

Ecological Assessments

Environmental Statements (Biodiversity)

Species Surveys

Phase I Habitat Survey

National Vegetation Classification

Planning Guidance

Habitat Regulation Assessment

Protected Species Licensing

42020 CEMP: Biodiversity

BREEAM LE01 - 05

# White-clawed Crayfish Survey Report



**Omega Zone 8**

St Helens, WA5 3UG



Consultant Report on behalf of:

## REPORT STATUS

Issue/revision	Issue 1: DRAFT TO CLIENT	Issue 2: FINAL	Issue 3: AMENDED FINAL
Project No.	169-03		
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Date	29 <sup>TH</sup> February 2020		
Prepared by	JC		
Signature			
Reviewed by			
Signature			

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1. The following report has been prepared on behalf of Omega Warrington Ltd and provides the results of White-clawed Crayfish surveys undertaken at Omega Zone 8, St Helens ('The Site').

## 1.2 LOCATION

- 1.2.1 The Site forms part of the Omega business estate located west of Warrington, falling just within St Helens Borough. It is immediately south of the M62, west of Junction 8, and immediately west of the Warrington District County boundary and Lingley Mere.

## 1.3 PROPOSALS

- 1.3.1 This is a hybrid application for full and outline planning permission:

*Hybrid Planning Application*

- i. Full Planning Permission for the erection of a B8 warehouse, with ancillary offices, associated parking, infrastructure, and landscaping; and
- ii. Outline Planning Permission for Manufacturing (B2) and Logistics (B8) development with ancillary offices and associated car parking, landscaping and infrastructure (detailed matters of appearance; layout and scale are reserved for subsequent approval)

## 1.4 SITE DESCRIPTION

- 1.4.1 The Site (~75.5 ha) is dominated by arable land with woodland belts, a network of ponds and ditches improved grassland and scrub habitat present. A brook runs through the centre of the Site from the northwest and adjoins to the southern boundary. Off-site woodland is present to the south and west of the Site and a woodland belt forms the eastern boundary.

## 1.5 WHITE-CLAWED CRAYFISH LEGISLATION

1.5.1 The white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) is referred to in various pieces of legislation and policy including:

- Bern Convention Appendix III Priority Species;
- IUCN Red Data List for Endangered and Threatened Species, category Globally Threatened;
- EC Habitats Directive Annex II and V;
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended, Schedule 5;
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2001);
- Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994;
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan, Priority Species.

1.5.2 It's an offence to take white-clawed crayfish from English waterways under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), but it's lawful to carry out works which would kill them. All activities resulting in harm or death should be avoided, where possible.



Figure 1

Location

Omega Zone 8, St Helens

Legend

- Development Site
- Site Location



Drawing No.: 16903-1BBS\_A

Revision Dates			
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10/10/2019			

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## 2 METHODS

### 2.1 HABITAT SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT

- 2.1.1 A habitat suitability assessment was undertaken on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019 by Ecologist Vix Moughal. Following guidance from Peay, 2002<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.1.2 Whittle Brook was surveyed for suitable habitat for white-clawed crayfish, assessing potential refugia, water quality and flow.

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<sup>1</sup> Peay, S (2002). Guidance on habitat for white-clawed crayfish. English Nature.

Figure 2

# White-clawed Crayfish Survey

Omega Zone 8, St Helens

Legend

-  Development Site
-  Survey Area

Booth's Wood



Drawings are diagrammatic and not to scale. Refer to architect drawings for exact measurements



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## 3 RESULTS

- 3.1.1 No suitable white-clawed crayfish habitat was identified on the site due to lack of refuge opportunity and heavy siltation of water course, as such it is assumed that the species are likely absent from the site.

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