



MARSDEN BARN.

MAP REF: SE 03902 11760.

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN REPORT.

Ref No: 241015.

Date: 4th November 2024.

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. A planning application is to be submitted for the erection of a new barn at a site in Marsden.

1.2. The Local Authority will require a Biodiversity Net Gain Report in support of the application.

1.3. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd was therefore commissioned to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain assessment of the site to satisfy the above request. This has been undertaken using the Statutory Metric.

1.4. A site visit was carried out on 19th October 2024 to gather all relevant baseline information.

2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.

2.1. All surveys were carried out in line with the Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management (CIEEM) survey standards and advice.

2.2. A baseline survey was carried out of the site to establish the baseline biodiversity value of the area. Prior to visiting the site, the survey area was cross referenced to maps and aerial photographs to give a general idea of the habitats and potential issues within the area and to identify potential access and walking routes.

2.3. The survey area was walked where access was agreed. All habitats within and immediately around the survey area were documented and the dominant species within that habitat listed in line with the UK Habitat Classification methodology to identify the primary habitat types throughout the survey area. All primary habitats are accompanied by secondary codes which are used to add further specific details where necessary. Each primary habitat and unique set off secondary codes will be shown individually in the appended annotated map.

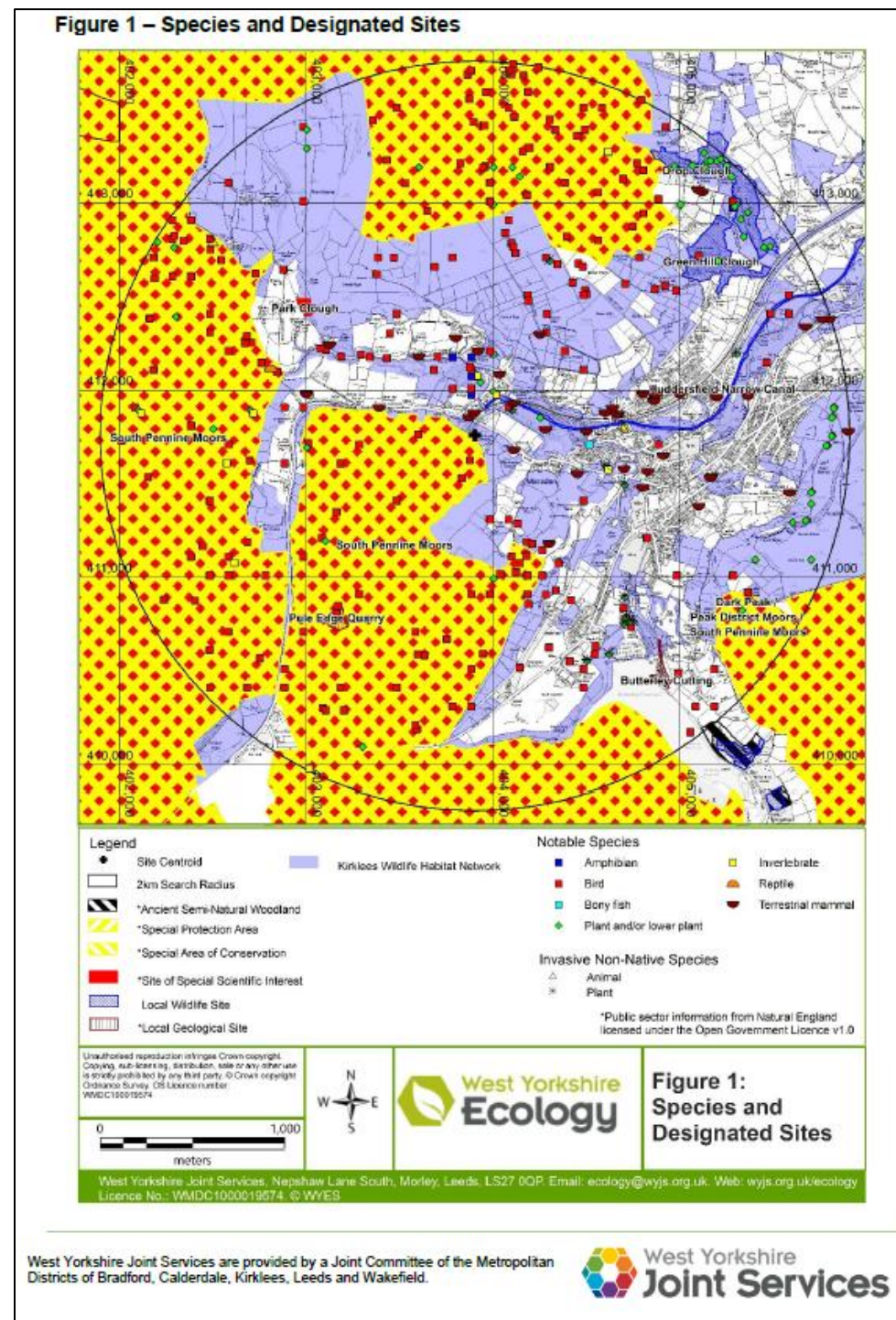
2.4. The baseline survey was carried out by Derek Whitcher who has over thirty years' experience of surveying for wildlife and has run his own wildlife consultancy since 1998. He has extensive experience of a wide variety of survey techniques for a variety of species of protected wildlife supplemented by attendance on a wide range of training courses through CIEEM, FSC and BCT. As a member of CIEEM he is committed to continuous professional development, a continual process of learning and career development, a condition of CIEEM membership. He holds current Natural England survey licences for bats and great crested newts.

Natural England Bat Survey Licence Number	2015-13205-CLS-CLS.
Natural England Great Crested Newt Licence Number	2015-06792-CLS-CLS.

3. SITE DESCRIPTION.

3.1. Data Search Results.

3.1.1. A data search request was submitted to West Yorkshire Ecology Services for existing records of designated sites and protected species within 2km of the survey area. The map below shows the data search results.



3.1.2. The following table lists the designated sites in the search area.

Name of Site	Designation
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	Special Protection Area
Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)	Special Protection Area
South Pennine Moors	Special Area of Conservation
Dark Peak	Site of Special Scientific Interest
Park Clough	Site of Special Scientific Interest
South Pennine Moors	Site of Special Scientific Interest

3.1.3. The South Pennine Moors SSSI, SPA and SAC lies south of the access track to the site.

3.1.4. The following table lists the locally designated sites in the search area.

Name of Site	Designation
Drop Clough	Local Wildlife Site
Green Hill Clough	Local Wildlife Site
Huddersfield Narrow Canal	Local Wildlife Site
Butterley Cutting	Local Geological Site
Pule Edge Quarry	Local Geological Site

3.1.5. The closest to the survey area is the Huddersfield Narrow Canal but that lies a long way down in the valley below the survey area.

3.1.6. The survey area lies within the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network.

3.1.7. There are no badger records within 200m of the survey area.

3.1.8. There are a small number of common frog and common toad records in the data search results, the closest 240m from the survey area, recorded in 2005.

3.1.9. There are abundant bird records including curlew, common sandpiper, lapwing and golden plover but the closest to the survey area were 400m, within the moorland.

3.1.10. The records include numerous bat records, the closest to the site being a Common Pipistrelle roost recorded 120m from the site in 2007.

3.1.11. The data search results are available on request but must not be put on public display.

3.2. The Survey Area.

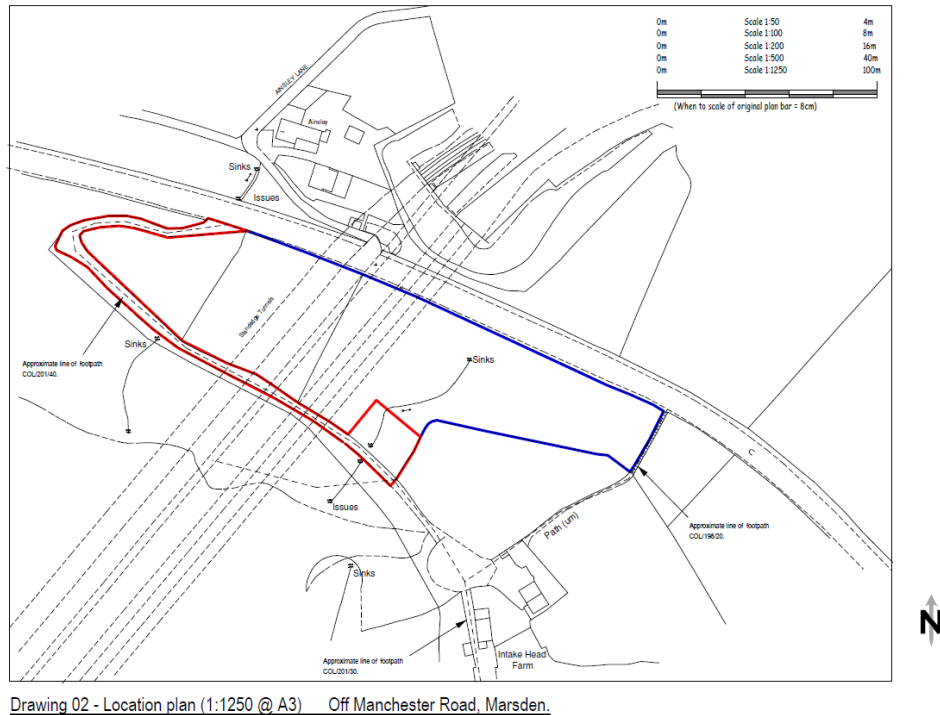
3.2.1. The proposed development is in a remote location high above the northern end of Marsden tunnel, as shown by the white arrow below. The site is surrounded by open grassland and moors.



3.2.2. The aerial map below shows the barn site with the location of the proposed new barn marked by the white arrow.



3.2.3. The drawing below shows the site and the location of the proposed barn and existing access track.



Drawing 02 - Location plan (1:1250 @ A3) Off Manchester Road, Marsden.

3.3. Description of Habitats.

3.3.1. Appendix I of this report contains an annotated map marked up with the varying baseline habitats of the site. These habitats are: -

- g3c – Other Neutral grassland.
- u1f – Sparsely vegetated urban land.
- u1c – Built linear feature.

3.3.2. *g3c – Other neutral grassland.*

3.3.2.1. The photograph below shows the location of the proposed new barn on an area of grassland. Species present include cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), soft rush (*Juncus effusus*), dock (*Rumex* sp.), foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) and dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*). Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), common lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) are present in the ravine down the site.



3.3.2.2. There is a small trickle of water seeping out from under the wall at the top of the site. This water drained away with no evidence of water in the ravine down the site.



3.3.2.3. The condition assessment for this habitat is within the Statutory BNG Condition Assessment document that accompanies this report. The condition of the grassland is poor as it passes five criteria but fails the essential criteria.

3.3.3. u1f– Sparsely vegetated urban land.

3.3.3.1. The existing access track comprises has been covered with crushed rubble at some time in the past with sparse vegetation growing between the rubble. Species include cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), thistle (*Cirsium* sp(p)), fringed willowherb (*Epilobium ciliatum*), tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and dock (*Rumex* sp.).



3.3.3.2. There is no condition assessment for this habitat.

3.3.4. u1c – Built linear feature.

3.3.4.1. There are dry stone walls around the site perimeter and alongside much of the existing track.



3.3.4.2. In addition, the whole site has been recently fenced with a post and wire fence.



3.3.4.3. There is no condition assessment for this habitat.

4. BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN ASSESSMENT.

4.1. Baseline Biodiversity Value.

The below table demonstrate the baseline units of the red line development area using the Statutory Metric.

Area habitats:

Habitat Type	Area in Ha	Distinctiveness	Condition	Biodiversity units
Other neutral grassland	0.0438	Medium	Poor	0.18
Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface	0.1289	V.Low	N/A	0
Total	0.17			0.18

4.2. Post Development Habitat Creation.

4.2.1. The development will be a new barn and access road that will occupy part of the area of grassland. The remaining grassland around the new barn will be planted with wildflower seeds and managed in order to achieve a good habitat condition.

4.2.2. Two extra small trees will be planted on the wider site.

4.2.3. The following table shows the post development Biodiversity values on site.

Area habitats:

Habitat Type	Area in Ha	Distinctiveness	Condition	Biodiversity units
Other neutral grassland	0.0215	Low	Good	0.19
Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface	0.1289	V.Low	N/A	0
Developed land sealed surface	0.0144	V.Low	N/A	0

Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface	0.008	V.Low	N/A	0
2 New rural trees	0.0061	Medium	Moderate	0.02
Total	0.17			0.21

4.3. Biodiversity Net Gain Outcome.

4.3.1. Based on the above, the overall development will result in a Biodiversity Net Gain of 0.02 area habitat biodiversity units, an increase of 17.26%.

4.3.2. This exceeds the required Biodiversity Net Gain of 10% and meets all Trading Summaries.

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Checked by:	
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Appendix I. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA PRE DEVELOPMENT.



Site: Marsden Barn

Date: 04.11.2024

Reference: 241015

Produced by: Samuel



Appendix II. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA POST DEVELOPMENT.



Site: Marsden Barn

Date: 04.11.2024

Reference: 241015

Produced by: Samuel

