237 New Mill Road, Brockholes

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

HABITAT WORKS

August 2025

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Report Title: 237 New Mill Road, Brockholes
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Report to: Paul Matthews Architectural
Malkin Farm
Brow Lane
Holmfirth
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Executive Summary

Habitat Works Limited (Habitat Works) was commissioned by Paul Matthews Architectural to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the land at 237 New Mill Road, Brockholes, Holmfirth, HD9 7AL (central Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OS NGR) SE 14832 11453), hereafter referred to as 'the Site'.

The PEA was required to inform proposals for the construction of a new home in the garden of the existing property at 237 New Mill Road. These proposals are detailed within the JHA Architecture drawing '*Existing General Arrangement Plan*' (Dwg No. 2025/004/01A, dated January 2025).

Recommendations are made regarding impacts of the proposed development through habitat losses/potential gains on the Site post-development and the retention and protection of key ecological features. These include:

- Implementation of Best Practice Measures (BPM) for:
    - Badgers,
    - Hedgehogs;
- Consideration of enhancement opportunities for local species, including:
    - Installation of bat and bird boxes
    - Installation of bee bricks
    - Installation of hedgehog holes in fence lines of new properties

1. Introduction

1.1 *Background*

1.1.1 Habitat Works Limited (Habitat Works) was commissioned by Paul Matthews Architectural to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the land at 237 New Mill Road, Brockholes, Holmfirth, HD9 7AL (central Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OS NGR) SE 14832 11453), hereafter referred to as 'the Site' and as displayed in Figure 1.

1.1.2 The PEA was required to inform proposals for the construction of a new home in the garden of the existing property at 237 New Mill Road. These proposals are detailed within the JHA Architecture drawing '*Existing General Arrangement Plan*' (Dwg No. 2025/004/01A, dated January 2025).

1.1.3 This report details the findings of a PEA, including a data consultation and UK Habitat Classification survey undertaken in July 2025. Methodologies employed during the surveys are described along with the survey findings, evaluation, assessment and recommendations for any further survey work and/or mitigation/enhancement as required.

1.1.4 Recommendations are made regarding impacts of the proposed development through habitat losses/potential gains on the Site post-development including the retention and protection of key ecological features. The provision of species-specific enhancements are outlined where appropriate.

2. Methodology

2.1 *Data Consultation*

2.1.1 Data consultation was undertaken by Habitat Works with the local records centre; West Yorkshire Ecology Service (WYES) in July 2025 as part of the ecological appraisal process, to determine whether any ecological features of note had previously been recorded within 2 km of the Site. Data requested included:

- Records of protected species;
- Records of national or local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species;
- Details of any statutory sites of ecological interest e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA) etc.; and,
- Details of any non-statutory sites of ecological interest e.g. Local Wildlife Site (LWS).

2.1.2 The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website (http://www.magic.defra.gov.uk) was consulted in May 2025 for information on statutory and non-statutory designated sites of conservation interest, and for the presence of European Protected Species (EPS) mitigation licences for great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* (GCN) and bats within 2 km of the Site. MAGIC was also used to search for information relating to GCN Class Survey Licence Returns and Great Crested Newt Pond Surveys 2017- 2019 within 500 m of the Site.

2.1.3 Information returned from MAGIC and WYES with relevant assessments will be incorporated into the report as appropriate. All records will be reviewed, however particular interest will be placed on records within the past 10 years, with records prior to these considered historic.

2.2 *Ecological Walkover Survey*

2.2.1 An ecological walkover survey was undertaken 8th July by Ecology Team Manager Joe Travis BSc (Hons) MSc ACIEEM following best practice guidelines (UK Habitat Classification System (UKHab) (UKHab Working Group (UKHCWG) 2018)). This survey method aims to define habitats and vegetation types present and provide an indication of their relative abundance. This survey method aims to characterise habitats and communities present and is not intended to provide a complete list of all species occurring across the Site.

2.2.2 The UKHab survey covered land within the Site (as illustrated by the red line site boundary in Figure 1).

2.2.3 Habitats and vegetation types present inside the Site were recorded onto a field map and notable, rare or scarce plant species, including other features of ecological interest, were highlighted using Target Notes (TN). The current management of habitats and associated features were noted and assigned UKHab secondary codes where relevant.

2.2.4 Evidence of protected species or species of nature conservation importance were recorded where present at the time of survey. Habitats or species present that are listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 or the Local BAP were also noted.

2.2.5 Survey findings are detailed in Section 3 and annotated on Figure 1, with Target notes (TN) detailed in Appendix 1, while site photographs are provided in Appendix 2.

2.2.6 Plant species recorded were classified according to the subjective method of DAFOR abundance ratings. The standardised terms are as follows:

- D Dominant
- A Abundant

- F Frequent
- O Occasional
- R Rare

2.3 *Protected and Key Species*

2.3.1 Any evidence of protected species or groups encountered during the survey was recorded. This included observations of field signs and an assessment of the suitability of the habitats present to support protected species. For full details of legislation relating to all habitats and species discussed within this report visit http://www.legislation.gov.uk.

Amphibians

2.3.2 The Site was assessed for its potential to support amphibians, including a detailed GCN assessment. A desk-based search for ponds within 500 m of the Site, which are not separated by a significant barrier to amphibian dispersal, was made using 1:10,000 OS mapping. Habitats within the Site were assessed for their suitability to support amphibians during their terrestrial and aquatic stages where applicable.

Badgers

2.3.3 Signs of badger *Meles meles* activity were sought within the Site and within 30m of the Site boundary, where possible.

2.3.4 The survey followed standard methodology detailed in '*Surveying Badgers*' (Harris *et al*., 1989) and the approach as described in '*The history, distribution, status and habitat requirements of the badger in Britain*' (JNCC, 1990).

2.3.5 The survey focused on areas with topography and/or vegetation typically utilised for sett building, in addition to key habitats typically favoured for foraging such as woodland, hedgerows, ditches and banks.

2.3.6 The survey involved identifying any badger field signs including setts, latrine/dung pits, foraging marks, feeding signs (e.g. snuffle holes), footprints, badger hairs and worn pathways, specifically along linear features and boundaries in the Site.

2.3.7 In the event of identifying badger sett(s), these were examined with key details recorded, including the number of entrances and their status (e.g. active, partially used, and disused). Where present setts identified were categorised using nationally recognised sett classification (main sett, annexe sett, subsidiary sett, outlier sett) where possible (Harris *et al*., 1989).

Bats

2.3.8 Trees and structures within and immediately adjacent the Site were subject to a ground-based assessment for their suitability to support roosting bats during the survey.

2.3.9 An individual structure may have several features of potential interest to roosting bats associated with it and it is not always possible to confirm usage of a feature by bats due to their transient nature. Consequently, it is customary when undertaking such surveys to assign each feature to a defined category of roosting potential as follows: negligible, low, moderate, high or confirmed (Collins, 2023).

2.3.10 Similar to structures, an individual tree may have several features of potential interest to roosting bats associated with it and it is not always possible to confirm usage of a feature by bats during a single daytime visit, given their highly transient natures. Consequently, it is customary when undertaking such surveys to assign each feature to a defined category of None, Further Assessment Required (FAR), Potential Roosting

Feature – Individual (PRF – I) and Potential Roosting Feature – Multiple (PRF – M) (Collins, 2023).

2.3.11 The Site was also assessed for its suitability for foraging and commuting bats in accordance with good practice guidelines (Collins, 2023).

Birds

2.3.12 In 2021, a re-assessment of Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) was published by Stanbury et al. (2021), which defined rare and threatened bird species on two lists (Red and Amber) describing the level of threat to each species of concern. "Red" is the highest conservation priority, with species needing urgent action through to "Green", indicating that the species are relatively unthreatened.

2.3.13 Data consultation data was filtered for WCA 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 bird species and those species protected under Annex 1 of the EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds, also known as the Birds Directive. Priority species (NERC Act 2006, LBAP) were likewise highlighted and the UK Red List for birds, also known as the BoCC as described above, was also referred to.

2.3.14 During the Site survey any species of birds encountered were recorded. Habitats were assessed for their potential value to nesting, wintering and foraging birds.

Invertebrates

2.3.15 The habitats present on the Site were assessed for their suitability to support invertebrates and incidental observations of invertebrates at and adjacent to the Site were noted.

Reptiles

2.3.16 The habitats present on Site were assessed for their suitability to support reptiles, including consideration of their connectivity with other areas of suitable habitat within the wider landscape.

Riparian Mammals and White-clawed Crayfish

2.3.17 A desk-based search for watercourses on or within 30 m of the Site, which are not separated by a significant barrier to dispersal, was undertaken using OS 1:10,000 mapping.

2.3.18 Where access was possible, watercourses were subsequently assessed for their suitability to support otter *Lutra lutra*, water vole *Arvicola amphibius* and white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*.

Other Key and Notable Species

2.3.19 Whilst on Site habitats were assessed for their potential to support any other nationally, locally scarce or notable species, with particular reference to LBAP species.

2.4 *Invasive Species*

2.4.1 Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) and/or The Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (2019) were recorded and mapped as seen during the survey.

2.5 *Assumptions and Limitations*

2.5.1 A UKHab survey is intended to provide a rapid assessment of habitats present within a site and is not intended to replace detailed vegetation or targeted protected species surveys, where deemed necessary.

3. Findings and Evaluation

3.1 *Site Description*

3.1.1 The Site is located on the northern extents of Brockholes, West Yorkshire. The Site is currently a private residential garden containing a small garage, as detailed in Figure 1.

3.1.2 Much of the land to the south of the Site is residential, while to the north of the Site is industrial, including an industrial yard and a small water treatment works. A railway line is present to the northeast of the Site within a small block of woodland, while the River Holme is situated southwest of the Site. The wider landscape surrounding the Site is a mixture of villages and pastoral fields.

3.2 *Designated Sites*

3.2.1 Two statutory designated site was identified using MAGIC within 2 km of the Site, pertaining to Upper Park Wood Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and Honley Station Cutting Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

3.2.2 West Yorkshire Ecology Service returned a total of nine non-statutory designated sites for locations within 2 km of the Site, with eight pertaining to Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), while a single Local Geological Site (LGS) is also present. One of the LWS designations pertains to Upper Park Wood, a statutory designated site.

3.2.3 Table 1 below details the designated sites within 2 km of the Site, with Figure 2 displaying their locations.

Table 1 - Designated Sites within 2 km of the Site

Designated Site	Description from Citation	Approx. Distance & Direction from Site
Statutory		
Honley Station Cutting (SSSI)	Geological site that displays a classic exposure for the sequence between the Soft Bed Coal and the Honley Marine Band in the Pennines area, and yields abundant non-marine bivalves of the Carbonicola falax – C. protea Biozone.	1 km north
Upper Park Wood (LNR; LWS)	Mixed deciduous woodland with well-developed shrub layer.	1.4 km north
Non - Statutory		
Cliff Wood (LWS)	Species rich acid woodland with native bluebell cover	100 m northeast
Hagg Wood (LWS)	Species rich acid woodland	480 m southwest
Hay Wood/West Wood (LWS)	Ancient and semi-natural woodland	680 m north
Brockholes and Round Wood (LGS)	The rocks are Upper Carboniferous and span the end of the Namurian (Millstone Grit) and the beginning of the Westphalian (Coal Measures)	500 m southwest
Round Wood, Brockholes (LWS)	Ancient and semi-natural woodland; species rich acid woodland	1.1 km southeast
Park Wood (LWS)	Species rich acid woodland	1.5 km northwest
Spring Wood, Honley (LWS)	Ancient and semi-natural woodland; species rich acid woodland	1.6 km northwest
Arthur, Molly Carr and Roaf Woods (LWS)	Ancient and semi-natural woodland	1.8 km north

3.2.4 The Site lies within the SSSI Impact Risk Zones for Dark Peak SSSI. The Impact Risk Zones for Dark Peak SSSI

indicate that at the location selected, the proposed development is unlikely to have a harmful effect on the SSSI, and therefore, will not be mentioned further within this report.

3.2.5 The designated sites are considered to be of importance to nature conservation at between the local and county level.

3.2.6 Given that the proposals are confined to the Site, and that the closest designated Site is approximately 100 m north of the Site, it is not considered that designated sites are a receptor to the proposals. As such, designated sites will not be mentioned further within this report.

3.3 *Habitats*

3.3.1 Habitats recorded on the Site, their distribution and composition are discussed in order of dominance below. Habitat locations are annotated on Figure 1.

u1b Developed land; sealed surface

3.3.2 The southeastern section of the Site, comprises a drive which acts as a path the garage that is located within the Site. This area is constructed of tarmac and has no botanical interest.

3.3.3 Developed land; sealed surface is not a NERC Act 2006 Section 41 priority habitat nor is it listed within the LBAP. The habitat was considered to be of negligible botanical value and will not be discussed further within this report.

u1 Built up areas and gardens (Secondary Code (SC): 106, 828)

3.3.4 The northeast of the Site comprises a vegetated garden (SC: 828) that is mostly short sward modified grassland lawn, with some small areas of ornamental shrub planting. The lawn is regularly mown (SC: 106) and is species poor. Species recorded within the grassland were included perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne* (A), Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus* (F), and red clover *Trifolium pratense* (O). Shrub species comprised introduced garden varieties, most of which were evergreen shrubs.

3.3.5 Gardens are not a NERC Act 2006 Section 41 priority habitat nor is it listed within the LBAP. The habitat was considered to be of no greater than site level importance to nature conservation.

u1b5 Buildings

3.3.6 The Site contains a single small garage in the northern section of the Site. The building comprises pebbledash wall panels with a pitched, gable ended corrugated roof.

3.3.7 Buildings is not a NERC Act 2006 Section 41 priority habitat nor is it listed within the LBAP. The habitat was considered to be of negligible botanical value, however, will be discussed further in relation to protected species.

3.4 *Species*

Amphibians

3.4.1 WYES returned a total of seven records of amphibians, six of which are historic (outwith the last 10 years), for locations within 2 km of the Site, comprising four records of common toad *Bufo bufo* and three records of common frog *Rana temporaria*. The closest record pertains to a common toad located approximately 900 m south of the Site in 2015. No records of great crested newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus* were returned for locations within 2 km of the Site.

3.4.2 No GCN EPS licences or GCN Class Survey Licence Returns were identified within 2 km of the Site.

3.4.3 The Site location is not eligible in the Natural England GCN District Level Licensing (DLL).

3.4.4 A total of two waterbodies are present within 500 m of the Site from a search of OS Maps, one of which is located within 250 m of the Site (Figure 3).

3.4.5 The waterbody within 250 m of the Site (WB1) was not accessible on the day of the survey, and as such could not be subjected to a Habitat Suitability Assessment (HSI) to give an indication of the waterbody's potential to suitability for GCN. WB1 is situated approximately 170 m southeast of the Site, and is separated from the Site by a series of residential gardens, the water treatment works and Brockholes Bowling Club.

3.4.6 Overall, terrestrial habitats on the Site offer extremely limited suitability for amphibians, with no real opportunities for sheltering amphibians between the hardstanding and short-sward lawn. These are however limited in extent and of inferior quality when compared to other habitats in the local area, in particular the woodland and rough grassland surrounding WB1.

3.4.7 Given the limited size and suitability of terrestrial habitats present on the Site, in addition with the distance of the Site from any waterbodies, it is considered extremely unlikely that amphibians would be present within the working areas of the Site, as such, it is not considered that amphibians will be impacted by the proposals and therefore will not be discussed further within this report.

Badger

3.4.8 Due to the persecution of badgers *Meles meles*, WYES does not provide detailed records of badgers within 2 km of the Site. Instead, WYES confirmed that there are no records of badgers for locations within 200 m of the Site. WYES does however considerer the Site to lie within an area of *'increased probability of badger activity*'.

3.4.9 No evidence of badger was recorded throughout the survey, and the Site offers limited sett building potential, such as denser areas of vegetation. The Site habitats are also flat, and heavily disturbed by the regular maintenance of the garden lawns, further reducing the likelihood of badger establishing a sett on the Site.

3.4.10 The Site itself also lacks significant suitable foraging/commuting habitat comprising mainly of developed land, sealed surface and short-sward lawn. However, given the lack of suitable sett building and foraging habitat present, in conjunction with the disturbance that would be caused by the land use of the Site, it is considered that any local badgers would not be reliant on the habitats on the Site.

3.4.11 Given the lack of field signs from walkover survey and the limited suitable habitats present on the Site, it is considered that the Site is of conservation value to badger at no greater than the site level.

Bats

3.4.12 WYES returned a total of 106 bat records, 61 of which are historic, for locations within 2 km of the Site. Of these records, 37, of which 24 of are historic, pertain to roosts, which include three myotis bat species *Myotis* sp., a single whiskered bat *Myotis mystacinus*, and 23 unidentified pipistrelle *Pipistrellus sp*. roost, and ten unidentified bat species. The closest record pertains to an unidentified pipistrelle roost located approximately 300 m southeast of the Site in 2011. The closest recent record pertains to an unidentified pipistrelle roost located approximately 800 m north of the Site in 2023.

3.4.13 The remaining bat records pertain to ten foraging records which include two brown long -eared bat *Plecotus auritus*, two noctule bat *Nyctalus noctula,* and six unidentified pipistrelle. Seven records pertain to bats in flight which include to two noctule bats, a single brown long-eared bat, a single Leisler's bat

Nyctalus leisleri, a single unidentified pipistrelle, and two unidentified bat species. A further 52 records relate to unidentified bat activities. The closest record relates to a brown long-eared bat located approximately 200 m south of the Site in 2008. The closest recent record pertains to an unidentified bat species located approximately 700 m north of the Site in 2020.

3.4.14 One EPS licences relating to bats was identified using MAGIC within 2 km of the Site. The licenses relate to the destruction of a common pipistrelle resting place. The license (2016-24318-EPS-MIT) lies 1.5km south of the Site and is from 2016.

Roosting Bats

3.4.15 A single building is present on the Site comprising a garage. The garage is to be demolished to facilitate the proposals for the Site. The garage is described below and is displayed within Figure 1.

Garage

3.4.16 A small, single storey building garage is present in the rear garden of 237 New Mill Road. The garage is constructed of pebbledash panelling and supports a pitched corrugated roof with gable ends. Wooden barge boards are present which support guttering on the long sides of the garage. A metal garage door is present on the southeastern aspect of the garage, with a wooden door and small window present on the southwestern aspect of the garage.

3.4.17 Internally, the garage contains no roof voids, with metal trusses throughout supporting the roof. A panelling is present internally between the corrugated metal roof and the internal ceiling; however, it is not considered that there is an accessible gap between the two for roosting bats. The internal of the building is well maintained, and there are no crevices or gaps that could form Potential Roosting Features (PRFs) for bats.

3.4.18 Externally, the garage is in good condition, with limited signs of deterioration that would create PRFs for bats. The corrugated roof sheets are all in good condition and interlock well, with no gaps for bats to enter behind. The fascia boards of the garage are all also in good condition, with no visible opportunities for roosting bats to enter between them and the pebbledash panelling of the building,

3.4.19 Given the absence of suitable PRFs present within the garage, in line with good practice guidance (Collins, 2023) it is considered that the building is of 'Negligible' suitability to support roosting bats.

Foraging and Commuting Bats

3.4.20 The Site offers limited potential for foraging and commuting bats, due to the limited scale of the habitats present on the Site. The wider local landscape has habitats of superior quality for commuting and roosting bats, such as the adjacent railway and river corridors.

3.4.21 Overall, the Site is considered to be of negligible suitability for commuting and foraging bats (Collins, 2023), and the habitats on the Site are considered to be of no more than site level importance for foraging and commuting bats.

Birds

3.4.22 WYES returned a total 175 records comprising 45 bird species for locations within 2 km of the Site. Species returned include a single Schedule 1 bird species, as listed within the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA 1981), 19 Red, 21 Amber and five Green listed BoCC species. Bird species recorded within 2 km of the Site are summarised in Appendix 3.

3.4.23 The Site offers negligible opportunities for nesting birds, however there are ample opportunities for nesting birds in the adjacent mature leylandii hedgerow off-site. No active bird nests were located on the Site during the site visit. The habitat present on the Site are limited in size and scale in comparison to the common and widespread availability of nesting habitat in the wider local area, particularly in the woodland to the northeast of the Site.

3.4.24 Overall, due to the nature of habitats present on the Site, it is considered that the Site is of importance to nesting birds at no greater than the site level.

Invertebrates

3.4.25 WYES returned a total of 28 records comprising eight invertebrate species including butterfly and beetle species. The closest record pertains to a smooth ramshorn *Gyraulus (Torquis) laevis* which was located approximately 1.4 km south of the Site in 2016.

3.4.26 The habitats on the Site are unlikely to offer a range of opportunities for invertebrates, with the Site comprising mostly hardstanding or short-sward lawn, therefore they are not considered to offer the variety in plant species, structural diversity and habitat interfaces that would be necessary to support diverse communities of terrestrial invertebrates. The variety of plant species and habitat structures present are of limited diversity and generally sub-optimal for invertebrates and considered unlikely to support notable species or large invertebrate populations but may contribute to foraging opportunities for common species.

3.4.27 Given the limited suitable habitat present on the Site, and the presence of more suitable habitat at a larger scale in the wider area, the Site is considered of importance to invertebrate species at no greater than the site level.

Reptiles

3.4.28 WYES returned no records of reptiles for locations within 2 km of the Site.

3.4.29 Overall habitats on the Site currently offer extremely limited suitability for reptiles, with only modified grassland offering opportunities for reptiles to bask. The Site is vegetated garden which is heavily disturbed by the human activities associated with the Site, in conjunction with the Site being located between other highly trafficked areas including a main road, a bowling club and a water treatment works. Reptiles are generally timid, and prefer to avoid heavily trafficked locations, and as such the land use of the Site is likely to reduce the suitability of the Site for reptiles. A pile of grass clippings is present in the northern corner of the Site (TN1) which would provide suitable egg laying habitat, in particular for grass snake, however this is considered unlikely to be used given the disturbance of the Site from the residential setting.

3.4.30 Given the absence of records of reptiles provided by WYES in conjunction with the lack of high quality habitats present on the Site and disturbance of the Site by human activities, it is considered that reptiles are likely absent from the Site, and as such will not be discussed further within this report.

Riparian Mammals and White-clawed Crayfish

3.4.31 WYES returned a single record of European otter *Lutra lutra* for locations within 2 km of the Site. The record was located approximately 1.6 km south of the Site in 2020.

3.4.32 WYES returned no records of water vole *Arvicola amphibius* or white-clawed *crayfish Austropotamobius pallipes* for locations within 2 km of the Site.

3.4.33 No evidence of these species was recorded during the walkover survey. No watercourses are located within 30 m of the Site and as such, it is not considered that riparian mammals or white-clawed crayfish are a

receptor with respect to this development, and as such will not be discussed further within this report.

Other Notable and Key Species

Hedgehog

3.4.34 WYES returned a single record of European hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* for locations within 2 km of the Site. The record was located approximately 700 m north of the Site in 2020.

3.4.35 The Site has limited suitability for hedgehog, with only the small sections of modified grassland offering some foraging opportunities that may be part of a wider foraging resource with habitats of greater size and quality present in the local area. As hedgehogs are highly mobile species, it is possible that they could also occasionally commute across the Site to more suitable neighbouring habitats.

3.4.36 Based on the relatively limited value of habitats on Site together with the availability of more suitable habitat associated in the wider area, Site habitats are considered unlikely to be of more than site level importance to hedgehogs.

3.5 *Invasive Species*

3.5.1 WYES returned 427 records of invasive plant species, seven of which are historic. Records include giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazianum*, Himlayan balsam *Impatiens glandlifera*, Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*, variegated yellow archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon subsp. Argentanum* and Rhododendron *Rhododendrum ponticum*. The closest records to the Site pertain to Giant knotweed, located approximately 67 m East of the Site in 2014.

3.5.2 No Schedule 9 listed species were observed within the Site during the survey, and as such will not be considered further within this report.

4. Impact Assessment, Mitigation and Enhancements

4.1 *Proposals*

4.1.1 Proposals for the Site comprise the construction of a new home in the garden of the existing property at 237 New Mill Road. These proposals are detailed within the JHA Architecture drawing '*Existing General Arrangement Plan*' (Dwg No. 2025/004/01A, dated January 2025).

4.2 *Habitats*

4.2.1 Given that the habitats present on the Site are common and widespread both across the UK and within the local area, it is anticipated that the loss of habitat at the Site is of importance to nature conservation at no greater than the site level.

4.2.2 The Site is to be constructed as a self-built, and as such is exempt from Biodiversity Net Gain policy. Consideration should be given to favour the planting of native, flowering and fruit bearing species in the garden of the new property to provide food sources for local fauna post-development.

4.3 *Protected Species*

Badger

4.3.1 Badgers and their setts are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. It is an offence under the act to kill, injure or take a badger. It is also an offence to destroy, damage or obstruct a currently active badger sett, or to disturb animals within the sett.

4.3.2 Badgers are not considered to be resident on the Site, however they are highly mobile species and have the potential to disperse on to areas of the Site and into working areas. As such it is recommended that, BPM be implemented throughout the works to protect badgers, should they subsequently pass through these areas of the Site. The BPM should include:

- Any excavations deeper than 1 m required during the works should be covered overnight. Shallow excavations less than 1 m should have a roughened scaffold board or equivalent placed in them overnight to allow any animals which may become trapped to exit. Trenches will also be inspected each morning to ensure that no animals have become trapped overnight;
- Food/litter will not be left on Site;
- If in the unlikely event that badgers are encountered during works, then works will cease temporarily and the animal allowed to move away off its own volition. The ecologist will be contacted for advice; and,
- If badgers are suspected to be associated with the Site once works have commenced, including a suspected badger sett found on or within 30 m of the Site during the works by a contractor, works should cease and an appropriately experienced ecologist should be contacted for advice before continuing.

4.3.3 Additionally, any lighting implemented during the construction stage and upon completion of the development should be directed away from retained vegetated habitats, particularly off-site habitats to allow badgers to continue to use such habitats for foraging and commuting where present locally.

Bats

4.3.4 All species of bat occurring within the UK are included in Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and

Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. Under regulation 41 bats are protected from deliberate capture, injury or killing, from deliberate disturbance and from deliberate damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place (roost).

4.3.5 All UK bats are also included on Schedule 5 of the WCA 1981 (as amended). However, their protection is limited to certain offences. Under the 1981 Act (as amended) it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb bats while they are occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection, or to obstruct access to any such place.

4.3.6 Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*, Bechstein's *Myotis bechsteinii*, brown long-eared bat, greater horseshoe, lesser horseshoe, noctule and soprano pipistrelle bats are included as priority species under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006.

Roosting Bats

4.3.7 The garage on the Site are considered to offer 'Negligible' suitability for roosting bats, and as such, in line with good practice guidance, no further surveys are required to confirm presence/likely absence of roosting bats ahead of the proposed demolition (Collins, 2023). In the extremely unlikely event that bats are present or thought to be present during the demolition of the garage, works should cease immediately and an ecologist contacted for further advise .

4.3.8 As an enhancement for nature conservation, it is recommended that a single bat box should be incorporated into the new house as part of the development proposals. The model of boxes used should be suitable for crevice dwelling bat species, such as the Schwegler 1FR Bat Tube. The bat box should be placed at a minimum of 4 m above the ground on the houses, facing southern aspects to maximise chances of occupation.

Foraging and Commuting Bats

4.3.9 The habitats on the Site itself were considered negligible for foraging/commuting bats.

4.3.10 The connectivity of the Site to the wider area through vegetated and aquatic habitats is not considered to be negatively impacted due to the limited scale of the proposals. As such, further survey in this instance is not necessary with respect to foraging and commuting bats.

4.3.11 Bat species in the UK are known to be impacted by artificial lighting. In order to avoid impacts associated with artificial light spill on bat flight-lines or foraging habitat, mitigation measures should be implemented whereby the lighting of the proposed development (as well as any temporary lighting to be used during the construction phase) should be designed to avoid light-spill onto surrounding off-site habitats to safeguard these as foraging and commuting resources.

Birds

4.3.12 All wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected under the WCA 1981 (as amended) while a nest is in use or occupied. The nesting bird season is typically considered to fall between March and August (inclusive). Species listed under Schedule 1 of the Act receive additional protection against disturbance whilst occupying a nest site.

4.3.13 The habitats on Site were considered to be of no more than site level importance to local bird populations given the quality of habitat recorded on the Site and the extensive availability of similar to higher quality habitat for nesting birds in the wider area.

4.3.14 Nesting birds could be present at the Site due to the presence of shrubby plants and additionally off-site

laylandii. To minimise the risk of committing an offence in relation to nesting birds, clearance of these habitats (where necessary) to facilitate construction should be programmed to be between September and February inclusive, i.e. to avoid the bird breeding season. If this is not possible, then a nesting bird check (to be undertaken by a suitably experienced ecologist) will be required within 48 hours of vegetation removal or building demolition. If an active nest is found during a nesting bird check, there will be a requirement to establish an exclusion zone around the nest (in consultation with the ecologist) which should be maintained until it has been demonstrated that all fledglings have left the nest and the nest is no longer active. This may require monitoring for periods of at least up to a month dependent on nesting stage. Repeat visits will be required if vegetation removal is not completed within the 48-hour timeframe after the initial nesting bird check.

4.3.15 It is recommended that an integrated bird nest box should be incorporated into the proposed house as a positive enhancement for nature conservation. Schwegler Brick Box Type 25 boxes are recommended as they have been shown to achieve good uptake by a range of species and not just swifts. The bird box should be placed at a minimum height of 3 m (near eaves level when placed on buildings) avoiding full south aspects as they present a risk of overheating

Invertebrates

4.3.16 Many invertebrate species are listed under Section 41 of NERC act (2006) designating them as Species of Principal Importance in England.

4.3.17 Several species of invertebrate and their habitat are afforded full protection under Schedule 5 (Section 9) of the WCA 1981 (as amended). Several species are also EPS. These are afforded strict protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (Amendment) (EU Exit) 2019 under Schedule 2.

4.3.18 The loss of the vegetated habitats on the Site is not considered likely to impact any notable populations of invertebrates. Habitats on Site are considered of no more than site level importance for invertebrates and impacts from proposals are therefore likely to be insignificant to invertebrates resident in the local area. Common invertebrate species that may be resident in the wider area would benefit through the provision of seasonal nectar resources and consideration should be given to inclusion of native woody and flowering species in and planting schemes.

4.3.19 Further enhancements for the Site with regards to invertebrates would be to incorporate bee bricks into the new extension/construction. Bee bricks provide sheltering opportunities for solitary bees, which are pollinator species and are vital to local ecosystems. Solitary bees do not have queens or honey to protect, meaning they are non-aggressive and extremely unlikely to sting.

Other Notable and Priority Species

Hedgehog

4.3.20 Hedgehog are included as a species of principal importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006. Whilst not afforded a high level of protection, hedgehogs have experienced significant declines in the UK population. Taking a best practice approach, avoiding harm to hedgehogs should be taken into consideration during works.

4.3.21 The proposals on the Site is not considered to significantly impact upon hedgehog of more than site level importance.

4.3.22 Hedgehogs are a highly mobile species and have the potential to disperse on to the Site from suitable habitats. BPM should be followed:

- Maintaining vigilance for hedgehogs at all times during the works;
- Allow any hedgehogs to move away from the Site of their own volition. Should a hedgehog be in immediate danger, they should be picked up by gloved hand and placed in an area of suitable shelter and safety away from the proposed works;
- If any excavations are to be left uncovered overnight, a suitable escape ramp (e.g. a long scaffolding board) should be placed within the excavation to allow a hedgehog to escape in the event an individual should fall in;
- If hedgehog is encountered between November and March or juveniles are encountered the ecologist should be contact for advice immediately as these are periods when individuals are at most risk to disturbance; and,
- Safeguards outlined for badgers will further help to safeguard small mammals, including hedgehogs in the event that they are present during Site clearance works.

5. References

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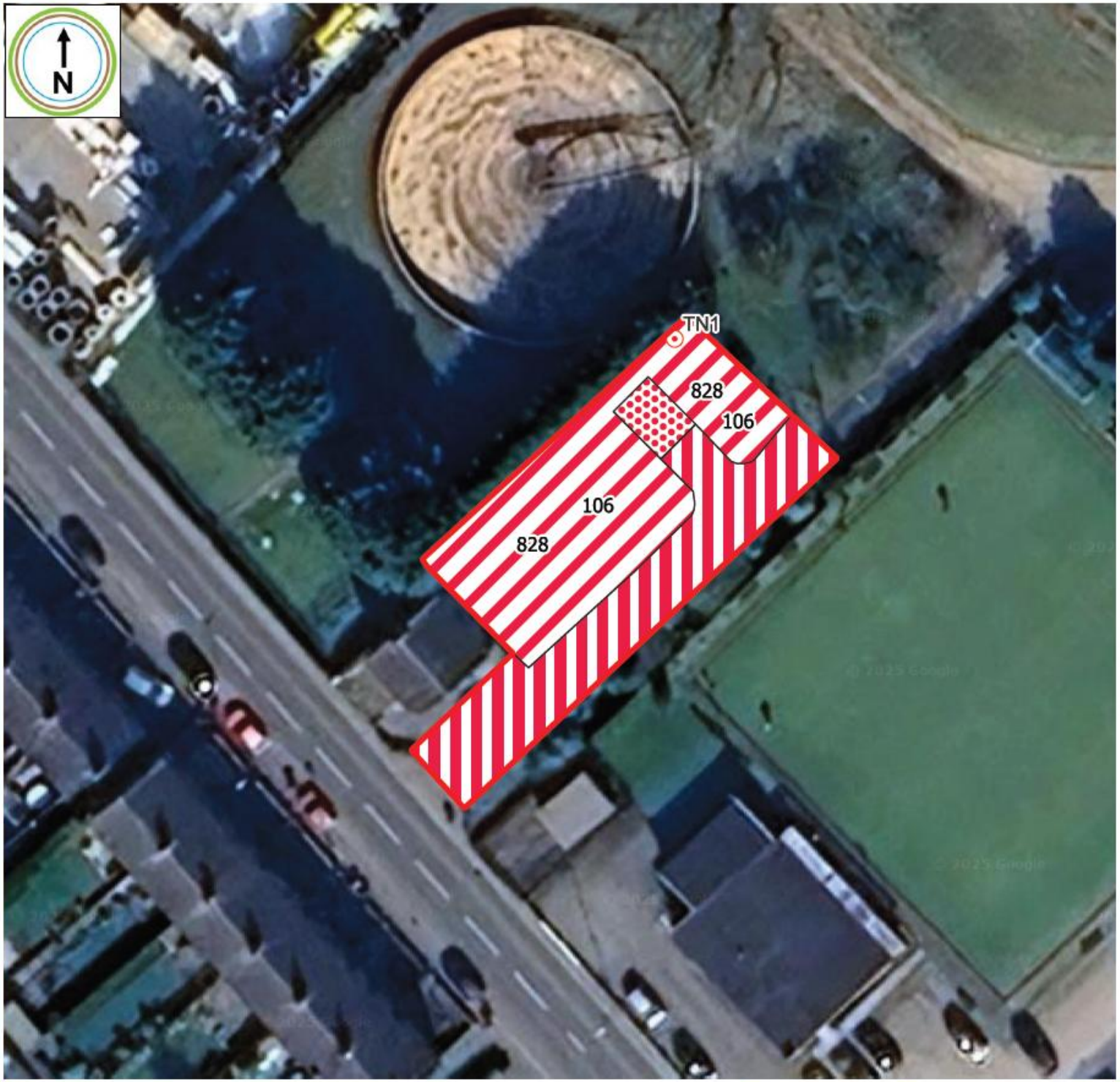
Figure 1. UK Habitat Classification Map



Legend

Site Boundary

UKHabs Habitats

- u1 - Built up areas and gardens
- u1b - Developed land; sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- Target Notes

Secondary Codes:

106 - Regularly mown
828 - Vegetated garden

0 5 10 15 20 m

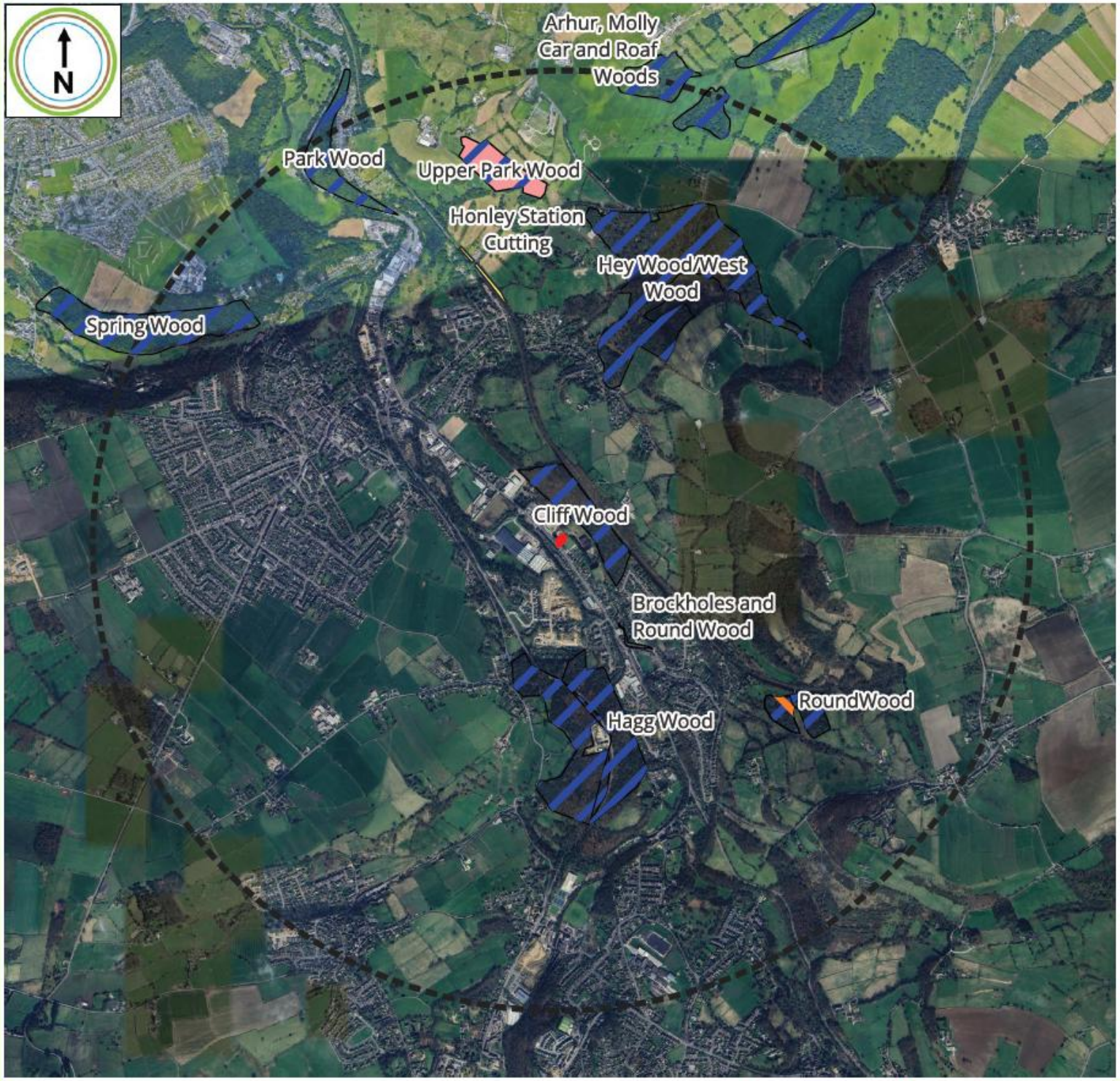
HABITAT WORKS

Paul Matthews Architectural

237 New Mill Road, Brockholes

Figure 1
UK Habitat Classification Map

Figure 2. Designated Sites Map



Legend

- Site Boundary
- 2000 m Buffer

Designated Sites

- Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Local Geological Site (LGS)
- Local Wildlife Site (LWS)

0 250 500 750 1,000 m

HABITAT WORKS

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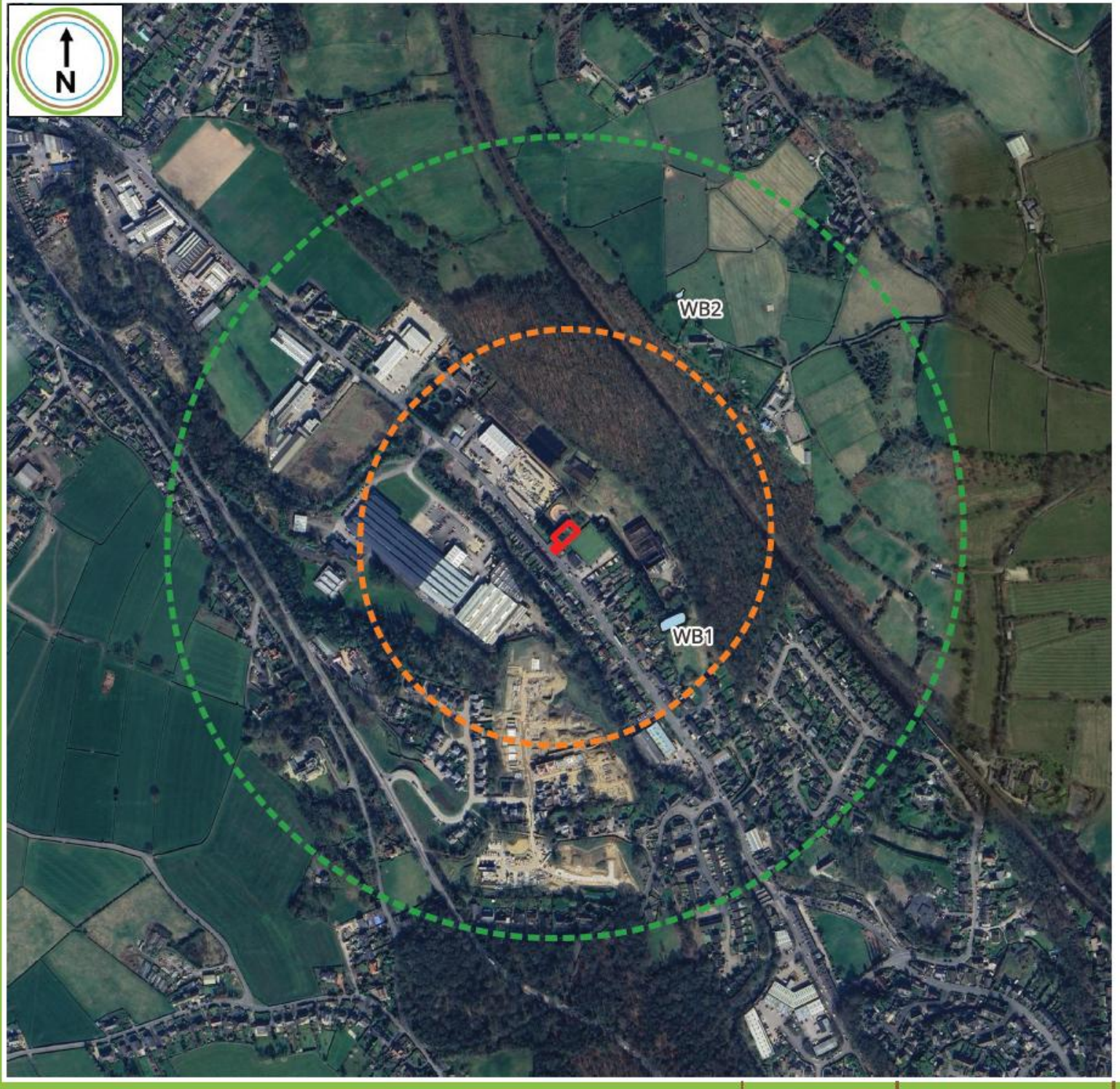
Figure 2
Designated Sites within 2 km of the Site

Figure 3. Waterbodies within 500 m of the Site



Legend

- Site Boundary
- 250 m Buffer
- 500 m Buffer
- Waterbodies

0 100 200 300 400 m

HABITAT WORKS

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237 New Mill Road, Brockholes

Figure 3
Waterbodies within 500 m of the Site

July 2025 | Scale - 1: 12000 @ A4 | Drawing Reference: 250721/F3/AS

Appendix 1. Target Notes

TN1 – Grass clippings

Appendix 2. Site Photographs

Photograph 1. Garden of 237 New Mill Road

Photograph 2. Garage present on the Site

Photograph 3. Internal of the garage

Photograph 4. Regularly mown lawn

Photograph 5. Example of introduced shrubs

Photograph 6. TN1 – Grass clippings

Appendix 3. Bird Species Records Summary

Common Name	Scientific Name	BoCC Status
Fieldfare	*Turdus pilaris*	Schedule 1, Red
Cuckoo	*Cuculus canorus*	Red
Greenfinch	*Chloris chloris*	Red
Grey Partridge	*Perdix perdix*	Red
House Martin	*Delichon urbicum*	Red
House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	Red
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	*Dryobates minor*	Red
Linnet	*Linaria cannabina*	Red
Mistle Thrush	*Turdus viscivorus*	Red
Redpoll (Common\Lesser)	*Acanthis flammea/cabaret*	Red
Spotted Flycatcher	*Muscicapa striata*	Red
Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*	Red
Tree Pipit	*Anthus trivialis*	Red
Tree Sparrow	*Passer montanus*	Red
Willow Tit	*Poecile montanus*	Red
Wood Warbler	*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*	Red
Woodcock	*Scolopax rusticola*	Red
Yellowhammer	*Emberiza citrinella*	Red
Swift	*Apus apus*	Red
Bullfinch	*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*	Amber
Common Redpoll	*Acanthis flammea*	Amber
Dipper	*Cinclus cinclus*	Amber
Dunnock	*Prunella modularis*	Amber
Grey Wagtail	*Motacilla cinerea*	Amber
Kestrel	*Falco tinnunculus*	Amber
Lesser Black-backed Gull	*Larus fuscus*	Amber
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	Amber
Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*	Amber
Pied Flycatcher	*Ficedula hypoleuca*	Amber
Redstart	*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*	Amber
Redwing	*Turdus iliacus*	Amber
Rook	*Corvus frugilegus*	Amber
Song Thrush	*Turdus philomelos*	Amber
Sparrowhawk	*Accipiter nisus*	Amber
Stock Dove	*Columba oenas*	Amber
Tawny Owl	*Strix aluco*	Amber
Whitethroat	*Curruca communis*	Amber
Willow Warbler	*Phylloscopus trochilus*	Amber

Woodpigeon	*Columba palumbus*	Amber
Wren	*Troglodytes troglodytes*	Amber
Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*	Green
Brambling	*Fringilla montifringilla*	Green
Collared Dove	*Streptopelia decaocto*	Green
Goldfinch	*Carduelis carduelis*	Green
Grey Heron	*Ardea cinerea*	Green