern half of the field (i.e. the area to the south of the drainage ditch) is the proposed site for the marina development. The northern section will be designed with the aim to specifically benefit conservation in particular the species for which the Ashby Canal SSSI is designated and habitats which have a high priority in the Leicestershire Biodiversity Action Plan.

It should be noted that December is not the best time to undertake a protected species survey as most species are not very active at this time of year and therefore evidence of their presence i.e. droppings, feeding remains will not be seen. In the case of water voles, holes alone were searched for. Evidence of potential bat roosts such as rot holes and cracks in trees were noted. Searches were made for evidence of badger activity including setts, runs, latrines, paw prints and hairs. No searches were made for great crested newts owing to the time of year.

No data trawl was undertaken for the site or surrounding area.

2.0 Survey Method

The whole field was searched for signs of the presence of badgers, bats and water voles which are species provided protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Conservation (Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994, and the Badgers Act 1992.

The field boundaries were walked while noting signs of protected species. The eastern boundary adjacent to the canal consists of a bank approximately 1-2m in height. A drainage ditch with a little standing water and no emergent vegetation runs along the base of the bank. A hedge lines the top of the bank, next to a small grass verge and chipped surfaced tow path by the canal. The ditch and canal area was searched for signs of the presence of water voles. The bank was inspected from both the field side and canal side for evidence of any badger activity.

The northern boundary consists of a semi-continuous hawthorn hedge which is intersected in places by mature ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and oak (*Quercus sp.*) trees. These trees and a lone standing oak in the north-western half of the field were searched, using binoculars, for evidence of the presence of bats (i.e. bat droppings, potential roost access points e.g. cracks, broken limbs and rot holes and characteristic staining around these points).

The drainage ditch in the middle of the field was walked searching for evidence of water voles. The ditch is approximately $1^1/_2$ -2m in depth, with running water and little emergent

vegetation in places. The western half of the ditch consists of a shallow earth bank that gets steeper towards the point of the outflow at the canal end.

3.0 Results

Summary

No evidence of the presence of water voles, badgers or bats was found on the site. It should be noted that no data trawl was requested for the site and surrounding area therefore the results relate solely to the site.

3.1 Water Voles

No evidence of the presence of water voles (i.e. holes) was found along the eastern drainage ditch, the grass verge running along the canal, or the man-made drainage ditch bisecting the field.

It should be noted that bank vole holes were located at various points along the drainage ditch running in the middle of the field. A pile of droppings were found in a patch of soft rush (*Juncus effusus*) in the western half of the ditch and a bank vole was seen in the eastern half.

Giant hogweed was noted around the point where the drainage ditch goes under the road in the western half of the field. It had been cut down but not all the remains had been removed.

3.2 Bats

The two mature ash in the northern hedge and the lone standing oak all have the potential to support bats. They possess a number of cracks, broken limbs and splits but no evidence of any bat activity was found. The second oak (nearest the western end) appeared sound.

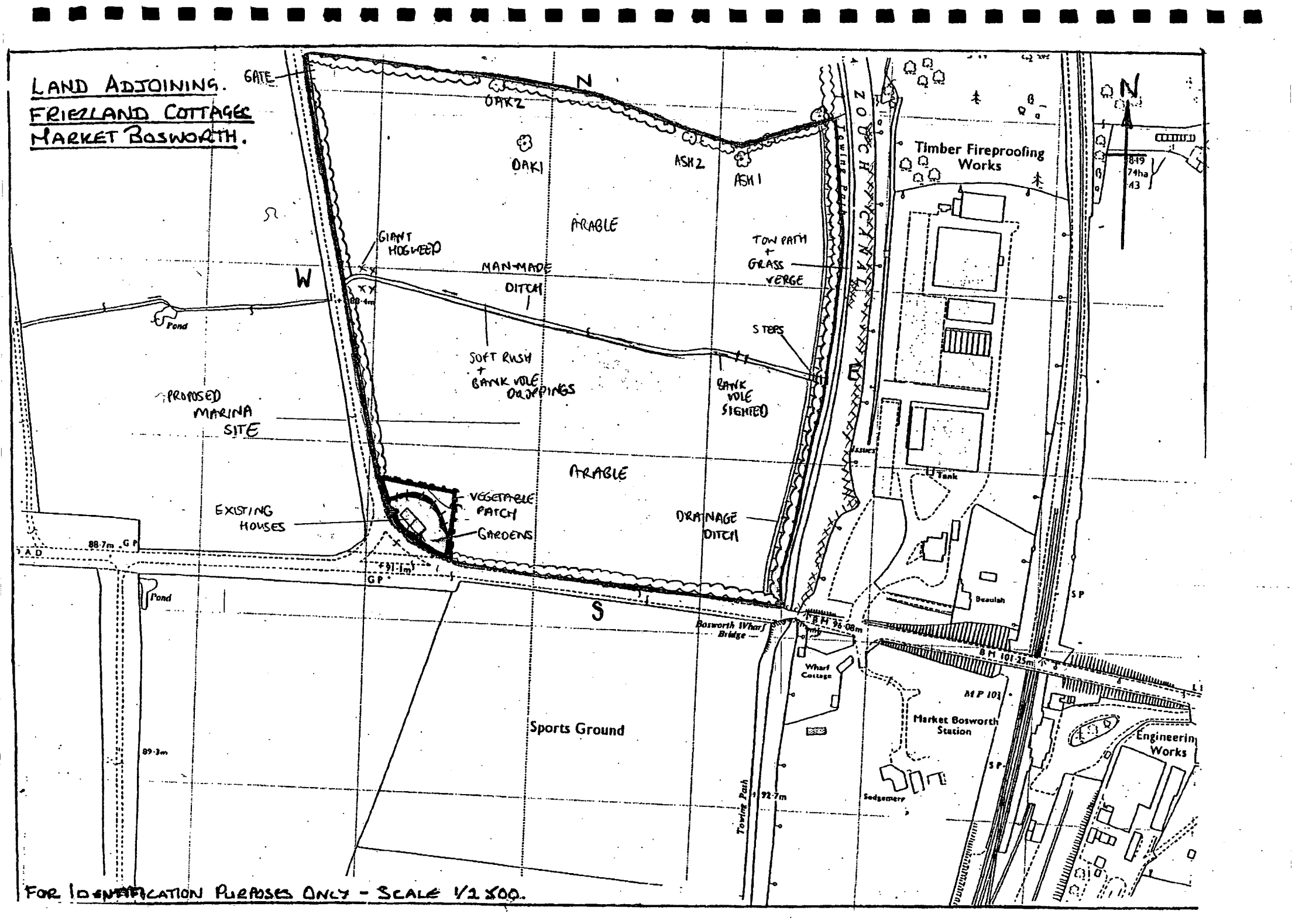
3.3 Badgers

No evidence of any badger activity was found on this site.

4.0 Recommendations

(i) The trees on the northern boundary have potential for bats and should be retained.

(ii) Giant hogweed is a notifiable weed and should be controlled prior to the work commencing.


LAND ADJOINING.
FRIELAND COTTAGES
MARKET BOSWORTH.
GATE
N
OAK2
OAK1
ASH2
ASH1
ARABLE
GIANT HOGWEED
MAN-MADE DITCH
TOW PATH + GRASS VERGE
W
Pond
STEPS
SOFT RUSH + BANK VOLE DROPPINGS
BANK VOLE SIGHTED
PROPOSED MARINA SITE
ARABLE
VEGETABLE PATCH
GARDENS
EXISTING HOUSES
DRAINAGE DITCH
88·7m
GP
91·1m
Pond
S
Bosworth Wharf Bridge
Sports Ground
89·3m
Towing Path
92·7m
Timber Fireproofing Works
Tank
Beaulah
SP
BM 96·08m
BM 101·25m
Wharf Cottage
MP 101
Market Bosworth Station
Sedgemere
Engineering Works
FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES ONLY - SCALE 1/1250.