

ECOLOGY COMMENTS

Land Adjacent to Ensleigh MoD to the north

From a brief walkover of part of the land adjacent to Ensleigh MoD and review of desk study information, constraints, opportunities and further work for the area in relation to ecology appear broadly similar for those highlighted for the Ensleigh MoD Site. The text below notes any particular differences in the relation to the adjacent site.

Kingswood School Playing Field SNCI (designated for unimproved calcareous grassland) is partially within the adjacent area. The area is a heavily managed playing field, appeared to have limited botanical interest and was mapped as Improved Grassland in the South Gloucestershire Phase I Habitat Survey 2008. Planning policy states that SNCIs should not only be retained but strengthened. NPA recommend that area would need to be surveyed at an appropriate time of year to determine its botanical interest.

Along it's boundaries this area contained habitat of greater potential for reptile species (including stone walls, fallen logs and areas of tall ruderal habitat). As such it is recommended that a reptile survey of the site is undertaken to inform proposals. Given the unsuitability of much of the playing field area for reptiles it is likely, with appropriate ecological input, that any future proposals could accommodate/enhance the reptile population.

As only the part of the site accessible from the public footpath was walked, an Extended Phase I survey of the entire area should be undertaken. This would indentify habitats and the potential for protected species (e.g. Badger setts or trees with potential for roosting bats) across the entire site.