GEOENVIRO

SOLUTIONS LIMITED

PRECAUTIONARY WORKING METHOD STATEMENT

AT

LAND ADJACENT TO NO. 7, TOWN GATE, SCHOLES

FOR

MR D. BLACKBURN

Report Reference: 2371-22 PMS

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

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UPDATE STATUS

Issue	Date	Description	Prepared	Reviewed	Approved
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND AND INSTRUCTION

This ecological Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) has been prepared by GeoEnviro Solutions LTD (GES) on behalf of Mr D Blackburn Ltd (the Client) for the re-development of the site to build a new two storey, three-bed residential property at the site, which currently comprises the garden of the adjoining residential property.

A site location plan is presented as Drawing No. GES 2371-22/01 in **Appendix 1**.

It is understood that planning has already been granted for the site by Kirklees Metropolitan District Council (KMDC), under application 2017/60/90589/E.

A proposed development plan, as provided to GES, drawn by Michael Denton Associates Ltd., referenced 16:10:6969:100 Rev. B, dated March 2020 is presented within **Appendix 1**.

This proposed development plan has been utilized in the preparation of this risk assessment, if an alternative development is subsequently proposed this assessment may need revising and should not be relied upon in its present outcome.

The following habitats are present within the site:

- Domestic garden

No buildings are present available for bat roosts.

No other protected or notable species are anticipated to be present within the site.

2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

2.1 SITE LOCATION

The site is located adjacent to Number 7, “Fieldhead”, Town Gate, Scholes, at approximate National Grid Reference (NGR): 416865, 425910 (centre of the site).

2.2 SITE DESCRIPTION

A site walkover was carried out on the 7th June 2022; access to the site is via the driveway for No. 7, “Fieldhead”.

The site comprises a residential garden for No. 7, “Fieldhead” and currently comprises mature planting along the northern boundary, along with planting in the centre and east of the site, and mature trees are present along the southern boundary of the site. The remainder of the site is covered by grass.

A small (circa 1.8 m x 1.8 m) garden shed for the is present in the northwest of the site.

The site slopes gently from north to south; the northern site boundary appears to be retaining approximately 0.5 m of the neighbouring garden and the southern boundary appears to be retaining approximately 0.5 to 1.0 m of the site.

An approximate distribution of the surface covering is given below in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Site Surface Covering

Type of Surface Cover	Distribution (%)
Soft Ground (grassed and landscaped areas)	100
Hardstanding	None
Roadways	None
Buildings	None
Water (ponds, streams)	None

The southern, eastern and northern site boundaries are all defined by dry stone walling, while the western site boundary is not defined on-site.

The site is bounded by a residential property to the west and north, agricultural fields to the east and Town Gate / Wellands Lane to the south

A selection of photographs from the site walkover are presented in **Appendix 2**.

Surrounding Area

The surrounding land use generally comprises residential properties, with a plot of undeveloped land to the east.

The surrounding area gently slopes to the southeast.

3. ECOLOGICAL PROTECTION MEASURES

The PWMS sets out a practical working strategy to be implemented during the pre-construction and construction phases of the development, to ensure that features of ecological interest, including notable habitats, and protected/notable species, within the working area, or within influencing distance of the working area, are not compromised. The PWMS should be included as ecological input to inform the Contractors Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and will ensure that the following recommendations, detailed within the ecological assessment and bat survey technical report, are implemented:

- Standard tree protection measures must be implemented during site clearance and construction to ensure no damage or deterioration to retained trees within or immediately adjacent to the site boundary.
- Standard pollution prevention and dust control measures should be set out in the contractors CEMP and implemented during site clearance and construction works.
- Any vegetation clearance should be undertaken outside the bird nesting season (March to August inclusive). If this is not possible, a suitably qualified ecologist should carry out a nesting bird check, a maximum of 24 hours in advance of vegetation clearance works.

The methods detailed within the PWMS follow best ecological working practices in respect of the habitats and species identified within the working area or within influencing distance of the working area.

For the purposes of this document, the “working area” is defined as ‘any area where there will be a requirement for temporary or permanent works to facilitate the construction of the development’. This includes areas required for access, temporary construction, temporary storage areas and site facilities.

The methods are to be followed by all site contractors at all times during the pre-construction and construction phases of the development.

The PWMS should be considered as a 'live' document which will require regular update in response to issues which may arise during each phase of construction.

4. ECOLOGICAL PROTECTION MEASURES- PRE CONSTRUCTION

Table 4.1 below identifies the ecological protection measures appropriate to this development.

Table 4.1: Ecological Protection Measures which must be implemented prior to construction.

Item	Ecological Protection Measure	Method	Timing	Person Responsible	Persons Required to Carry Out Works
1	Appointment of Ecological Advisors	The Project Ecologist and Arborist will provide an advisory role during the development as required. An Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) shall be appointed who will provide a supervisory role on site as and when required. An 'Environmental Champion' shall be appointed. This person will be responsible for daily monitoring of site activities and conformance to the PWMS and other environmental documents. This role should be fulfilled by an experience contractor with a daily site presence.	Appointment prior to works	Developer / Main Site Contractor	Developer / Main Site Contractor to appoint Ecological Advisors as detailed.
2	Ecological Toolbox Talks	Toolbox talks will be provided to contractors by the ECoW. On ecological protection. Toolbox talks will be updated as required where any new ecological issues arise (including seasonal variations/restrictions), or where changes to working methods are required. The initial toolbox talk will be provided by the Project Ecologist prior to each phase of work. Any further toolbox talks required will be provided to new contractors by the Environmental Champion using this CEMP as a basis.	Prior to works commencing	Main Site Contractor	Project Ecologist and Environmental Champion

Item	Ecological Protection Measure	Method	Timing	Person Responsible	Persons Required to Carry Out Works
3	Root Protection Zones	Exclusion fencing will be installed around retained trees to protect them from accidental damage in accordance with BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition, and construction.	Prior to works commencing (July 2020)	Main Site Contractor	Main Site Contractor
4	Nesting Birds - Nesting Bird Check	Vegetation clearance will be undertaken outside the breeding bird season (March to August inclusive), wherever possible, to avoid harm to nesting birds. The extent of the vegetation to be cleared is shown in the Landscaping Plan produced by East Midlands Landscaping Limited (plan ref: EML JF 1135 01). Where vegetation clearance is required during the breeding bird season, the ECoW will carry out a nesting bird check within vegetation clearance areas no more than 24 hours prior to vegetation removal. If no active birds' nests are identified, vegetation clearance will proceed following instruction to do so from the ECoW. If an active nest is identified, exclusion zones will be applied (see Item 5 below). Further details are provided in Section 5.	Prior to vegetation clearance	Main Site Contractor	Main Site Contractor and ECoW
5	Nesting Birds - Exclusion Zones for Vegetation Clearance	Following the nesting bird check, any areas supporting active nests will be fenced-off with hi-vis 'Netlon' fencing (or similar). The fencing will mark an exclusion zone in which no machinery or site workers should enter. Signs should also be installed to highlight the exclusion zone. The locations and extent of exclusion zones will be marked on a plan by the ECoW to be provided to the site contractor. All active nests within the exclusion zones will be monitored by the ECoW. The ECoW will advise when the nest(s) are no-longer active. On instruction from the ECoW, the fencing will then be removed and vegetation clearance will proceed.	Prior to vegetation clearance	Main Site Contractor	Main Site Contractor and ECoW

5. ECOLOGICAL PROTECTION MEASURES- CONSTRUCTION PHASE

Table 5.1 below identifies the species specific ecological protection measures appropriate to this development.

Table 5.1: Details species-specific Ecological Protection Measures which must be implemented during the construction period.

Item	Ecological Protection Measure	Method	Timing	Person Responsible	Persons Required to Carry Out Works
1	Nesting Birds - Nesting Bird Check	Where vegetation clearance is required during the breeding bird season, the ECoW will carry out a nesting bird check within vegetation clearance areas no more than 24 hours prior to vegetation removal. If no active birds' nests are identified, vegetation clearance will proceed following instruction to do so from the ECoW. If an active nest is identified, exclusion zones will be applied (see Item 2 below). Further details are provided in Section 5.	Prior to vegetation clearance	Main Site Contractor	Main Site Contractor and ECoW

Table 5.2 below identifies the general ecological protection measures appropriate to this development.

Table 5.2: Details general Ecological Protection Measures which must be implemented during the construction period.

Item	Ecological Protection Measure	Method	Timing	Person Responsible	Persons Required to Carry Out Works
1	Pollution Prevention	Measures outlined within Best Practice Pollution Prevention Guidelines will be followed to avoid pollution incidents which may indirectly affect terrestrial or aquatic habitats. Measures will include, but are not limited to, the following: Arrive at the site with clean footwear. Ensure footwear is visually clean from soil and debris before leaving the site. Ensure vehicles are kept clean. Remove any accumulated mud before leaving the site using a stiff-haired brush. Cleaning should be carried out over a root barrier membrane or hard surface that can contain and collect any contaminated material that has been washed off the vehicle. Make use of facilities on site to clean footwear and equipment. Keep vehicles to established tracks and park vehicles on hardstanding. Any works carried out by contractors should be accompanied by a Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS). The RAMS should detail appropriate biosecurity measures to be observed during the duration of the works and outline the scope of the works and any ongoing monitoring/works required.	Throughout construction	Main Site Contractor	Main Site Contractor and Environmental Champion

Item	Ecological Protection Measure	Method	Timing	Person Responsible	Persons Required to Carry Out Works
		Refueling stations for any powered equipment will be located more than 15m from ditches or any newly created waterbody to ensure no run-off of pollutants into waterbodies/watercourses. Fuel, oil and chemical storage will be sited on an impervious base within a bund and secured. The base and bund will be impermeable to the material stored and of adequate capacity. All powered equipment operated within 15m of a waterbody/watercourse will use biodegradable chain oil. Any fuel spillages within the site or within close proximity of the site will be reported to the environmental champion. Water containing silt will not be pumped or allowed to flow into any on-site ponds of water courses. Where possible, water will be prevented from entering excavations. Standard dust prevention measures will be implemented, particularly during construction within 200m of aquatic habitats.			
2	Excavation of Trenches	Deep trenches will be covered at the end of each working day, or (in the case of shallower trenches only), will include a means of escape for any animal falling in. This will comprise wooden boards, placed no steeper than a 45° angle. The appointed Environmental Champion will carry out checks at the end of each working day to ensure either excavations are covered, or that provision is made for animals to escape.	Throughout construction	Main Site Contractor	Environmental Champion

Item	Ecological Protection Measure	Method	Timing	Person Responsible	Persons Required to Carry Out Works
3	Overnight Working	To avoid any lighting impacts on nocturnal and crepuscular species, during the construction phase there will be no work undertaken on site from 1 hour after dusk, and the site will not be illuminated after darkness. Should it be necessary to carry out illuminated works after dark, a sensitive lighting strategy should be followed. There will be no noise on site or along any of the site boundaries at night. This will avoid impacts from noise on bat species.	Throughout construction	Main Site Contractor	Environmental Champion
4	Storage of Materials	Storage areas will be located away from sensitive areas, particularly retained habitats.	Throughout construction	Main Site Contractor	Environmental Champion
5	Vegetation Management	During construction, any open ground will be managed to ensure that any vegetation growth remains short (<150mm) following the initial strimming to reduce its suitability as refuge habitat for wildlife.	Throughout construction	Main Site Contactor	Environmental Champion and ECoW
6	Trees - Root Protection Areas	Root Protection Areas and fencing zones will be adhered to at all times in accordance with Arboriculture Impact Assessment produced by Bagshaw Ecology Ltd (report ref: BE1134.1c). Fencing will require regular monitoring by the Environmental Champion to ensure there are no breaches to these zones. Any damage to fencing will be noted and repairs carried out by site contractors. The ECoW will complete quarterly monitoring inspections of the fencing.	Throughout construction	Main Site Contractor	Environmental Champion, and ECoW (with advice from Arborist as required)

Item	Ecological Protection Measure	Method	Timing	Person Responsible	Persons Required to Carry Out Works
7	Tree Safety Issues	Should any trees become a safety concern, the Project Ecologist and Arborist will be contacted immediately who will advise on management requirements and whether further consideration to ecology (including bats and nesting birds) is required.	Throughout construction	Main Site Contractor	Main Site Contractor (with advice from Project Ecologist and Arborist as required)
8	Consideration to Wildlife	Staff will remain vigilant throughout the works. Should any protected or notable animals be encountered during the works, advice will be sought immediately from the Project Ecologist or ECoW.	Throughout construction	All Site Staff	All Site Staff

6. BREEDING/NESTING BIRD PROTECTION PLAN

6.1 INTRODUCTION

All nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy its nest whilst in use or being built, or intentionally take or destroy its eggs.

All habitats on site are suitable to support nesting birds.

6.2 METHOD STATEMENT

Where possible, all vegetation clearance will avoid the core breeding bird season, March to August inclusive; although it should be noted that bird nesting can take place outside this period.

If, however, clearance works are necessary during the core breeding bird season, or at any time when bird nesting is suspected, a nesting bird check of the affected area will be undertaken by the ECoW. The nesting bird check will take place no more than 24 hours prior to the clearance works. In the event that an active nest is found the ECoW will provide advice on setting up a suitable exclusion zone area around the nest until the young have fledged. The extent of the exclusion zone will depend upon the bird species concerned and its location within the development.

Large and/or structurally complex areas of vegetation, if present on site, will be subject to a more careful inspection. Where breeding bird activity cannot be established, these areas will require an ecological watching brief, where the ECoW will work alongside the contractors to check and then clear vegetation in small sections. Contractors will remove small areas of vegetation using bow saws and loppers, ensuring disturbance is localised. If nests are uncovered, works shall cease until the ECoW has determined the status of the nest.

If an active nest is identified an exclusion zone will be put in place. Works can only proceed within the exclusion zone once the ECoW has confirmed the young have fledged. The proposed scope of investigation is outlined below.

7. RELIANCE AND LIMITATIONS

This report has been prepared by GES with all reasonable skill, care and diligence. The work undertaken to provide the basis of this report comprised a study of available documented information from a variety of sources, together with a site walkover inspection of the site.

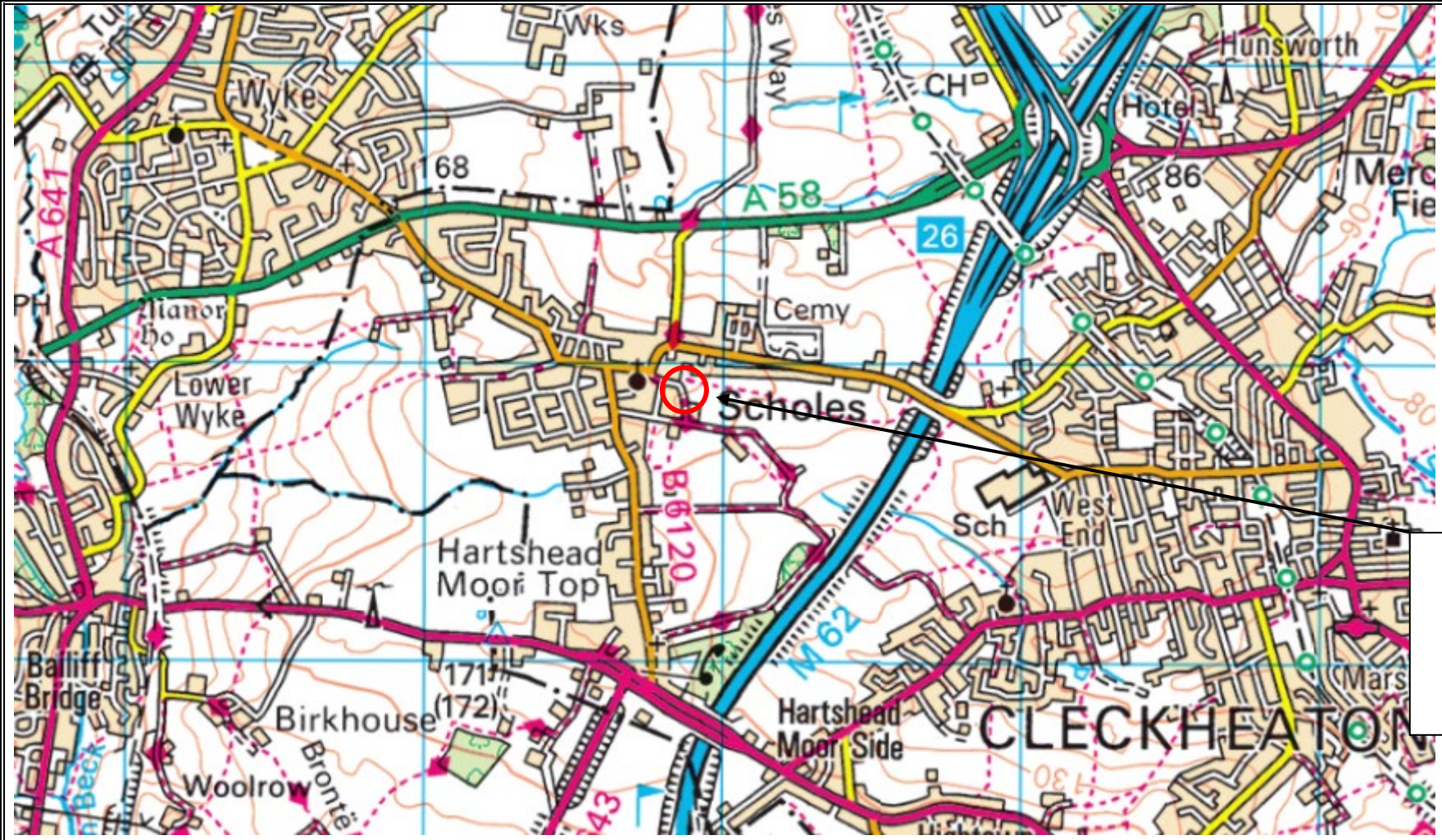
The opinions given in this report have been dictated by the finite data on which are they based and are relevant only to the purpose for which the report was commissioned.

Information reviewed should not be considered exhaustive and accepted in good faith as providing true and representative data with respect to site conditions. Should additional information become available which may influence the opinion expressed in this report, GES reserves the right to review such information and, if warranted, to alter the opinions accordingly.

It should be noted that any risks identified in this report are perceived risks based on the information reviewed; actual risks can only be assessed following a physical investigation of the site.

APPENDIX 1

DRAWINGS AND PLANS



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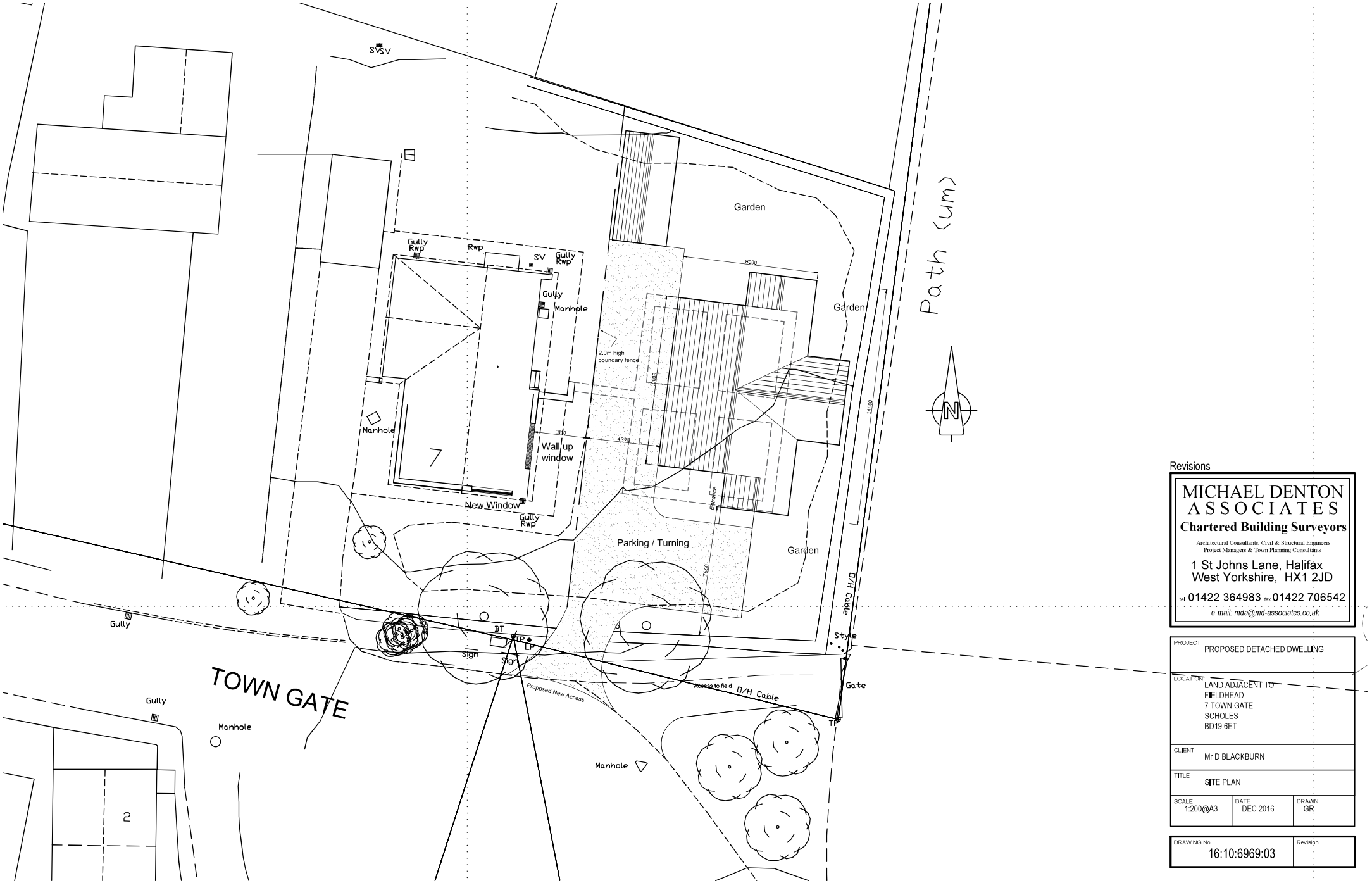
PROJECT NAME Land Adjacent to No. 7, Town Gate, Scholes **PROJECT NUMBER** 2371-22		**DRAWING NO.** 2371-22/01	**SCALE** N.T.S
TITLE Site Location Plan		**DATE** June 2022	**DRAWN BY** RC



Revisions

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PROJECT	PROPOSED DETACHED DWELLING
LOCATION	LAND ADJACENT TO FIELDHEAD 7 TOWN GATE SCHOLES BD19 6ET
CLIENT	Mr D BLACKBURN
TITLE	SITE PLAN

SCALE	DATE	DRAWN
1:200@A3	DEC 2016	GR

DRAWING No.	Revision
16:10:6969:03	

APPENDIX 2

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Site: Land Adjacent to No. 7, Towngate, Scholes
Client: Mr. D. Blackburn
Job Reference: GES 2371-22, Dated: June 2022

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A.

B.

C.

D.

A. **Facing north, view of site access.**

B. **Facing northeast, view of central site area.**

C. **Facing south, view of eastern site boundary.**

D. **Facing north, view of southern site boundary from Town Gate.**