



Roxhill (Junction 15) Ltd

**Northampton Gateway, Northampton**

**WHITE-CLAWEE CRAYFISH SURVEY REPORT**

May 2018

**FPCR Environment and Design Ltd**

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This has been produced by FPCR Environment & Design Ltd on behalf of Roxhill (Junction 15) Ltd and provides details of white-clawed crayfish undertaken during 2016 at land to the west of junction 15 of the M1, Northamptonshire (referred to herein as 'the site').
- 1.2 The report has been produced to accompany an Environmental Statement of the development proposals and should be read in conjunction with that document.

### Site location and context

- 1.3 The 'Main Site' area is bound to the north by Collingtree Road, to the east by the M1, to the south by the A508 / Northampton Road and to the west by arable fields. The site itself comprises arable fields bisected by hedgerows of varying ages and structures, with areas of woodland, tree belts, grassland, ponds, wet ditches and several abandoned buildings (central grid reference SP 748 547).
- 1.4 The Bypass Corridor encompasses the majority of the 'Highway Mitigation Works'. This area is bound to the north by arable fields and woodland, to the east by Roade and to the south and west by a mix of arable and grazed field compartments. The site itself comprises areas of grassland, a mix of arable and grazed fields bound by hedgerows and standard trees, with scrub, grassland, running water, dry ditches. The surrounding landscape consists of arable farmland with woodland blocks, pasture and scattered urban areas.
- 1.5 Additional sections encompassed by the Highway Mitigation Works are located to the north and south of the main site and Roade Bypass.
- 1.6 Suitable habitat for white clawed crayfish was confined to the Bypass corridor and adjacent habitats, specifically Pond P18 to the north of the bypass corridor as indicated below:

### Development Proposals

- 1.7 The proposals for development of this site comprises:
- An intermodal freight terminal including container storage and HGV parking, rail sidings to serve individual warehouses, and the provision of an aggregates facility as part of the intermodal freight terminal, with the capability to also provide a 'rapid rail freight' facility;
  - Up to 468,000 sq m (approximately 5 million sq ft) (gross internal area) of warehousing and ancillary buildings, with additional floorspace provided in the form of mezzanines;
  - A secure, dedicated, HGV parking area of approximately 120 spaces including driver welfare facilities to meet the needs of HGVs visiting the site or intermodal terminal;
  - New road infrastructure and works to the existing road network, including the provision of a new access and associated works to the A508, a new bypass to the village of Roade, improvements to Junction 15 and to J15A of the M1 motorway, the A45, other highway improvements at junctions on the local highway network and related traffic management measures;
  - Strategic landscaping and tree planting, including diverted public rights of way;
  - Earthworks and demolition of existing structures on the SRFI site.

- 1.8 This report details the results of otter and water vole surveys first carried out in 2014 and again, subsequently, on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017. The results of presence/absence surveys are presented and appropriate mitigation measures recommended to ensure that the local conservation status of these species is maintained following development.

### **Legislation and Policy**

- 1.9 White-clawed crayfish are fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (*as amended*) due to the protection afforded to their places of shelter and protection. They are afforded protection under Section 9 parts 4(a) and 4(b). This makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take these species
- Possess or control live or dead species or derivatives
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb these species whilst occupying a structure or place used for that purpose
- Sell these species or offer or expose for sale or transport for sale
- Publish or cause to be published any advertisement which conveys the buying or selling of these species

- 1.10 White-clawed crayfish is listed as a species of principal importance under the provisions of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

## **2.0 METHODOLOGY**

### **Desktop Study**

- 2.1 In order to compile existing baseline information, relevant ecological information was requested from the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre (NBRC).

### **Field Survey**

- 2.2 The survey was carried out by a licensed ecologist (Natural England Licence No. 2016-21651-CLS-CLS) on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016 using the methodology outlined in Monitoring the White-clawed Crayfish, Peay (2003). Survey methods comprise:

- Manually searching under suitably large cobbles, boulders and woody debris on the stream bed;

- 2.3 Sweep netting under overhanging banks and in submerged vegetation.

- 2.4 Smith et al. (1996) identified the key bankside habitat features that determine success of white-clawed crayfish populations (aside from water chemistry) as being:

- Presence of vertical banks;
- Canopy overhanging the channel over 0.5m from the water surface;

- Tree roots projecting into the water.
- 2.5 The survey comprised a manual search of suitable refugia in 5 patches measuring approximately 10 - 15m in length roughly 100m apart.
- 2.6 In addition to the above a total of twenty baited crayfish traps were set over night within a single pond P18 (refer to Chapter 5: Figure 5.2a) under licence form the EA.
- 2.7 Survey areas are indicated in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1: Survey areas (indicated by red arrows)

### **3.0 RESULTS**

#### **Desktop Study**

- 3.1 No records of white-clawed crayfish exist for the area.

#### **Field Survey**

##### Stream RW2

- 3.2 A small stream (RW2) flowed adjacent to the proposed Roade bypass in the south-east and represents a tributary of the River Tove.
- 3.3 The stream was culverted under farm tracks, the dismantled railway and where it passed under the A508. The depth of water within the watercourse was approximately 5-20cm and supported a slow flow. The channel bed was firm, comprising stone and shingle with silt deposits. The banks to 0.5m high and margins were well vegetated with frequent over shading scrub and tall herb vegetation.
- 3.4 No evidence of White-clawed crayfish was observed throughout the survey area.

##### Pond P18

- 3.5 Pond P18 comprised a large waterbody approximately 150m x 15m with limited shade and aquatic vegetation. A total of 20 traps were placed evenly around the waterbody due to the turbid and deep nature of the water body that precluded effected hand searching.
- 3.6 No evidence of white-clawed crayfish was observed throughout the survey.