

Otter & Water Vole Survey

At The

Former School Kitchens, North Road,  
Boldon Colliery




For

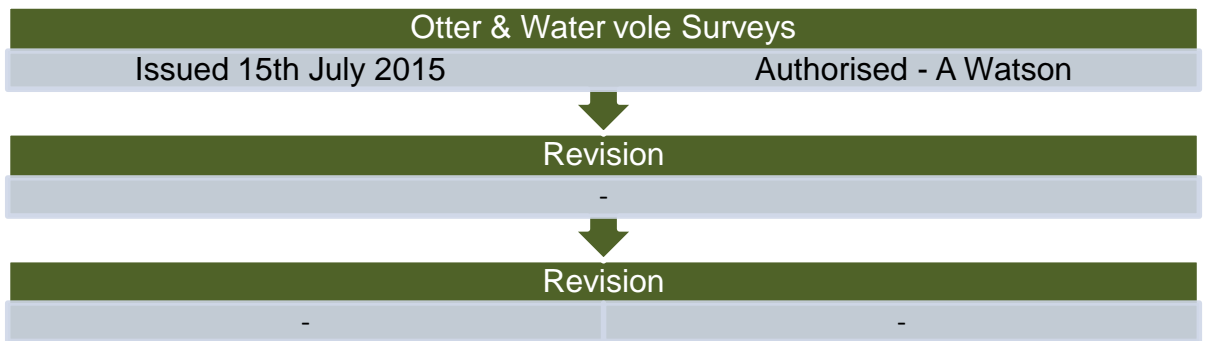
Blake Hopkinson Architecture



# Document Verification



<b>Document Title</b>	• Otter & Water Vole Survey
<b>Prepared By</b>	• Tricia Snaith BSc BA ACIEEM
<b>Authorised By</b>	• Andrew Watson FLS MICFor CBiol MSB FArborA CEnv LCGI



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## 1. Executive Summary

We are appointed by Blake Hopkinson Architecture to undertake an Otter & Water Vole Survey on land to the south of the Former School Kitchens, North Road, Boldon Colliery .

A new development is planned for ten new dwellings. We were provided with proposed layouts.

- 1.1. The transect survey was undertaken on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015.
- 1.2. No otter or water voles were actually observed but this was expected as these animals are particularly elusive, however evidence in the form of spraints (faeces), holts, footprints, slides and entrance/exit points to the water course, if present, were examined and recorded.
- 1.3. There were no signs of either otter or water vole presence.
- 1.4. There are both otter and water vole records for the River Don with regular recordings of otter downstream of the survey area, water vole are recorded regularly in the area.
- 1.5. Both otter and water vole are primarily a riparian species and tend to restrict their activities to within 10m of the water way, the potential development sits over 100m to the north of the potential otter or water vole activity as such is unlikely to have an impact on the species.
- 1.6. Along the survey transect of the River Don vegetation provides a barrier to access into the waterway that could potentially disturb either species.
- 1.7. No water runoff is to be allowed to contaminate the waterway.
- 1.8. No further survey work is considered necessary at present. If building work is not completed with two years repeat surveys will be necessary.
- 1.9. If at any point during the operations any BAP species, are found; work must cease and the project ecologist notified to provide further advice.

## 2. Introduction

### 2.1 Background

2.1.1 A development is proposed for ten new dwellings on the site of the former School Kitchens, North Road, Boldon Colliery. The site sits 120m north of the River Don. A Phase 1 Habitat Survey was conducted in March 2015. The county ecologist has requested some additional information.

- Data search with parties holding pertinent wildlife and ecological records, data searches from previous reports may be used, providing they are within date.
- The otter survey will identify the presence of holts, spraints, footprints, slides and entrance/ exit points to the water course, which will be examined and recorded.
- The water vole survey will identify any potential tunnel entrances, latrines and feeding evidence.
- Both the otter and water vole survey will be carried by boat from the river due to the nature of the survey requirements and from a walkover survey from the river edge.
- A written report will be provided presenting the information. If any of the above species are found during the surveys the incorporation of outline mitigation and compensation measures will be incorporated into the final report.

Additionally, if any species are found a DEFRA licence may need to be applied for before any works can commence.

2.1.2 We were provided with proposed layouts.

### 2.2 Surveyors & Timing

- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 otter and water vole survey.

Surveyor: Tricia Snaith BA, BSc, PGCE, PGCEST, ACIEEM.

#### Surveyor Experience

Tricia Snaith the surveyor has had many years of experience surveying both mammals and plants.

Her qualifications include a BA (1991) and a BSc(2006) from the Open University, these degrees both contain biological sciences including Animal Behaviour, Animal Physiology, Ecology, Biology Brain and Behaviour, Organic Chemistry, Evolution to

name but a few. In 2013 as part of the first cohort of students, the elements surveying vegetation and surveying mammals were completed as part of the Post Graduate Diploma in Ecological Survey Techniques at The University of Oxford with a dissertation on the distribution of Water Shrews within a specified area.

Tricia Snaith was an active member of Durham Wildlife in the early 1980's completing training during this time on both Otters and water voles. Since that time she has completed many surveys.

During 2004 to 2008 completing surveys on water voles as part of the North Pennines water vole surveys alongside personal surveys. She is conducting water vole surveys as part of the PTES programme.

Tricia was part of an otter survey of the River Tees in and around Barnard Castle in the early 1990's and since then has completed numerous surveys more recently participating in the Durham Wildlife otter surveys.

She has been an active member of the Upper Teesdale Botany Group for the past five years surveying for the Teesdale Assemblage of plants and has been involved in surveying of Upland Hay Meadows'.

Tricia has Natural England species licenses for both bats and great crested newts and has partially completed the licence to survey the hazel dormouse

Tricia regularly attends CPD on both mammals and plants to increase her understanding of the subjects, completing the CIEEM modules including, bats in building, surveying otters, surveying badgers, surveying white clawed crayfish alongside mosses and lichens, sedges and beetles and bumble bees.

### 3. Legal Status Of Protected Species

3.1.1 Both otter, *Lutra lutra*, and water vole, *Arvicola amphibius (terrestris)* are listed in the post 2010 Biodiversity Framework.

The otter is a near threatened, UK BAP priority species which suffered a significant decline in the late 1950's to the late 1970's. Recovery has been slow but the most recent national otter survey has shown otters are now present in all English counties, including Kent and Sussex (PTES).

The water vole has shown decline in the UK and listed as a UK BAP priority species.

3.1.2 It is an offence for anyone to deliberately capture, injure or kill any such animal or to deliberately take or destroy their eggs. It is an offence to damage or destroy a breeding or resting place of such an animal. It is also an offence to have in one's possession or control, any live or dead European protected species.

A person will commit an offence if they deliberately disturb such animals in a way as to be likely significantly to affect

- (a) the ability of any significant groups of animals of that species to survive, breed, or rear or nurture their young, or
- (b) the local distribution of abundance of that species.

It is an offence to deliberately pick, collect, cut, uproot or destroy a wild plant of a European protected species. It is also an offence for any purpose to possess, sell or exchange such a plant.

### UK & Local Biodiversity Action Plan

3.1.3 The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was published in 1994 in response to Article 6 of the Biodiversity Convention, to develop national strategies for the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources. The current list of UKBAP priority species and habitats was published in August 2007 and now contains 1150 species and 65 habitats.

This has led to Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) which identify local priorities for biodiversity conservation.

The potential impact of planning decisions on biodiversity and geological conservation need to be fully considered.

**Note:-** This information is a guide only. Please refer to the full relevant texts for more information (see References section).



## 4. Survey Methodology

### 4.1 Pre-survey Data Search (Desk Top Survey)

4.1.1 Consultation of pre-existing information on Local Wildlife sites, biodiversity of the area and protected species at and around the survey site was obtained through the following:

- Google or Bing maps to study aerial photography and satellite imagery.
- Multi Agency Geographic Information Centre (MAGIC) a variety of searches are done to deduce the general character of the area and the presence of any relevant wildlife areas
- Local wildlife groups or the Local records center for information on relevant protected species and / or bats within a 2km radius of the survey area.
- National Biodiversity Network (NBN) if necessary to identify the presence of any species of interest within the vicinity of the survey area.
- Any previous reports containing relevant information.

### 4.2 Field Surveys

#### 4.2.1 Otter Survey

Otter surveys can be undertaken throughout the year. Otters are predominantly nocturnal mammals who favour undisturbed areas. Survey methods largely rely on finding evidence, in the form of droppings (known as spraints), footprints, holts, tracks and feeding remains covering a minimum of a 600m stretch of riparian habitat.

A minimum of 600m of riparian habitat is to be surveyed; this will include both the development site and up to 200-250m both upstream and downstream of the site. The chosen stretch of habitat is both walked along the bankside (if possible) and surveyed from the water channel (where safe and practical, using waders or kayak) during daylight hours. Any otter evidence observed will be recorded and annotated on a plan.

Evidence to be recorded:

**Footprints** - otter footprints are very distinct, and will identify presence or absence, but not abundance, of otters. The chances of finding footprints can be improved by manipulation using tracking boards or sand traps.

**Spraints** - these are generally recorded more frequently than footprints, but there are times when otter footprints may be detected in places where suitable sprainting sites are not present (for example in small culverts). It has been stated that where otters were present, the chances of finding spraint within 600 m is high.

**Holts** – either holts or potential holts, their status (active or inactive).

**Mink** - presence of mink by identifying any spraints or footprints.

#### 4.2.2 Water Vole Survey

The bank sides of any watercourse occurring within the development will be surveyed alongside a 100m stretch of bank side both upstream and downstream, using both a walkover survey which will include 4m of bank side and observation from the water course.

Evidence to be recorded:

**Faeces**- these are 8 - 12mm long and 4 - 5 mm wide, cylindrical with blunt ends. The colour is variable, though often green, and they are generally odourless or have a faint musky smell.

**Latrines** - the majority of droppings are deposited at latrine sites, used to mark range boundaries or favoured spots close to burrows. Latrines are typically maintained between February and November and often consist of a flattened mass of old droppings topped with fresh ones.

**Feeding stations**- water voles often bring pieces of cut vegetation to favoured feeding stations close to the water's edge and leave remains in neat piles.

**Burrows**- many burrows can be found in river banks, but those constructed by water voles are typically wider than they are high, with a diameter of 4 - 8cm. Around these holes, well-grazed 'lawns' can often be found, where the water voles have chewed the vegetation short.

Equipment used:-

- Recording forms.
- Ordnance Survey maps.
- Thigh waders.
- Sturdy 'wading' stick/ ranging pole also used as a scale in photographs.
- Safety vest. For road safety.
- Digital camera.
- Global Positioning System (GPS).
- Binoculars - making it possible to inspect potential sprainting sites from a distance or to check mud or sand banks for footprints.
- Torch. For searching in culverts and under bridge arches.

### 4.3 Site Assessment

On the basis of the survey information the site was categorised. This was done primarily using a three point scale as follows:-

- 1= site of high conservation priority
- 2= site of lower priority for conservation
- 3 =site of limited wildlife interest.

Any sites rated 1or 2 were also categorised using the Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management - Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (as detailed in appendix 7.3).

## 5. Survey Results

### 5.1 Pre-survey Data Search (Desk Top Surveys)

#### 5.1.1 Site Location and general description.

Former School Kitchens, North Road, Boldon Colliery,  
NE35 9NH  
Grid Ref: NZ 34703 61365  
Lat & Long: 54.945737 -1.4597735

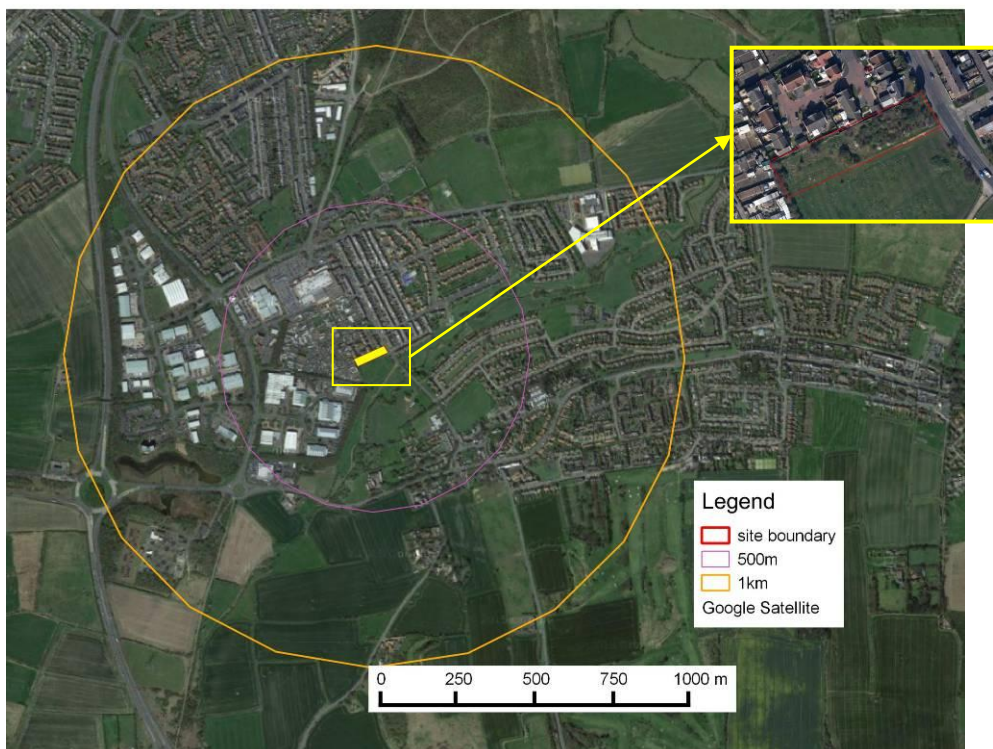


Figure 1 – Position of the survey area using QGIS and Google maps

The survey area is a parcel of land to the southern edge of Boldon Colliery a large village to the south of Jarrow and east of West Boldon.

The land is the northern section of a larger paddock, and the area that was previously kitchens associated with North Road Primary School, the main school land has already been developed around 2002.

The surrounding landscape is one predominantly urban, to the south is a green space area separating the Boldon's from Sunderland. To the west of the site are allotments, and industrial parks producing tree lined areas.

### 5.1.2 Designated Sites & Habitat.

The results are reported within the Phase 1 Habitat survey report dated March 2015.

### 5.1.3 Local Wildlife Group Information.

The Environmental Records Information Centre for the North East of England (ERIC NE) provided data for the area and is reported in the revised Phase 1 report.

Both otter and water vole are reported within the area. Otter spraints have been identified in 2007 on stones below the bridge on North Road.

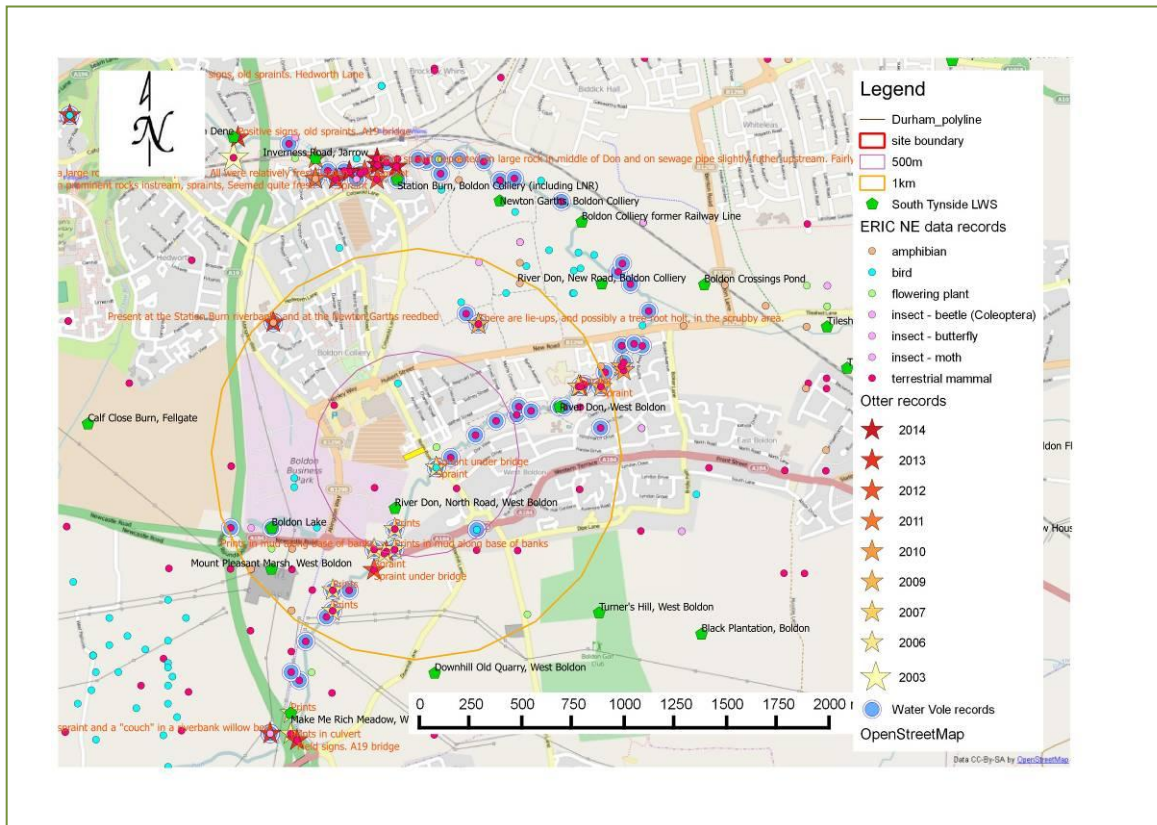


Figure 2 – Position of wildlife recordings in the site area  
South Tyneside Local Wildlife Sites, otter and water vole records and ERIC NE data plotted using QGIS and Google maps

## 5.2 Field Surveys

Both the otter and water vole surveys were carried out together. The site was visited once on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015, including a bank side walkover survey and a waterway survey.

### 5.2.1 Otter & Water vole survey

The transect covered 120m of the River Don directly below the survey area - section B. The 100m stretch of the stream to the west and east of the main section, section A and C. The River Don travels west to east 120m to the south of the survey area. The stream has a bank top height averaging 150cm, a water height of 40cm and width of 200cm. The stream has a natural vertical bank composed of a mixture of cobbles and clay. As it flows downstream, it has few eddies, flowing smooth with few ripples.

The bank side vegetation varied along the survey stretch. Section A has hawthorn and willow scrub overhanging the stream; section B is horse grazed land with vegetation including ragwort, nettles, docks and Himalayan balsam and section C passes through an amenity area of well mown land and bank side vegetation of predominantly nettles.

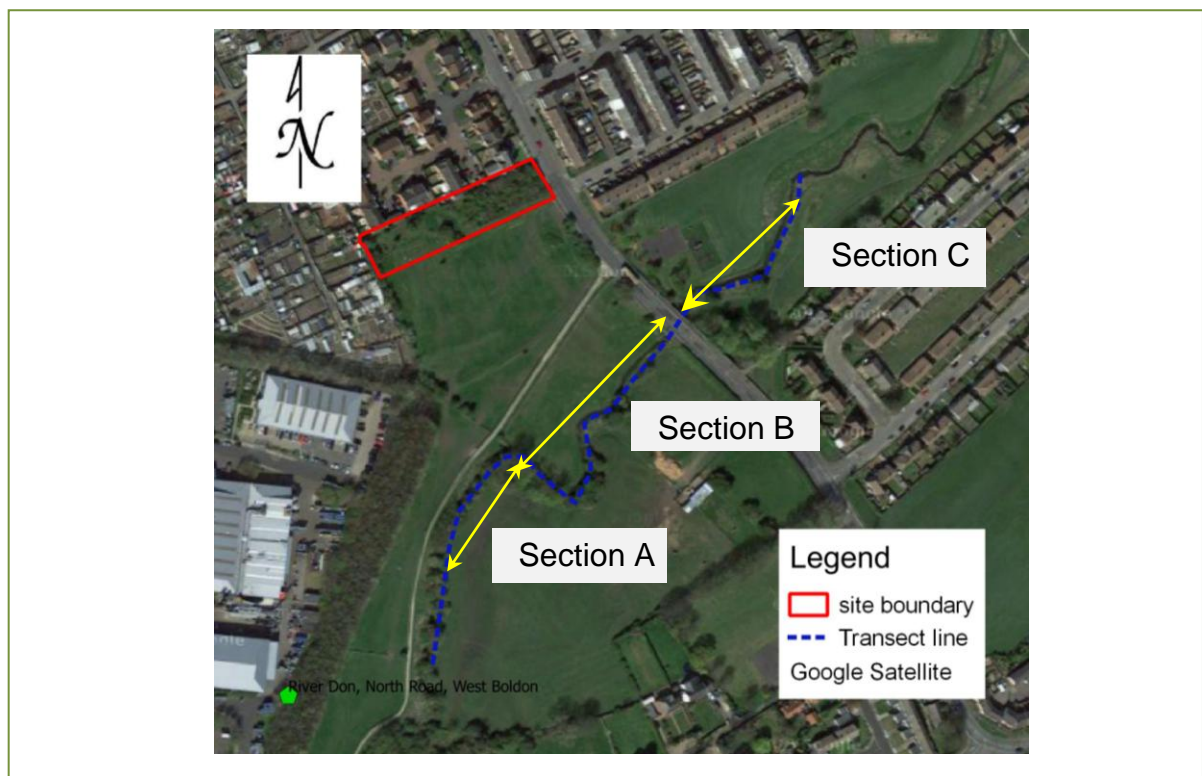


Figure 3 – River survey sections

Section A – the 100m section to the west of the site.



Figure 4 – section 'A' vegetation examples

Section A between the stream and the footpath is 'straggly' hawthorn scrub, to the south of the stream is a mixture of hawthorn and willow scrub.

A small water course and a land drain enter the River Don around the junction between section A and B.

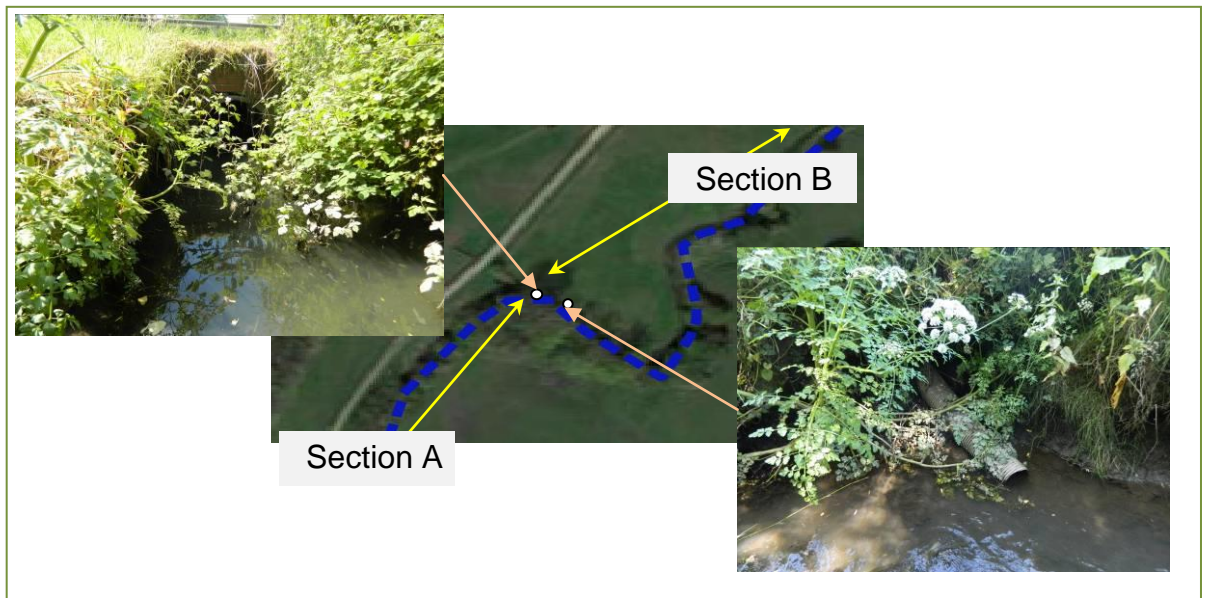


Figure 5 – Water courses entering main river channel

Section B – This is the section that the River Don passes 120m to the south - below the survey area. The stream passes a side stream and drain, and loops southwards around the grazing land.

The vegetation in this section is well grazed on the northern side of the stream with tall ruderal plants – nettles, docks, creeping buttercup and ragwort. The southern bank has denser vegetation – Himalayan balsam, Rosebay willow herb, Wood rush and flag iris



Figure 6 – Vegetation within Section 2

Section C – The River Don passes under North Road into an area of amenity grassland and play area. The grassland is well mown over much of the site with an unmown 2-3m strip either side of the waterway which dominated by thistles and nettles.



Figure 7 – River Don vegetation in section C



## 5.2.2 Field Signs

Whilst walking the transect field signs were noted to identify species present within the area.

### Section A

Two Moorhen nests were present on limbs across the stream and a moorhen flew from behind an embankment enforcement steel (see below), no eggs or young were present.

Burrow entrance holes were present within the bank sides within the scrub area adjacent to the footpath.



Figure 8 – Photographs showing nests and burrow holes present.

**Section B** – A Moorhen was seen to emerge from behind a bank re-enforcer. Sand banks and mud patches were investigated for prints, they only show signs of birds.



Figure 9 – Photographs of moorhen activity.

A hedgehog spraint was found on the northern side of section B in the field when walking down to the stream.

**Section C** – The aquatic life of the stream was more visible within this stretch with pools containing Stickleback and other small fish present.



Figure 10 – Water way in section C.

The bridge linking section B & C was investigated, stones sitting to the east and west of the bridge were also studied for spraints.



Figure 11 – bridge and stones suitable for spraint sites.

### 5.3 Site Assessment

During the walkover and water based surveys no evidence of either otter or water vole presence was noted.

**Otters** – there were no spraints, slides, holts, tracks or trails noted.

The depth of the stream in the area will limit the amount of otter activity. There is a 'hot spot' to the north of the transect, where otters are regularly confirmed as present also 'up-stream' of the site. The transect has the potential to be a connecting route between the other areas. It has limited habitat to become the heart of an otters territory.

**Water voles** – no latrines or 'grazing lawns'. There were burrow entrance holes present in section A, which could potentially be water vole but without additional evidence of latrines or lawns water vole should not be confirmed.

The area does contain habitat that has the potential to support water vole, positive signs have been identified within the 2km area, The River Don has been well surveyed and is considered to be a Water vole stronghold.

The transect is adjacent to areas accessible to the public both a public bridleway and play area.

The stream was clear with little in the way of 'human detritus' present and a population of small fish.

Our general assessment using the criteria of section 4.3 is that the site falls into category 2 and is of lower priority for conservation.

## 6. Conclusion & Recommendations

### Conclusion

- 6.1. The transect passes through areas with public access; the main waterway is protect by tall ruderal vegetation.
- 6.2. The main aim of the survey was to identify any use or potential use of the area by protected species, in particular otters and water vole, by searching from the water and along the bankside.
- 6.3. The River Don has a good population of otters and water vole within 2km of the potential development site, which are regularly monitored and recorded by variety of organisations.
- 6.4. During the survey, no definitive signs were identified for either species. A moorhen was observed and a hedgehog scat was present, burrow entrances were present but it was not possible to confirm they were those of a water vole.
- 6.5. The water way cuts through clay with banksides that are deep enough for burrow construction. There is sufficient vegetation for water voles, which will consume a wide range of plants.
- 6.6. There was limited potential for the stretch to become the heart of an otters territory but the surveyed transect could be used to link territories' or used for commuting purposes. Spraint has been identified previously under the North Road Bridge.
- 6.7. Both otters and water vole keep their activities to predominantly riparian based, they do not regularly use areas more than 10m from the river bank. The development is over 100m from the closest part of the river and direct linkage is prevented by the presence of two pig-netting fences.
- 6.8. Contamination of the waterway should be prevented both during the construction stage and as part of the final development.

### Recommendations

- 6.9. The River Don as it passes through the survey transect is under both horse grazed grassland and public access land, continued maintenance of these areas to restrict public access into the waterway will aid both otters and water vole.
- 6.10. No further survey work is considered necessary at present, if building work is not completed with two years repeat surveys will be necessary.
- 6.11. If at any point during the operations any BAP species, are found; work must cease and the project ecologist notified to provide further advice,

For and on behalf of  
AllAboutTrees Ltd

Tricia Snaith BSc BA PGCE PGCert EST MIFL GCIEEM

Andrew Watson FLS MICFor CBiol MSB FArborA CEnv LCGI

## 7. Appendices

### References

- ~ The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- ~ The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010
- ~ National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – March 28<sup>th</sup> 2012.
- ~ Otters and Development - Scottish Wildlife series - <http://www.snh.org.uk/publications/on-line/wildlife/otters/effects.asp>
- ~ Harris, S. & Yalden, D.W. (2008 4th Edn.). Mammals of the British Isles — Handbook. Mammal Society, Southampton, UK.
- ~ Natural England (2007). Otter: European protected species. Natural England, Peterborough, UK.
- ~ Natural England (2008). Water vole – the law in practice: guidance for planners and developers. Natural England, Peterborough, UK.
- ~ Strachan, R. & Moorhouse, T. (2006). Water Vole Conservation Handbook (2nd Edition). WildCru Publishing, Oxford, UK.

### Legal Status of Protected Species - background

#### 7.2.1 The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 is the primary legislation which protects animals, plants, and certain habitats in the UK. This act was amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, which covers England and Wales but not Scotland. Wild birds and certain other wild animals are legally protected.

- Schedule 5 in the Wildlife and Countryside Act lists the animals other than birds that qualify for protection.

With certain exceptions and exemptions, it is an offence (without a licence):

- intentionally to take animals listed on Schedule 5 from the wild
- intentionally to kill or injure these wild animals
- to possess any of these wild animals (live or dead) or any part or derivative of them
- intentionally or (in England and Wales) recklessly to damage, destroy or obstruct the places these animals use for shelter and protection
- intentionally or (in England and Wales) recklessly to disturb these animals when they are using such places
- to trade in any of these wild animals (live or dead) or any part of them.

## 7.2.2 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010

Paragraph 41.—(1) A person commits an offence if they deliberately capture, injure or kill any wild animal of a European protected species; or deliberately disturbs wild animals of any such species impairing the ability of any significant group of animals of that species to survive, breed, or rear or nurture their young; or in the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.

Paragraph 40. The species of animals listed in Annex IV(a) to the Habitats Directive whose natural range includes any area in Great Britain are listed in Schedule 2.

## 7.2.3 European Protected Species of Animals

Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 (as amended)

Common name	Scientific name
Bats, Horseshoe (all species)	<i>Rhinolophidae</i>
Bats, Typical (all species)	<i>Vespertilionidae</i>
Butterfly, Large Blue	<i>Maculinea arion</i>
Cat, Wild	<i>Felis silvestris</i>
Dolphins, porpoises and whales (all species)	<i>Cetacea</i>
Dormouse	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>
Frog, Pool*	<i>Rana lessonae</i>
Lizard, Sand	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>
Moth, Fisher's Estuarine*	<i>Gortyna borelii lunata</i>
Newt, Great Crested (or Warty)	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>
Otter, Common	<i>Lutra lutra</i>
Snail, Lesser Whirlpool Ram's-horn*	<i>Anisus vorticulus</i>
Snake, Smooth	<i>Coronella austriaca</i>
Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser sturio</i>
Toad, Natterjack	<i>Bufo calamita</i>
Turtles, Marine	<i>Caretta caretta, Chelonia mydas, Lepidochelys kempii, Eretmochelys imbricate, Dermochelys coriacea</i>

\*These species were added to Schedule 2 (European protected species of animals) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 on 1st October 2008 via Statutory Instrument 2008 No.2172 The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2008

## 7.2.4 European Protected Species of Plants

Schedule 5

Regulation 44(1)

Common name	Scientific name
Dock, Shore	Rumex rupestris
Fern, Killarney	Trichomanes speciosum
Gentian, Early	Gentianella anglica
Lady's-slipper	Cypripedium calceolus
Marshwort, Creeping	Apium repens
Naiad, slender	Najas flexilis
Orchid, Fen	Liparis loeselii
Plantain, Floating-leaved water	Luronium natans
Saxifrage, Yellow Marsh	Saxifraga hirculus

NOTE. The common name or names given in the first column of this Schedule are included by way of guidance only; in the event of any dispute or proceedings, the common name or names shall not be taken into account.

## 7.2.5 UK & Local Biodiversity Action Plan

At the first 'Earth Summit' held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, governments acknowledged that the planet's biodiversity was being severely depleted. Over 150 world leaders signed the Convention on Biological Diversity. In doing so, they agreed to play a part in restoring the richness of the Earth's biodiversity.

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was published in 1994 in response to Article 6 of the Biodiversity Convention, to develop national strategies for the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources. The current list of UKBAP priority species (and habitats) was published in August 2007 and now contains 1150 species: Birds, Fish, Fungi (including lichens), Herptiles, Marine-only species, Non-vascular plants, Terrestrial Invertebrates, Terrestrial Mammals and Vascular plants and 65 habitats.

Now the four Country Groups (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) take responsibility for overseeing implementation of the individual action plans, raising public awareness, encouraging implementation at the local level and promoting environmental education.

The England Biodiversity Group, which involves stakeholders from public, private and the voluntary sector, advises the Government on the implementation of the UKBAP in England.



In particular, it oversees development and delivery of the Biodiversity Strategy for England as set out in 'Working with the grain of nature'.

The Group is chaired by Defra who provide its secretariat through the Biodiversity Policy Unit.

The North East Biodiversity Forum was founded in 2000 and is a partnership of over 25 different organisations covering Northumberland, County Durham, Tees Valley and Tyne and Wear. The Forum members share a common interest in conserving and improving the biodiversity of the region.

Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) identify local priorities for biodiversity conservation and work to deliver agreed actions and targets for specific habitats and species. LBAPs are delivered through wide local partnerships that involve wildlife organisations, local authorities, businesses and other interested parties.

### 7.2.6 Key Principles Of Planning

On 28th March 2012 the UK government published the final version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), this sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how they should be applied. (NPPF is available to download on line)

Planning should enhance the natural environment and where possible providing net gains for biodiversity, Local Plans should "*plan positively for development*" (Para 157), with a "*presumption in favour of sustainable development, which should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking*" (Para 14). "*decision-takers at every level should seek to approve applications for sustainable development where possible*" (Para 187) and "*in assessing and determining development proposals, local planning authorities should apply the presumption in favour of sustainable development*" (Para 197).

"encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value" ( Para 17).

"development proposals where the primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be permitted" and "opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged" ( Para 118).

Also, the "presumption in favour of sustainable development (paragraph 14) does not apply where development requiring appropriate assessment under the Birds or Habitats Directives is being considered, planned or determined" ( Para 119).

Economic, social and environmental roles of sustainable development being mutually dependent on each other and therefore should not be viewed in isolation (Para 8).

### 7.3 Site Assessment

See the Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment produced by the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM) used in sites assessed as 1 or 2 in 4.3.

Level of Value	Examples
International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An internationally designated site or candidate site.</li> <li>• A viable area of a habitat type listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive, or smaller areas of such habitat, which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole.</li> <li>• Any regularly occurring population of an internationally important species, which is threatened or rare in the UK.</li> <li>• Any regularly occurring, nationally significant population/number of any internationally important species.</li> </ul>
National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A nationally designated site.</li> <li>• A viable area of a priority habitat identified in the UK BAP, or smaller areas of such habitat, which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole.</li> <li>• Any regularly occurring population of a nationally important species, which is threatened or rare in the region or county.</li> <li>• A regularly occurring regionally or county significant population/number of any nationally important species.</li> <li>• A feature identified as of critical importance in the UK BAP.</li> </ul>
Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Viable areas of key habitat identified in the Regional BAP or smaller areas of such habitat, which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole.</li> <li>• A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a regionally important species.</li> </ul>
County/ Metropolitan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County/Metropolitan designated sites.</li> <li>• A viable area of a habitat type identified in the County BAP.</li> <li>• Any regularly occurring, locally significant population of a species which is listed in</li> <li>• A County/Metropolitan "red data book" or BAP on account of its regional rarity or localisation.</li> <li>• A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a species important in a County/Metropolitan context.</li> </ul>
District/ Borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas of habitat identified in a District/Borough level BAP.</li> <li>• Sites designated at a District/Borough level.</li> <li>• Sites/features that are scarce within the District/Borough or which appreciably enrich the District/Borough habitat resource.</li> <li>• A population of a species that is listed in a District/Borough BAP because of its rarity in the locality.</li> </ul>
Parish/ Neighbourhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area of habitat considered to appreciably enrich the habitat resource within the context of the Parish or neighbourhood.</li> <li>• Local Nature Reserves.</li> </ul>
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitats of poor to moderate diversity such as established conifer plantations, species poor hedgerows and unintensively managed grassland that may support a range of Local BAP species but which are unexceptional, common to the local area and whose loss can generally be readily mitigated.</li> </ul>

## 7.4 Raw Data

Complete records of the raw data from the surveys can be provided on request.

Condensed records

48 records for European otter – *Lutra lutra*

Records have been obtained by surveys run by The Highways Agency, Durham Wildlife Trust, Northumbria mammal group and South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council alongside casual records.

Determination Type	Comments	Location Name	Date
Considered Correct	Spraint under bridge	River Don, A184 bridge	September 2006
Considered Correct	Prints in culvert	River Don, A19 junction - Downhill Lane	September 2006
Considered Correct	Prints	River Don, Hylton Grove Farm	September 2006
Considered Correct	Spraint	River Don, Hylton Grove Farm	September 2006
Considered Correct	Prints in mud along base of banks	River Don, north of A184	September 2006
Considered Correct	Spraint	River Don, Culvert at Station Road	10/09/2012
Unconfirmed	There are lie-ups, and possibly a tree-root holt, in the scrubby area.	01/06/2013 - 31/08/2013	
Unconfirmed	Fresh spraint found and photographed	Station Burn/River Don	05/05/2013
Unconfirmed		River Don/Station Burn, Downstream of footbridge	26/04/2014
Unconfirmed		River Don, Hedworth Lane	27/04/2014
Unconfirmed	Both on same rock instream, spraints, Seemed quite fresh	Station Burn LNR, Baldon Colliery	18/04/2011
Unconfirmed	Spraint	River Don at West Baldon	01/10/2009
Considered Correct	Spraint	River Don, Baldon Bridge	01/05/2012
Considered Correct	Spraint	River Don, Backwater	24/03/2012
Considered Correct			01/10/2009
Considered Correct			05/10/2009
Considered Correct		South Tyneside	13/10/2009
Considered Correct	Prints	River Don, north of A184	September 2006
Unconfirmed	Garden	Baldon Colliery	27/02/2010

Determination Type	Comments	Location Name	Date
Considered Correct	Spraint under bridge	River Don, A184 bridge	September 2006
Considered Correct	Prints in culvert	River Don, A19 junction - Downhill Lane	September 2006
Considered Correct	Prints	River Don, Hylton Grove Farm	September 2006
Considered Correct	Spraint	River Don, Hylton Grove Farm	September 2006
Considered Correct	Prints in mud along base of banks	River Don, north of A184	September 2006
Considered Correct	Spraint	River Don, Culvert at Station Road	10/09/2012
Considered Correct		Boldon Bridge	01/05/2012
Considered Correct	Lots of spraint on boulder in middle of stream	River Don, Boldon Colliery	21/11/2012
Considered Correct		River Don, West Boldon	24/04/2012
Unconfirmed	Positive signs, old spraints. Hedworth Lane	River Don	April 2013
Considered Correct		Boldon Colliery	2009
Unconfirmed	2 x were in separate locations by slides on the riverbank on grass. One on a large rock in the river., spraints, All were relatively fresh	Station Burn LNR, Boldon Colliery	14/03/2011
Unconfirmed		Station Burn, Boldon Colliery	13/04/2012
Unconfirmed	Spraint	Jarrow	05/05/2013
Unconfirmed	Spraint on rock by river - photo supplied by member of public	Boldon Colliery	28/07/2014
Unconfirmed	Spraint, Photos provided	Boldon Colliery, Station Burn, Boldon Colliery	24/10/2014
Considered Correct	Spraint under bridge	River Don, North Road bridge	September 2006
Considered Correct	Prints	River Don, west of A19	September 2006
Considered Correct	Prints	River Don, west of substation	September 2006
Considered Correct	Prints	River Don, west of substation	September 2006
Considered Correct	Prints in mud along base of banks	River Don, north of A184	September 2006
Correct		Boldon	13/07/2010
Considered Correct		Hedworth	2003
Considered Correct		Boldon Bridge	30/10/2006
Considered Correct		River Don near Boldon	16/02/2007
Unconfirmed	Positive signs, old	River Don	April 2013

Determination Type	Comments	Location Name	Date
Considered Correct	Spraint under bridge	River Don, A184 bridge	September 2006
Considered Correct	Prints in culvert	River Don, A19 junction - Downhill Lane	September 2006
Considered Correct	Prints	River Don, Hylton Grove Farm	September 2006
Considered Correct	Spraint	River Don, Hylton Grove Farm	September 2006
Considered Correct	Prints in mud along base of banks	River Don, north of A184	September 2006
Considered Correct	Spraint	River Don, Culvert at Station Road	10/09/2012
	spraints. A19 bridge		
Unconfirmed	Field signs. A19 bridge	River Don	April 2013
Unconfirmed	Spraint	River Don at Boldon Colliery	12/10/2009
Unconfirmed	On rock by River Don just as it flows into railway underpass, spraints, Spraints all seemed relatively fresh	Station Burn LNR, Boldon Colliery	06/01/2011
Unconfirmed	By entrance to railway underpass on prominent rocks instream, spraints, Seemed quite fresh	Station Burn LNR, Boldon Colliery	18/04/2011
Unconfirmed	Otter spraint deposited on large rock in middle of Don and on sewage pipe slightly further upstream. Fairly fresh.	River Don, Boldon Colliery	08/02/2014
Unconfirmed	Present at the Station Burn riverbanks and at the Newton Garths reedbed	01/06/2013 - 31/08/2013	
Unconfirmed			01/06/2013 - 31/08/2013
Unconfirmed	Otter spraint and a "couch" in a riverbank willow bed	01/06/2013 - 31/08/2013	

### 109 Water vole *Arvicola amphibious* records

Determination Type	Comments	Location Name	Date
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, Hedworth	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, Mount Pleasant	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, Mount Pleasant	2007

Determination Type	Comments	Location Name	Date
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, Hedworth	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, Boldon	2007
Confirmation	Ditch	Colliery Wood, Boldon Colliery	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, West Boldon	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, Newton Garth	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, West Boldon	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, Newton Garth	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, West Boldon	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, Hylton Bridge	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, Hylton Bridge	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, Hylton Bridge	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, Mount Pleasant	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, Hedworth	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, Mount Pleasant	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, Hedworth	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, Hedworth	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, Hedworth	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, West Boldon	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, West Boldon	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, West Boldon	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, West Boldon	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, Boldon	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, Newton Garth	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, Boldon	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, Boldon	2007
Confirmation	Stream	River Don, Boldon	2007
Confirmation		New Town River Don	24/08/1999
Confirmation		Boldon Colliery River Don	15/09/1999
Confirmation	River Don	Boldon Colliery River Don	13/06/2000
Confirmation	River Don	Boldon Colliery River Don	19/06/2000
Confirmation	River Don	Boldon Colliery River Don	27/06/2000
Confirmation	River Don	West Boldon River Don	30/06/2000
Confirmation	River Don	West Boldon River Don	30/06/2000
Confirmation	River Don	West Boldon River Don	12/07/2000
Confirmation	River Don	Dismantled Railway River Don	28/07/2000

Determination Type	Comments	Location Name	Date
Confirmation	River Don - Hylton Grove Farm	NZ35NW River Don - Hylton Grove Farm	01/07/2001
Confirmation		West Boldon River Don	04/06/2003
Confirmation		West Boldon River Don	04/06/2003
Confirmation		River Don Boldon	09/06/2004
Confirmation		River Don nth of Nissan	01/08/2004
Confirmation		Don Hylton Bridge	19/05/2005
Confirmation		Don Station Burn	07/06/2005
Confirmation		Don School	07/06/2005
Considered Correct	Burrows, latrines and feeding stations present on river	River Don, Hylton Grove Farm	September 2006
Considered Correct	Burrows, latrines and feeding stations present on river	River Don, north of A184	September 2006
Considered Correct	Burrows, latrines and feeding stations present on river	River Don, west of A19	September 2006
Considered Correct	Burrows, latrines and feeding stations present on river	River Don, west of A19	September 2006
Considered Correct	Burrows, latrines and feeding stations present on river	River Don, west of A19	September 2006
Considered Correct	Burrows, latrines and feeding stations present on river	River Don, north of A184	September 2006
Considered Correct	Burrows and latrines present on river	River Don, north of A184	September 2006
Considered Correct	Latrines present on pond	Boldon Lake	September 2006
Confirmation	River Don	River Don South Tyneside	27/12/2006
Confirmation		River Don	16/02/2007
Confirmation		River Don	16/02/2007
Confirmation	Station Burn	Station Burn, South Tyneside	03/03/2007
Confirmation		River Don (PROW to Hylton Bridge Farm)	28/08/2008
Confirmation		River Don (PROW to Hylton Bridge Farm)	28/08/2008
Confirmation		Boldon	06/08/2009
Confirmation		Boldon	06/08/2009
Considered Correct	Latrine found, not sighting	River Don, Boldon Colliery	06/08/2009
Considered Correct	Station Burn, west of Newton Garth, sightings	South Shields	10/04/2010

Determination Type	Comments	Location Name	Date
	and burrows		
Unconfirmed	Alive, along north-east bank of burn directly west of Newton Garths. Many burrows seen.	Station Burn South Shields	10/04/2010
Considered Correct	Alive. Sighting and droppings	Boldon	13/07/2010
Considered Correct	Alive. Sighting and droppings	River Don	13/07/2010
Unconfirmed	On rock at river edge, Latrine	Station Burn LNR, Boldon Colliery	18/04/2011
Considered Correct	Latrines, river bank	River Don, East Boldon	21/05/2011
Unconfirmed	Droppings, burrows.	River Don, Boldon	21/05/2011
Considered Correct	Latrine sites and burrows, several fresh latrine sites and feeding remains.	Shadforth Play Area, Shadforth, Durham	07/06/2011
Unconfirmed	Near footbridge.	Reay Crescent, Boldon Colliery	04/07/2011
Unconfirmed	video footage of feeding acquired	River Don, West Boldon	23/02/2012
Unconfirmed	seen swimming into bank during high flow	River Don, West Boldon	20/04/2012
Unconfirmed	Footprint	River Don, West Boldon	24/04/2012
Unconfirmed	Swam across river into East bankside	Near Station Burn, Brockley Whins	08/05/2012
Unconfirmed	Adult female	River Don, West Boldon	11/09/2012
Unconfirmed	Seen feeding on Northern Bank side	River Don, Station Burn	10/04/2013
Unconfirmed	Seen swimming under bridge in high flows	Station Burn LNR, Boldon	07/09/2013
Unconfirmed	Water vole latrine deposited within entrance to burrow. Will have been fresh that day due to high water levels over night.	River Don, Boldon Colliery	08/02/2014
Unconfirmed	Photos provided	Boldon Colliery, Station Burn, Boldon Colliery	10/10/2014
Unconfirmed	Water Voles present in low numbers along riverbanks.	River Don at Newton Garths Farm	01/06/2013 - 31/08/2013
Unconfirmed	Water Voles present in medium numbers along riverbanks and in reedbeds.	River Don at Pontop Crossing	01/06/2013 - 31/08/2013
Unconfirmed	Water Voles thinly	River Don at Hedworth	01/06/2013 -



Determination Type	Comments	Location Name	Date
	present		31/08/2013
Unconfirmed	Water Voles present in large numbers along riverbanks.	River Don at Reay Crescent	01/06/2013 - 31/08/2013
Unconfirmed	Water Voles present in large numbers along riverbanks and in reedbeds.	River Don at Primrose	01/06/2013 - 31/08/2013
Unconfirmed	Water Voles present in low numbers along riverbanks.	River Don at Mount Pleasant	01/06/2013 - 31/08/2013
Unconfirmed	Water Voles present in medium numbers along riverbanks.	River Don at North Road	01/06/2013 - 31/08/2013
Unconfirmed	Water voles sparse on one ditch, absent from the pond.	Colliery Wood	01/06/2013 - 31/08/2013
Unconfirmed	Water Voles present in small numbers along riverbanks and in Inverness Road sedge bed.	River Don at Inverness Road	01/06/2013 - 31/08/2013
Unconfirmed	Water Voles present in high numbers along riverbanks and in reedbeds.	River Don at Station Burn	01/06/2013 - 31/08/2013
Unconfirmed	Water Voles present in large numbers along riverbanks.	River Don at West Boldon	01/06/2013 - 31/08/2013
Unconfirmed	Water Voles scarce (east of A19) and absent (west of A19).	River Don at A19	01/06/2013 - 31/08/2013
Unconfirmed	Water Voles present in medium numbers along riverbanks.	River Don at Downhill	01/06/2013 - 31/08/2013
Unconfirmed	Present	River Don at Hedworth	June 2007 - September 2007
Unconfirmed	Present	River Don at Hedworth Dene	June 2007 - September 2007
Unconfirmed	Present	River Don at Primrose	June 2007 - September 2007
Unconfirmed	Present	River Don at West Boldon	June 2007 - September 2007
Unconfirmed	Present	River Don at Newton Garths Farm	June 2007 - September 2007
Unconfirmed	Present	River Don at Pontop Crossing	June 2007 - September 2007

<b>Determination Type</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Location Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
Unconfirmed	Present	River Don at A19	June 2007 - September 2007
Unconfirmed	Present	River Don at Downhill	June 2007 - September 2007
Unconfirmed	Present	River Don at Mount Pleasant	June 2007 - September 2007
Unconfirmed	Present	Colliery Wood	June 2007 - September 2007
Unconfirmed	Present	River Don at Inverness Road	June 2007 - September 2007
Unconfirmed	Present	River Don at Station Burn	June 2007 - September 2007
Unconfirmed	Present	River Don at North Road	June 2007 - September 2007
Unconfirmed	Present	River Don at Reay Crescent	June 2007 - September 2007
Unconfirmed	Present	Mount Pleasant Marsh	June 2007 - September 2007



# AllAboutTrees

Arboricultural & Ecological Consultancy  
Chartered Arboriculturalists & Environmentalists

Unit B10 Durham Dales Centre  
Castle Gardens  
Stanhope  
Co Durham  
DL13 2FJ

Telephone 0191 3739494 / 01388 529200

Email – [info@allabouttrees.co.uk](mailto:info@allabouttrees.co.uk)  
[www.allabouttrees.co.uk](http://www.allabouttrees.co.uk)

Registered in England & Wales No. 5301671  
Registered Office: Unit B10 Durham Dales Centre, Castle Gardens, Stanhope,  
Co Durham DL13 2FJ