

**ADDITIONAL WINTER
WATERFOWL ASSESSMENT**

**LAND AT MANOR FARM,
DENVILLES,
HAMPSHIRE**

MARCH 2013

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Aluco Ecology Ltd was commissioned to carry out detailed ecological survey work of land at Manor Farm and Copsey's Nurseries, Denvilles by Barratt David Wilson Homes (Southampton) Ltd and the Generator Group. This work was undertaken during 2011.
- 1.1.2 As a part of this work Havant Borough Council highlighted the recent revised Brent Goose Strategy for the Solent (HWT, 2010). In this strategy assessment is made of all coastal grasslands and open space, including farmland and inland areas up to 2km from the coast (based on location or habitat). As a part of the general assessment, the large arable field that forms a small part of the proposed development site and continues further east of this proposed site was included. Access to this land was not undertaken during the survey, and a desktop assessment concluded that the land is of uncertain potential for waders. This appears to have been a blanket designation of all the arable farmland to the east of the site.
- 1.1.3 Aluco Ecology undertook winter waterfowl survey work of the arable farmland to the east of the proposed development site in 2011/12 winter, which was reported in two ecological assessments (Aluco Ecology 2012, and 2012a). Additional winter waterfowl survey work has been undertaken in winter 2012/13 and the results are reported below.

1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The land consists of a farm with farm house, yards, arable land, horticultural glasshouses and a modern detached house to the east of the village of Denvilles, Hampshire. To the east of this is a large arable field that is used as a commercial market garden area with a variety of crops grown. Further east and north is additional intensive arable farmland. Its location is shown at **Figure 1** below.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Habitat Assessment

- 3.1.1 The majority of the proposed development site at Manor Farm and Copsey's Nurseries contains no habitats suitable for regular use by waterfowl (wildfowl and waders). It comprises farm buildings, formal gardens, a farmyard and horticultural glass houses.
- 3.1.2 The wider arable field is a large and open arable landscape, currently intensively farmed, but as a market garden with a diverse mix of crops. The use of the land as arable mostly provides limited opportunity for waterfowl (see **Photo 1**). This combined with the distance from the coast provides a low potential for use of the site by waterfowl. A small agricultural pond is present on the eastern boundary of the main survey area. However given the size of this pond (see **Photo 2**) it is considered to be of negligible value to wintering waterfowl.



Photo 1: Wider Arable land looking towards main proposed development site (around the distant trees)



Photo 2: Agricultural Pond on Site

3.2 Results of Winter Visits

- 3.2.1 The survey comprised nine visits carried out between early February and the end of March 2013. Details of timing and results are presented at **Table 1** below.
- 3.2.2 There were no records of Brent Geese *Brenta bernacula* agg. waders or any other waterfowl recorded from the survey area.
- 3.2.3 As the winter 2011/12 survey, the wider farmland supported a reasonably diverse mixture of farmland passerine birds (see Aluco Ecology 2012a for a full list), which mainly fed on the barer, previously harvested areas or underneath the old crops in the Market Garden fields rather than wider intensive cropped fields.

Table 1: Results of Winter Waterfowl Survey

Date	Time	Weather	Tidal state during survey towards high tide	Waterfowl Recorded
6 Feb 2013	13:10	Overcast, very light occasional rain; wind strong N, gusting F6; cold 6C.	Full low tide, LW 13:08, 1.6m).	Negative
9 Feb 2013	10:15	Grey day with occasional light drizzle, 3C.	High tide at 10:20 (4.68M)	Negative
16 Feb 2013	15:53	Cloudy with sunny intervals, 10C.	High tide at 15:27 (4.2M)	Negative
22 Feb 2013	10:15	Grey day, very cold, 2C.	High tide at 09:10 (3.93M)	Negative
28 Feb 2013	14:15	Grey day with temperatures reaching 5C.	High tide at 12:50 (4.6M).	Negative
6 Mar 2013	11:00	dry sunny cold 4c but early frost	Tidal state during survey towards high tide	Negative
8 Mar 2013	10:10	Drizzle to start, more persistent rain later. 10C. Very little wind.	High water at 08:30 (4.16M).	Negative
15 Mar 2013	14:20	Rain at start, eased and dried out. Very grey, strong SW wind and cold, 4C.	High water at 13:34 (4.5M)	Negative
20 Mar 2013	09:30	Grey, cold with a light east wind, 3C	Falling tide, High water was at 04:38 (3.7M)	Negative

4.0 ASSESSMENT & CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The proposed development area within Manor Farm and Copsey's Nurseries is considered to be of negligible value to waterfowl (wildfowl & waders) and contains no suitable foraging or loafing habitat.
- 4.2 The wider farmland contains large open fields, including the main survey area adjacent to the proposed development area (but incorporating the western most extent of the field). The land, whilst open is of substantial distance from the coast, far enough to be of lower value to waterfowl using the coast. This combined with the long term use of the field for market garden arable farming provides only very low quality habitat for use by waterfowl. The results of seven visits to the site during winter 2011/12 and now updated in 2012/13 winter show this to be the case, with no records of waterfowl during High tide or different tide states and weather conditions.

5.0 REFERENCES

Aluco Ecology (2012) Ecological Assessment, Land at Manor Farm & Copsey's Nurseries, Denvilles, Havant

Aluco Ecology (2012a) Waterfowl Assessment Land at Manor Farm, Denvilles, Hampshire

Eaton MA, Brown AF, Noble DG, Musgrove AJ, Hearn R, Aebischer NJ, Gibbons DW, Evans A and Gregory RD (2009) Birds of Conservation Concern 3: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. British Birds 102, pp296–341

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HWT) (2010) Solent Waders & Brent Goose Strategy