A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave) Scheme number: TR010066

6.3 Environmental Statement Appendices

Appendix 8.4 Barn Owl Survey Report

APFP Regulations 5(2)(a)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

Volume 6

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Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave)
Development Consent Order 202[x]

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT APPENDICES
Appendix 8.4 Barn Owl Survey Report

Regulation Number	Regulation 5(2)(a)
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Reference	TR010066
Application Document Reference	TR010066/APP/6.3
Author	A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave), Project Team & National Highways

Version	Date	Status of Version
Rev 0	November 2024	Application Issue

Barn Owl Survey Report

A46, Walsgrave

Prepared for: Sweco
Ref DE00062/02/i
Issue date: 15/11/2023
Version: 1

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SUMMARY

Item	Description
Survey effort:	7 trees within Coombe Country Park: stage 3 survey 1 tree at farm F2: stage 3 survey Barns at farm F1: stage 3 survey Land parcel at Ansty Park: stages 1, 2 & 3 survey
Survey dates:	21st & 22nd July 2023
Surveyors:	[redacted] MCIEEM & [redacted] ACIEEM
Report Author: Reviewed by:	[redacted] MCIEEM (accredited agent) [redacted] MCIEEM barn owl licence ref: CL29/00427
Site Address:	Land adjacent to A46, Walsgrave
Summary of Results:	Land at Ansty Park – areas of Type 1, 2 and 3 habitats present, 1 x Potential Roost Site (PRS) Trees at Coombe Country Park– 1 x Potential Nest Site (PNS), several PRS but no evidence of recent barn owl activity Tree at Farm F2 – no obvious suitability for roosting or nesting, no evidence of barn owl activity Barns at F1 – PNS and PRS but no evidence of barn owl activity
Recommendations:	The results are suitable to inform impact assessment at the current stage of the project; however, potential Nest Sites (nest box at farm F1 and tree T8 at Coombe Country Park) could be occupied by nesting barn owls in future years. These two locations should be monitored at appropriate timescales during the planned development to ensure that impacts can be detected & assessed, offences avoided and suitable mitigation / compensation integrated with the scheme design as and when necessary.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

An upgrade to the A46 Coventry Eastern bypass and the B4082 junction, east of Walsgrave is being proposed by Highways England to ease congestion and reduce queuing along the A46 corridor east of Coventry. As part of this, options are being considered for the upgrade of the existing A46 Walsgrave Junction, illustrated on Figure 1 on the following page, which would form part of a wider scheme of improvements to the A46 road network.

A preliminary ecological appraisal (PEA) of the Proposed Scheme was carried out in 2018 as part of the PCF Stage 1 assessment (Option Identification) (AECOM, 2018). In 2020, an updated PEA was undertaken taking into account the three route options being considered in PCF Stage 2 (Option Selection) (AECOM, 2020b) and identified a need for further survey to assess the suitability of the site for barn owl and the extent to which this should be considered in the option selection process.

The purpose of ecological assessment at PCF Stage 2 is to refine information on potential constraints identified in the PEA with respect to barn owls and to detail any further survey that may be required at PCF Stage 3 (Preliminary Design).

Sweco undertook barn owl surveys during summer 2021 (Sweco, 2021); however, at that time access was at ground level only and therefore the survey did not include an inspection of potential nesting cavities in trees or nest boxes. In addition to this, the buffer to the proposed scheme has been amended slightly since 2021 to include additional area of land at the northern extent of the scheme that was not part of the original scope, shown on Figure 2 on the following page.

Derbyshire Ecologist Ltd was commissioned by Sweco to undertake barn owl *Tyto alba* surveys at specific locations, including work at height using a combination of tree climbing and ladders to verify the suitability of potential nesting cavities and search for evidence of use by barn owls.

Specifically, the survey objectives were to:

- Assess habitat suitability and check for nesting activity on a land parcel at Ansty Park;
- Check for nesting activity in specific trees at Coombe Country Park & one farm that had been previously assessed by Sweco as having suitability for barn owls; and,
- Check for nesting activity in barns at another farm that had similarly been assessed as suitable for barn owls.

This report provides survey results to inform the impact assessment that will be undertaken by Sweco.

1.2 Site Description

The Proposed Scheme redline boundary is shown in Figure 1 on the following page, a drawing prepared by AECOM and reported by Sweco as part of the earlier barn owl survey report (Sweco, 2021). The existing habitats within the Proposed Scheme boundary includes the existing A46 road, with associated road verges; hedgerows, woodland, amenity grassland and arable farmland. The surrounding landscape within the 1.5km Buffer comprised of arable farmland to the north and east of the Proposed Scheme boundary, with a mixture of suburban development, woodland and recreational land to the west, beyond the River Sowe. To the south-east of the Proposed Scheme boundary was – HABITATS, including Coombe Country Park.

The Proposed Scheme boundary overlaps a narrow section of the woodland within the Coombe Pool Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which is designated for its ornithological interest; however, barn owl is not a citation species of the statutory designated site.

Figure 1: Site location & proposed scheme options

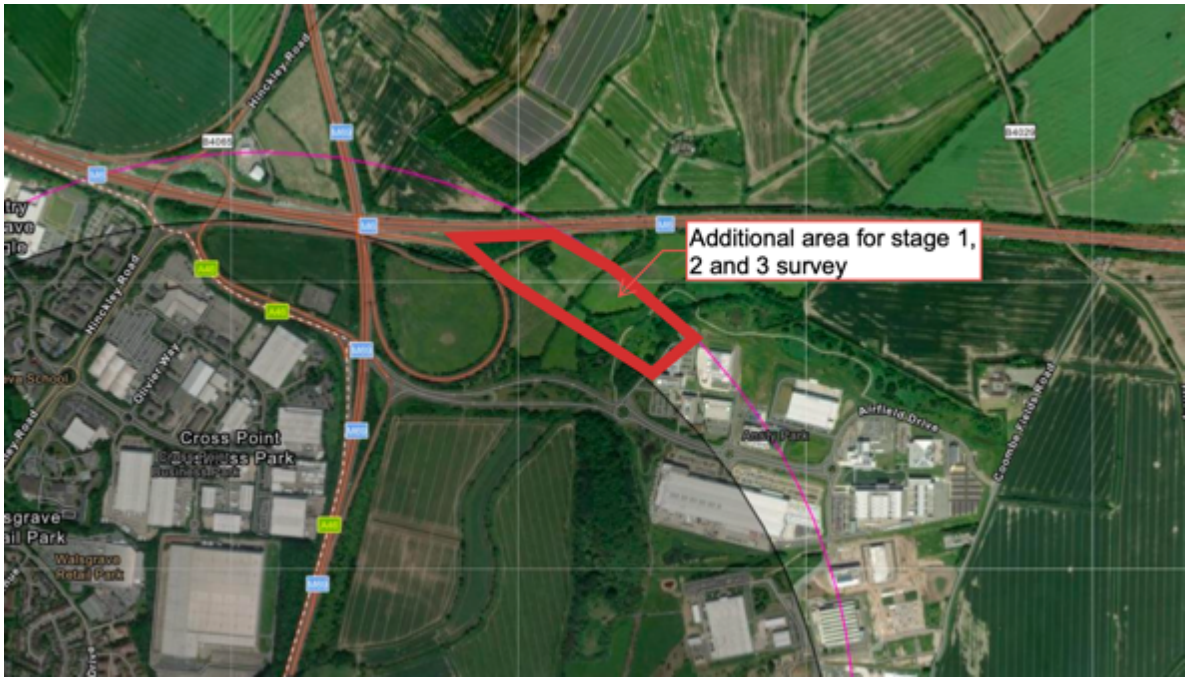

Figure 2 Amended buffer to proposed scheme and additional area of land for survey at Ansty Park

1.3 Legislative / Planning Context

Legislation

Barn owls are protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly:

- disturb them while they're nesting, building a nest, in or near a nest that contains their young; and
- disturb their dependent young.

Highways England Biodiversity Action Plan

Highways England has a biodiversity plan (Highways England, 2015, p.9) which aims to deliver no net loss of biodiversity from the operation, maintenance, and enhancement of the Strategic Road Network as a whole.

The 2015 Biodiversity Plan provides a general plan to protect and increase biodiversity. It supersedes the 2002 Highways Agency (now Highways England) Biodiversity Action Plan, which still carries some relevance as it lists specific species of conservation concern. The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges sets out Highway England's requirements for highway works. It was updated in 2019 with LA 108 Biodiversity (Highways England, 2019), a framework for assessing, mitigating and reporting the impact on biodiversity resources and LD 118 Biodiversity Design (Highways England, 2020), which together will inform the design and assessment of the Proposed Scheme.

1.4 Experience of Ecology Team

The surveys were undertaken by ecologist [redacted] MCIEEM and [redacted] ACIEEM. [redacted] is a professional ecologist with over 14 years' experience in the ecological consultancy industry and is a full member of CIEEM. [redacted] has approximately 5 years consultancy experience and is associate member of CIEEM and thus both are bound by CIEEM's standards and code of professional conduct.

[redacted] are both fully trained and qualified for Tree Climbing and Aerial Rescue. Lead surveyor [redacted] has undertaken training with the Barn Owl Trust for competence assessing habitat suitability and both surveyors are confident recognising field signs for this species. [redacted] is accredited agent for [redacted] of FALCO Ecology Ltd, who has provided technical review of this report.

[redacted] is an experienced ecologist who has undertaken commercial ecology surveys for eleven years on a range of developments including residential properties, small and large scale wind farms, solar farms, power lines, water pipelines and highways. [redacted] has completed an array of ecological surveys throughout England, Wales and Scotland. Environmental licenses held by [redacted] include: Class 2 Natural England (CL18 2017-32910-CLS-CLS), a Scottish Natural Heritage bat licence (116134), a Class 1 Natural England great crested newt license (2018-34025-CLS-CLS) and a Natural England Barn Owl Development survey licence (CL29/00427).

All members of the team were appropriately trained, experienced and competent for their assigned roles on this project based on the CIEEM competency framework for species survey.

2 METHODS

2.1 Survey Effort

As per the brief from Sweco, this survey is a continuation of fieldwork undertaken in 2021 by ecologists employed by Sweco and reported separately in report number: HE604820-SWE-EBD-ZZ-RP-LB-00007 (Sweco, 2021). This report (Derbyshire Ecologist, 2023) describes the fieldwork undertaken by Derbyshire Ecologist only, although reference is made to the earlier Sweco surveys and results where relevant.

A full desktop study comprising search of Local Biological Records Centre data was not conducted as this was not part of the brief from Sweco; however, the report (Sweco 2021) of barn owl surveys previously undertaken at the sites was reviewed.

The survey was carried out following Stages 1, 2 and 3 in the three-stage approach, as set out in Shawyer (2012):

- Stage 1 – site walkover to record features of the habitat that may support barn owls and classify habitat types as Type 1 (optimal for barn owl foraging), Type 2 (sub-optimal and of transient value to barn owl) or Type 3 (poor habitat for barn owl prey);
- Stage 2 – investigation of the features identified to record Potential Nest Sites (PNS), Active Roost Sites (ARS), Temporary Roost Sites (TRS) and classify foraging habitat types (Type 1, 2 or 3); and
- Stage 3 – further detailed investigation during the barn owl breeding season (June/July) to identify breeding activity.

Four sites were identified for survey: land within Coombe Country Park, two farms known as F1 & F2 and an area to the north of these known as land at Ansty Park, the locations of which are illustrated on Figure 3 on the following page. Three of these (Coombe Country Park, Farm F2 and Farm F1) had been previously surveyed by Sweco in 2021 and so were subject to Stage 3 survey only by Derbyshire Ecologist. The fourth site (land near Ansty Park) had not been previously surveyed and therefore was subject to Stages 1, 2 & 3 survey by Derbyshire Ecologist. Survey effort and timings for each of the four sites are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of survey effort undertaken by Sweco and Derbyshire Ecologist.

Location	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
T1, T2 & T4-7 Coombe Country Park (central grid ref SP396795)	Sweco, 2021	Sweco, 2021	Derbyshire Ecologist, 2023
T9 at Farm F2 (grid ref SP384796)	Sweco, 2021	Sweco, 2021	Derbyshire Ecologist, 2023
Barns at Farm F1 (central grid ref SP394808)	Sweco, 2021	Sweco, 2021	Derbyshire Ecologist, 2023
Land near Ansty Park (central grid ref SP399821)	Derbyshire Ecologist, 2023	Derbyshire Ecologist, 2023	Derbyshire Ecologist, 2023

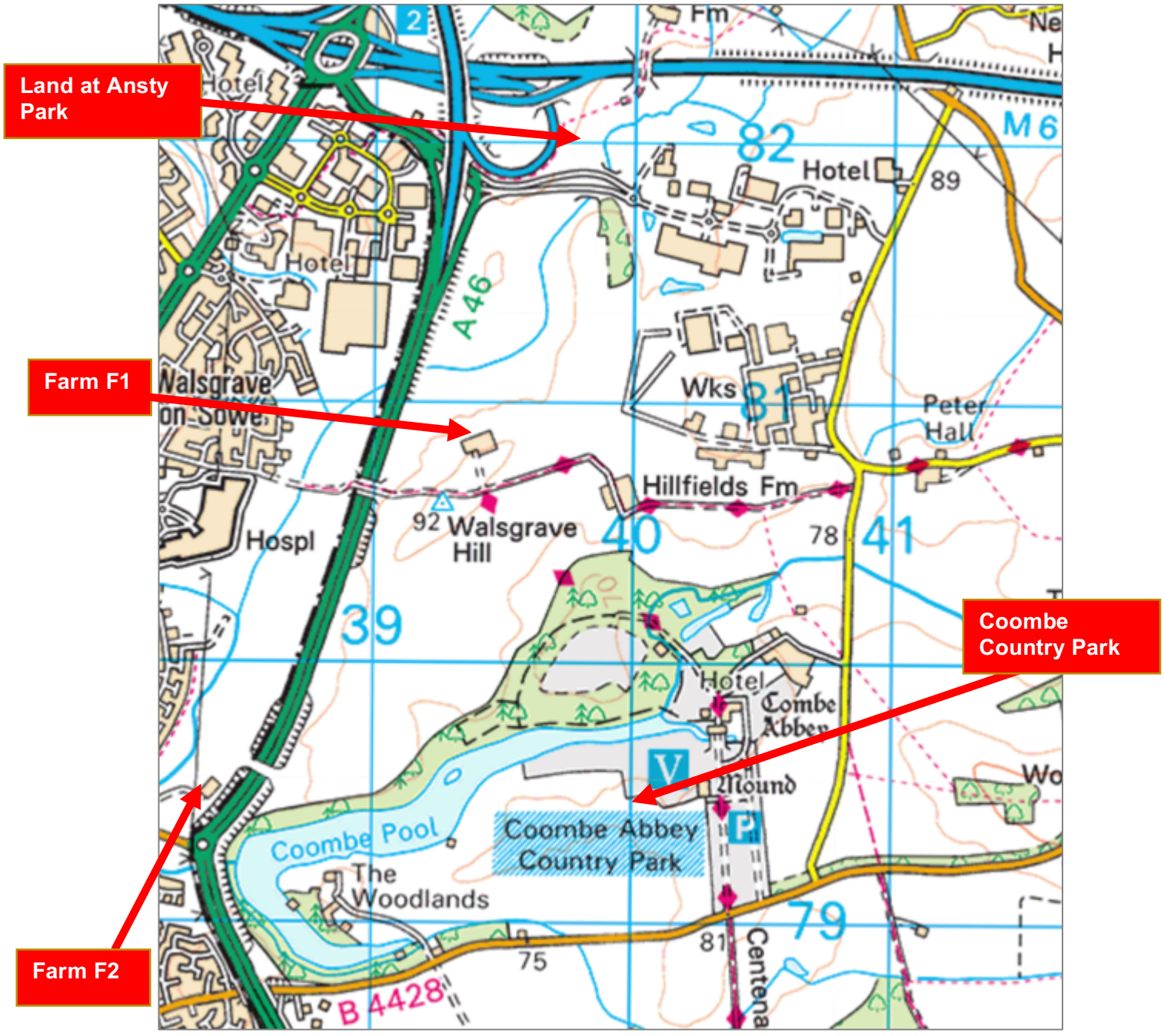

Figure 3: location of survey sites (OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2023)

2.2 Fieldwork

Fieldwork was carried out during daylight hours on 20th and 21st July 2023, days with dry and clear weather conditions that presented no limitations to the survey methods.

Cavities on trees were accessed either by rope & harness or ladder and features at height in barns were accessed by ladder. A search was made for evidence of barn owl activity including pellets, feathers, droppings, eggs / shells, chicks or sightings of adult barn owls.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Overview

The additional area of land at Ansty Park was found to comprise various areas of Type 1, Type 2 and Type 3 habitats and one tree T10 was considered to be a Potential Roost Site.

T8 and the nest box at F1 were assessed as Potential Nest Sites but no evidence of breeding barn owl was found within these features. Trees T1, T2, T4, T5, T6 and T10 were assessed as Potential Roost Sites but poorly suited for nesting and with no evidence of use by barn owls. Trees T7 and T9 were assessed as unsuitable for roosting or nesting barn owl, but could provide opportunity for a Temporary Rest Site. (T3 had already been scoped out as unsuitable during the earlier phase of survey undertaken by Sweco.)

A summary of the results is illustrated in Figure 3 below, which is based on a map of previous survey results prepared by Sweco and annotated to include results from the survey undertaken by Derbyshire Ecologist Ltd. Further descriptions of Stage 1, 2 & 3 results are provided in sections 3.2 and 3.3 on the following pages.

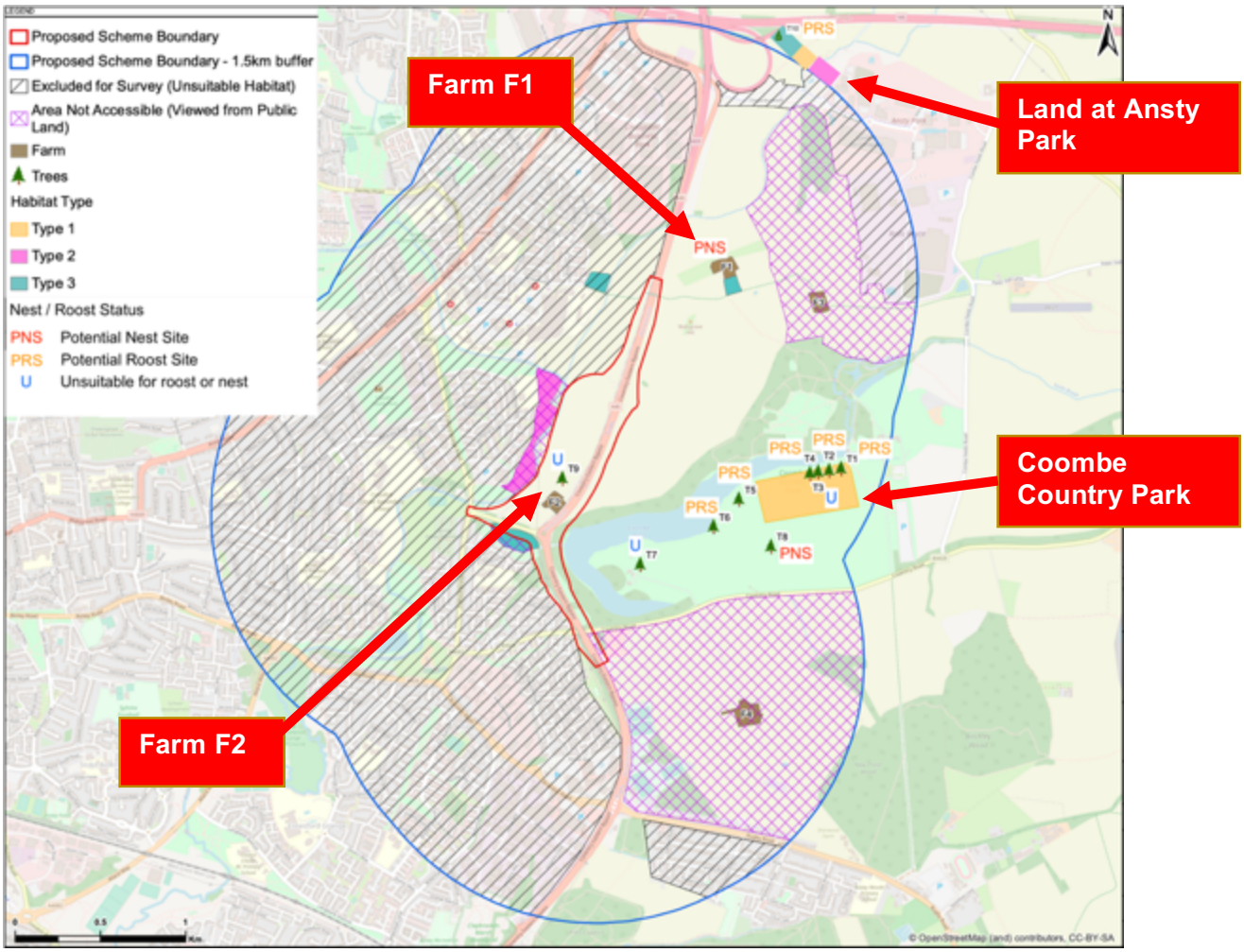

Figure 4: combined barn owl survey results from 2021 (Sweco) and 2023 (Derbyshire Ecologist).

3.2 Stages 1 & 2 – Land at Ansty Park

The surveyed area comprised three distinct zones as illustrated on Figure 5 below, each with differing management regimes. At the south east, the land was managed parkland with public footpaths and habitat comprising a mosaic of grassland and scrub. The rest of the site was broadly agricultural in appearance with grassland, hedgerows and woodland although the central area appeared to be managed as an ecological mitigation zone or conservation area. The habitats are described in further detail below.

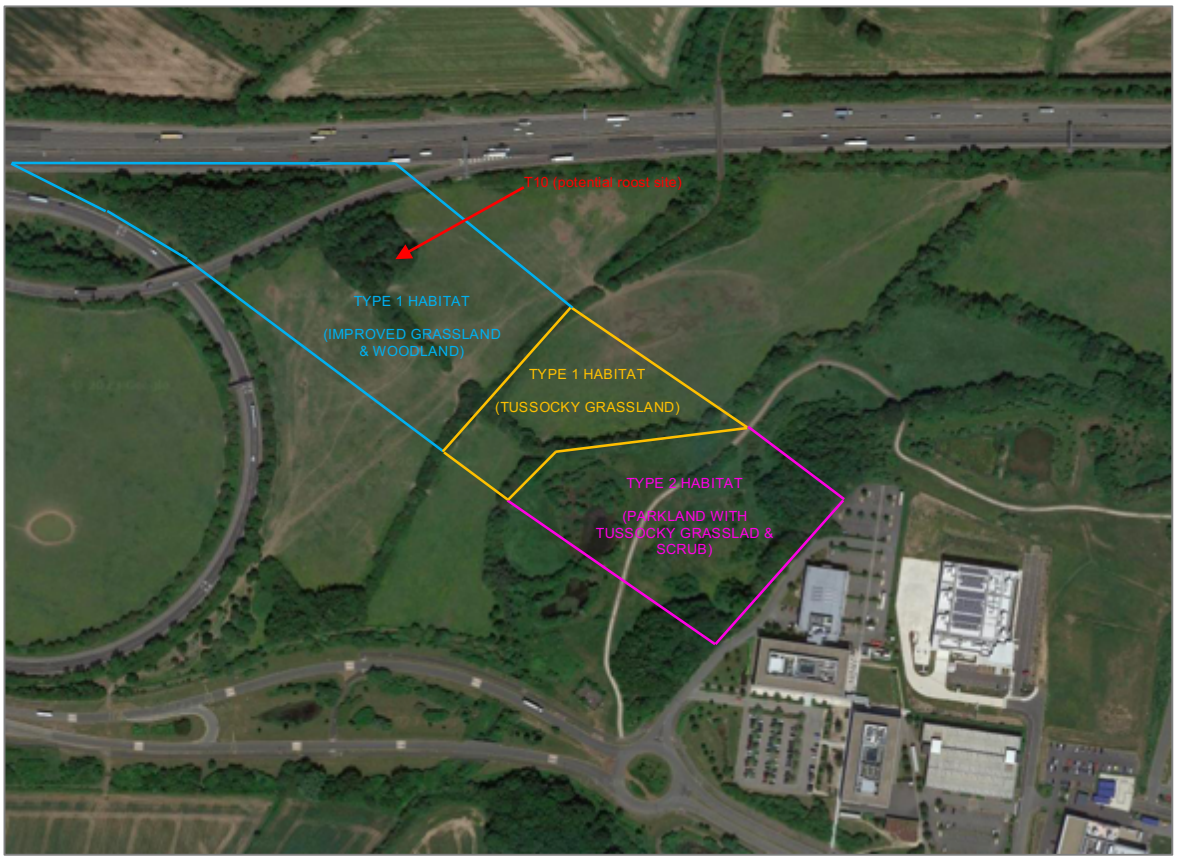

Figure 5: survey results for land at Ansty Park

Parkland Area

The parkland area (shown in pink on Figure 5) comprised a mosaic of species rich grassland with scattered patches mature scrub and a pond. The sward height of the grassland was approximately 40-50cm with few tussocks and approximately 5-7cm thatch layer. Adjacent to the paths there was an approximately 1m wide strip that was mown short with no thatch layer. The parkland area was considered likely to support some small mammals that are the main food source of barn owls and thus was considered to provide some opportunities for hunting but due to the relatively shallow depth of thatch was assessed as Type 2 habitat.

There were no trees or built structures within this area that would provide a potential roost or nest site and no field signs of barn owl were found.

Central Area

In the central part of the site (shown in yellow on Figure 5) the habitat was broadly agricultural in appearance with grassland fields bounded by mature, intact hedgerows and a small stream running along the boundary with the parkland area to the south east. The grassland had a tall, species rich sward approximately 50-60cm high with some tussocks forming and

approximately 8-10cm thatch layer, which was considered ideal for the small mammals that barn owls prey upon and voles were seen & heard during the survey.

There was no evidence of frequent grazing or mowing and the area appeared to be managed as an ecological mitigation zone or conservation area with habitat features including small areas of tree planting, several swales swales / scrapes. There were also several habitat piles of the type typically constructed for amphibians or reptiles and various bird & bat boxes mounted on trees and poles.

The habitat in this central part of the site was assessed as Type 1, i.e. optimal hunting habitat for barn owl.

There were no trees or built structures within this area that would provide a potential roost or nest site and no field signs of barn owl were found.

North Western Area

The north western part of the site (shown in blue on Figure 5) comprised agricultural grassland and hedgerows with semi-natural broadleaf woodland adjacent to the northern boundary. The grassland sward was species poor and height was approximately 5-10cm with no thatch layer and thus provided no shelter for the voles that barn owls prey upon.

The woodland was mostly immature and semi-mature trees with a patchy shrub layer and ground flora comprising mainly grasses and nettle with no thatch layer. The tree cover could potentially provide a more sheltered hunting location during poor weather; however, the lack of thatch within the grassland was considered likely to limit the availability of prey.

The woodland and grassland in this part of the site were assessed as Type 3, i.e. poor hunting habitat for barn owl.

There were no built structures and only a single tree (T10 on Figure 5) provided a cavity suitable for a potential roost site, although it was found to be unsuitable for nesting due to the relatively small size (approximately 30cm diameter) and flat base level with the entrance rather than a large, deep and enclosed cavity that would provide safe shelter for chicks. Close proximity to the M6 motorway also made this a suboptimal location for nesting and there was no evidence of use by barn owl.

No field signs of barn owl were found in the north western area during the survey.

3.3 Stage 3: Coombe Country Park, Farms F1 & F2 and Land at Ansty Park

The surveyed trees at Coombe Country Park varied in their suitability for use by barn owls. T1, T2, T4, T5 & T6 were considered suitable for roosting but did not provide suitably large, deep and enclosed cavities for nesting. T7 was considered unsuitable for roosting or nesting. T8 was considered highly suitable both for roosting & nesting and there was evidence of past use by barn owl (old pellets) but field signs indicated current / recent use by tawny owl.

T9 at Farm F2 was found to have no nest boxes or cavities suitable for use by barn owl and the branches were considered too exposed to be used for open roosting. Depending on land use in any given season, this tree could at times provide a suitable hunting perch; however, at the date of survey the field in which it grows was planted with a maize crop, which would be Type 3 habitat for barn owls (poor habitat) and therefore was considered unlikely to be used for that purpose at this time.

The older brick built barns at Farm F1 were considered suitable for nesting barn owls, particularly the enclosed nest box in one of the buildings; however, no field signs of barn owls were discovered. The more modern steel framed livestock sheds had very limited potential for use by owls and were not considered suitable for nesting. There was also evidence of bat roosts, likely at least two different species based on the size & shape of droppings scattered on floors and based on the quantity of droppings potentially at least one maternity roost. The barns were also used extensively by nesting barn swallows.

At the Ansty park land parcel, a single tree was found that had features suitable for a barn owl Potential Roost Site; however, it the cavity was too small and open for nesting and no field signs of barn owl were found to indicate that it had been used.

The results for each site are described in further detail in Table 2 on the following page.

Table 2: Inspection results for potential roost and nest sites.

Feature	Location – Grid Ref	Description	Barn Owl Field Signs	Roost Suitability	Nesting Suitability
T1	SP 401 796	Dead beech tree in meadow area. Cavity at approximately 3.5m east. Internal diameter approximately 40cm with flat base but open at the side and above, so fairly exposed and providing poor shelter.	None	Poor	Negligible
T2	SP 400 796	Oak tree in meadow area. Cavity at approx 3m north west. Cavity with flat base level with entrance and domed roof. Internal dimensions approximately 40cm diameter and approximately 65cm high. Small quantity of leaves inside, likely squirrel nesting material. Smaller flat based cavity at approx 7m, open on two sides north west & south east.	None	Suitable	Negligible
T4	SP 399 796	Oak tree at edge of woodland / meadow. Cavity at approximately 5m east with flat base level with entrance and domed roof. Internal dimensions approximately 30cm diameter and 35cm high. Sticks piled at base, likely jackdaw nesting material. Wide cavity at approx 6m east, flat base level with entrance and extends up approximately 1m into stem above.	None	Suitable	Negligible
T5	SP 395 794	Dead tree on edge of meadow & rabbit grazed grassland. Completely open on one side from ground up. Two large cavity entrances at 3m south & 5m north. Lots of faecal splashing on vegetation below tree but buzzard was noted using branch in upper canopy as a perch on both days of survey so likely attributable to that species.	None (field signs likely from buzzard)	Suitable	Negligible

Feature	Location – Grid Ref	Description	Barn Owl Field Signs	Roost Suitability	Nesting Suitability
T6	SP 393 793	Oak near edge of woodland copse beside lake & meadow. Large cavity at 2.5m south, flat base level with entrance and domed roof. Internal dimensions approximately 35cm diameter and 40cm high. Pigeon feathers inside and sticks, likely pigeon nesting material.	1 old pellet lodged in bark at cavity entrance, size & shape consistent with barn owl.	Suitable	Negligible
T7	SP 389 791	Large cavity in main stem of tree, open to ground level down one side with no internal platform on which to rest.	None	Negligible	Negligible
T8	SP 396 792	Large dead tree in meadow. Large enclosed cavity at 3.5m with flat base approximately 0.5m below entrance. Internal diameter approximately 50cm.	Several old pellets found on ground at base of tree, size & shape consistent with barn owl but dry and partially disintegrating. Other field signs likely from tawny owl: Tawny owl feathers found on ground at base of tree. Small amount of downy fluff within cavity. Small amount of white splashing at cavity entrance. Scattered white splashing on ground, debris and vegetation at base of tree.	Good	Good

Feature	Location – Grid Ref	Description	Barn Owl Field Signs	Roost Suitability	Nesting Suitability
T9	SP 384 796	No nest box or cavities suitable for nesting present and no dense ivy or other vegetation structure that would provide cover for open roosting on branches.	None	Negligible	Negligible
T10	SP 397 822	Cavity in main stem at approximately 8m. Open on one side and flat base level with entrance. Internal dimensions approximately 30cm diameter and 40cm high. Stick nesting material present, likely jackdaw.	None	Good	Negligible
F1	SP 394 808	Enclosed wooden nest box situated inside old brick built barn. Box dimensions approx 40cm high x 40cm wide x 75cm long, open at one end and positioned horizontally on top of a large structural beam at approximately 4m above ground. Wooden structural beams would also provide suitable resting places.	None Single small pellet of size and shape consistent with tawny owl found inside nest box.	Good	Good

4 EVALUATION & RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Potential Limitations to Survey

Each of the sites was suitably accessible during the survey, allowing a full inspection of potential roost and nest sites in trees and structures as well as assessment of overall habitat suitability at the Ansty Park land parcel. No significant limitations were encountered and the results are considered to be robust.

4.2 Habitat Suitability at Ansty Park

The general habitat structure of the central and south eastern parts of the Ansty Park land parcel were considered likely to have good abundance of prey species, i.e. field vole *Microtus agrestis*, and thus provided suitable hunting habitat for barn owls; however, the improved pasture at the north western area was poor hunting habitat and the trees within the site appeared to offer only very limited scope for roosting and no suitable opportunities for nesting. Despite the apparent suitability for hunting, close proximity to the M6 motorway just beyond the northern boundary made whole this land parcel a sub-optimal location for barn owl due to the risk of collision with vehicles, which would be particularly high for any juveniles dispersing from their nest sites.

4.3 Nesting Activity

Of the surveyed trees in Coombe Country Park and farm F3, only T8 provided suitable nesting habitat for barn owl. Field signs indicated that it had been utilised by barn owls previously but pellets on the ground were old & crumbling and there was no obvious debris within the cavity itself, suggesting that it had not been an active nest site this season. All recent field signs indicated use by tawny owl; however,

The nest box in the barn at farm F1 remains a potential nesting site but there was no evidence that it has been an active nest site.

4.4 Further Survey Effort

The survey results indicated no barn owl nesting activity in the surveyed trees or buildings during the 2023 season; however, tree T8 at Coombe Country Park and the nest box at Farm F1 were confirmed to be Potential Nest Sites therefore one or both locations could be utilised by nesting barn owls in future years.

The results of this survey may be sufficient to inform impact assessment at the current stage of the A46 proposed scheme; however, these two locations should be monitored for nesting activity at appropriate timescales within the overall programme of development to avoid impacts that would result in offences under the legislation that protects barn owl and to ensure that suitable mitigation can be devised.

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6 PHOTOGRAPHS

Picture 1: Land at Ansty Park – managed parkland in south eastern part of land parcel with short mown margins to pathways (Type 2 habitat)

Picture 2: Land at Ansty Park: parkland at south east with grassland and scattered scrub (Type 2 habitat)

Picture 3: Land at Ansty Park – parkland at south east relatively tall sward with 5-7cm thatch layer (Type 2 habitat)

Picture 4: Land at Ansty Park: relatively tall sward with scattered scrub (Type 2 habitat)

Picture 5: Land at Ansty Park – central region (Type 1 habitat) with tussocky grassland, swales, tree planting and bat & bird boxes

Picture 6: Land at Ansty Park – area of tree planting in central region of land parcel (Type 1 habitat)

Picture 7: Land at Ansty Park – boundary between central and north western fields showing distinctly different grassland swards (Type 1 in foreground, Type 3 beyond)

Picture 8: Land at Ansty Park: improved grassland within north western fields with very short sward and no thatch layer (Type 3 habitat)

Picture 9: Land at Ansty Park – woodland in north western tip of land parcel (Type 3 habitat)

Picture 10: Land at Ansty Park: cavity in tree T10 with stick nesting material in base (likely jackdaw). Barn owl Potential Roost Site.

Picture 11: T1 – potential roost site

Picture 12: T2 – potential roost site

Picture 13: T4 – potential roost site

Picture 14: T5 – potential roost site but also frequently used as perch by buzzard

Picture 15: T6 – potential roost site

Picture 16: T6 – old barn owl pellet found at cavity entrance, partially disintegrating

Picture 17: T7 – suitable size entrance but open to ground level down opposite side of stem, with no suitable ledges

Picture 18: T7 – Large open-sided cavity in stem with base at approximately 0.5m above ground level

Picture 19: T8 – potential nest site

Picture 20: T8 – white splashing on ground around base of tree

Picture 21: T8 – old barn owl pellet found wedged in fallen limbs at base of tree, dry and partially disintegrating

Picture 22: T8 – white splashing at cavity entrance

Picture 23: T8 – tawny owl feathers found on ground at base of tree

Picture 24: T8 – small amount of downy fluff found inside cavity but no other obvious nesting debris

Picture 25: T9 – no nest boxes or cavities suitable for nesting or roosting

Picture 26: F1 – barn containing nest box and with large timbers suitable for perching or roosting, no field signs of barn owl found. Several swallow nests and abundant bat droppings present.

Picture 27: F1 –nest box situated on beam inside barn, no field signs of barn owl found

Picture 28: F1 –old owl pellet found inside nest box, size consistent with tawny owl

Picture 29: F1 – rear room of barn with nest box, no field signs of barn owl found

Picture 30: F1: modern agricultural barns with very limited potential for use by barn owl

Picture 31: F1 – old milking parlour. Upper rooms appear suitable for barn owl but no field signs were found. Used extensively by nesting swallows and abundant bat droppings present.