



FUTURESECOLOGY

Britology Ltd.

15 Shelley Woodhouse Lane, Huddersfield

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) Report

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1.0 **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Site is approximately 0.12ha in extent, located between two small villages: Shelley (c. 1.4km west) and Skelmanthorpe (c. 1.3km east); c. 9km southeast of the centre of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire.
- 1.2 The proposals comprise the erection of one self-build residential dwelling, with associated garden, parking and private access.
- 1.3 There are not expected to be any direct construction impacts or operational impacts upon any designated sites within the specified zone of influence.
- 1.4 The West Yorkshire Habitat Network (WYHN) is located 65m south of the Site boundary, and mitigation measures to prevent indirect construction impacts are recommended.
- 1.5 In general, the existing onsite grassland and scrub habitats were considered of limited ecological value. Boundary broadleaved trees are considered to have greater ecological value, and it is recommended that these are retained and protected from construction phase impacts. This should be outlined within a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).
- 1.6 The broadleaved trees also provide some value as commuting routes and foraging resources for the local bat population. A sympathetic lighting design in accordance with best practice guidance¹ should be implemented during the construction and operational phases of the development.
- 1.7 There is a known small population of Great Crested Newts (GCN) *Tristurus cristatus* present within 500m of the Site boundary. A precautionary approach to Site clearance is recommended in order to ensure statutory compliance and to prevent other amphibian species from harm.
- 1.8 Habitats present onsite also provide some limited suitability for reptiles, nesting birds, and hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*. Pre-commencement surveys and/or precautionary working methods are recommended for these species/species groups.
- 1.9 All recommendations and best practice precautionary working methods pertaining to faunal species will be outlined within a CEMP.

¹ Guidance Note GN08/23 Bats and Artificial Lighting At Night, Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) and the Institute of Lighting Professionals

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The following report has been prepared by Futures Ecology Ltd. on behalf of Britology Ltd. It provides the results of a habitat and preliminary protected species survey at 15 Shelley Woodhouse Lane, Huddersfield (grid reference: SE 21903 10858).
- 2.2 The habitat and preliminary protected species surveys were undertaken on the 4th July 2025.
- 2.3 The key objectives of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (PEAR) are to:
- gain an understanding of the baseline ecology of the Site and immediate surrounding area.
 - determine whether the Site supports or has the potential to support protected species.
 - identify any likely ecological constraints and mitigation measures likely to be required.
 - identify the opportunities offered by the potential project to deliver ecological enhancement.

SITE LOCATION AND CONTEXT

- 2.4 The Site is c. 0.12ha in extent and comprised a small field compartment with large areas of bramble scrub, bracken, and poor semi-improved grassland. There is a hardstanding driveway adjacent to a strip of introduced shrub in the southwest. The Site is bound by a number of individual trees, a line of scattered scrub, and ornamental hedgerows.
- 2.5 The Site is located between two small villages: Shelley (c. 1.4km west) and Skelmanthorpe (c. 1.3km east); c. 9km southeast of the centre of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. The Site is bound by Shelley Woodhouse Lane to the southwest, with residential houses to the west, south, and partially north. To the north and east, it is bound by arable fields.

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

- 2.6 Proposals comprise the erection of one self-build residential dwelling, with associated garden, parking and private access.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

PERSONNEL

- 3.1 The habitat survey and protected species assessment was conducted by D. Heppenstall BSc (Hons). D. Heppenstall has over 1 years' experience of conducting and leading field surveys across a wide range of sites, and is appropriately qualified for the surveys based on the CIEEM competencies.

DESK STUDY

- 3.2 Prior to the field survey, aerial photographs and mapping tools were reviewed using online mapping resources at a minimum scale of 1:25,000; Google Maps²; and the Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)³ to assess the landscape context of the survey area and surrounding areas.
- 3.3 The MAGIC website was used to obtain information about:
- Statutory designated sites of international, national and local importance;
 - Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar sites;
 - Approved European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) licences, and
 - Natural England Environmental DNA surveys and Habitat Suitability Assessments of Ponds for great crested newt in support of District Level mitigation Licensing.
- 3.4 To support the field survey and compile baseline information of relevance to the Site, ecological information was sought from third party organisations:
- West Yorkshire Ecological Service (WYES);
 - West Yorkshire Bat Group (WYBG);
 - Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory (ATI)⁴;
 - Ancient Woodland and Habitats of Principal Importance (MAGIC)³;
 - Land Information System (LandIS)⁵; and
 - Natural England's Open Dataset⁶.
- 3.5 Relevant data requested included records of protected or notable species and sites designated for nature conservation interest.
- 3.6 The search area for designated sites and protected species is determined by the likely Zone of Influence⁷ and the likely significant effect. The search areas for the various levels of site designation and for protected / notable species is detailed below:
- Sites of international statutory designation such as Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Sites are searched for within a 10km radius around the application Site.
 - Sites of national or regional importance with a statutory designation of Site of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI) or National Nature Reserve (NNR) within 2km.

² www.google.com/maps

³ www.magic.defra.gov.uk

⁴ <https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

⁵ Hallett, S.H., Sakrabani, R., Keay, C.A. and Hannam, J.A. (2017) Developments in Land Information Systems: Case studies in land resource management capabilities and options. Soil Use and Management. doi: 10.1111/sum.12380. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/sum.12380/full>

⁶ <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/8643f1b9-b419-4ee8-8e9c-18200e0edc31/great-crested-newt-edna-habitat-suitability-index-pond-surveys-for-district-level-licensing-2017-2018-2019>

⁷ The Zone of Influence (ZOI) is defined by CIEEM as being the "area over which ecological features may be affected by biophysical changes as a result of a proposed project and associated activities" CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland. Terrestrial, Freshwater and Marine.

- Sites of local importance with statutory designation of Local Nature Reserve (LNR), or non-statutory designation of Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) or the equivalent Local Wildlife Site (LWS) within 1km;
- Records of notable / protected species (i.e., including Species of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) species within 1km and bats within 2km; and
- EPSM licences relating to bats within 2km and GCN within 1km.

FIELD SURVEY – HABITATS

Habitat Survey

- 3.7 The survey was undertaken on the 4th July 2025, during weather conditions that were clear and dry. Survey methodology followed guidance from Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) 2016⁸ comprising a walkover of the survey area mapping (using JNCC standard habitat codes) and broadly describing and classifying the principal habitat types and other features of interest. The frequencies at which plant species occurred were noted using the DAFOR⁹ method. Whilst the plant species lists obtained should not be regarded as exhaustive, sufficient information was obtained to determine broad habitat types. The UK Habitats Classification methodology¹⁰ was also used for classification of onsite habitats.
- 3.8 Habitats were also assessed for their potential to support protected or notable species including any incidental sightings of birds recorded during the walkover. Where potentially suitable habitats were observed during the scope of this assessment, detailed protected species surveys were undertaken using methodology detailed below.
- 3.9 The distribution and extent of any invasive species listed on Schedule 9, Section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (*as amended*) were also noted during the survey.

Hedgerows

- 3.10 Any hedgerows present within the application survey area were assessed against the Wildlife and Landscape criteria contained within the Statutory Instrument No: 1160 – The Hedgerow Regulations 1997¹² to determine whether they qualified as an ‘Important Hedgerow’ under the regulations. It should be noted that hedgerows may also qualify as ‘Important Hedgerows’ under the Archaeology and History criteria of this Act, which is outside the scope of this assessment.
- 3.11 In addition, any hedgerows present are also surveyed using the Hedgerow Evaluation and Grading System (HEGS)¹³. This method assesses the hedgerows by recording canopy species composition, ground flora and climber species. Measurements are taken regarding the structure of the hedgerows, which include height, width and gaps present,

⁸ JNCC (2016) Handbook for Phase1 Habitat Survey – a technique for environmental audit. ISBN 0 86139 636 7

⁹ https://bsbi.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/Sampling_Guidance_-_Annex_1_v4_April_2011.pdf

¹⁰ <https://ukhab.org/>

¹² DEFRA (1997) The Hedgerow Regulations 1997: A Guide to the Law and Good Practice, London HMSO.

¹³ Clements, D.K. & Tofts, R.J. (1992) Hedgerow Evaluation and Grading System (HEGS): A methodology for the ecological survey evaluation and grading of hedgerows.

as well as associated features such as the number and species of tree standards, banks, ditches and grass verges.

- 3.12 Each hedgerow is given a grade using the HEGS system with the suffixes '+' and '-', which represent the upper and lower limit of each grade. The grade represents a continuum on a scale from 1+ (the highest score and also hedges of the greatest nature conservation priority) as follows:

Table 1: Nature Conservation Value of Hedgerows

Grade	Value of Hedgerow
-1, 1, 1+	High to Very High
-2, 2, 2+	Moderately High to High
-3, 3, 3+	Moderate
-4, 4, 4+	Low

Habitat of Principal Importance

- 3.13 All hedgerows consisting predominantly (i.e., 80% or more cover) of at least one woody UK native species are a Habitat of Principal Importance (HPI) (as described by the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Hedgerow Habitat Action Plan (HAP)) under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act in England under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006, where each UK country can define the list of woody species native to their respective country. Therefore, the percentage abundance of woody species contained within the hedgerows was recorded.

FIELD SURVEY – FAUNA

- 3.14 A survey was undertaken on the 4th of July 2025, within the application Site and 30m beyond the boundary where possible. The survey followed standard methodology as outlined by Natural England (2015) and Harris *et al* (1989), Creswell *et al.* (1990). Field signs searched for include: earth mounds, bedding material, mammal paths, snuffle holes, prints, hairs, scratching posts etc.. The identification of some signs on their own does not necessarily provide conclusive evidence of the presence of

Bats**Daytime Bat Walkover (DBW)**

- 3.15 The DBW was undertaken on the 4th of July 2025.

Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA)

- 3.16 All trees within the survey area were assessed for their potential to support roosting bats using statutory guidance (Natural England, 2019)¹⁷ and best practice survey methodology (Collins, 2023¹⁸ and Mitchell-Jones, A.J. and McLeish, A.P. (eds), 2004)¹⁹.
- 3.17 The trees were inspected from the ground using close focussing binoculars, a high-powered torch, and an endoscope where appropriate. Potential Roosting Features (PRF) for bats such, holes / cavities, loose bark, cracks / splits, occluded bark, and gaps behind ivy stems (please note that this list is not exhaustive) were sought (Based on P16, *British Standard 8596:2015*²⁰). Other factors such as orientation of the feature, its height from the ground, the direct surroundings and its location in respect to other features may enhance or reduce the potential value of the PRF. Signs indicating possible use by bats were also recorded such as bat droppings, odour, scratches, staining and audible sounds.
- 3.18 An assessment was made on the level of bat roosting potential offered by the trees, based on the presence of the features detailed above. Table 2 below outlines the suitability categories as per the Bat Survey Guidelines¹⁸ which now supersedes The British Standard Document which groups trees with moderate and high potential.

Table 2: Suitability of Trees for Bat Roosts - Based on Table 4.2 of Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th ed.), The Bat Conservation Trust, London

Classification / Suitability	Description	Likely Further Survey Work
NONE	Either no PRFs in the tree or highly unlikely to be any.	None.
FAR	Further assessment required to establish if PRFs are present in the tree.	Aerial assessment of further GLTA required by a licenced or accredited bat licence worker.
PRF	A tree with at least one PRF present	PRF Inspection Survey (Aerial Assessment). If this is not possible alternative access methods such as a MEWP and/or nocturnal survey work must be considered.

- 3.19 Upon completion of the above assessment, if possible, the PRF's are assigned the following:

¹⁷ Bats: surveys and mitigation for development projects: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bats-surveys-and-mitigation-for-development-projects> (accessed 12/11/2019)

¹⁸ Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologist: Good practice Guidelines (4th edition), The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

¹⁹ Mitchell-Jones, A.J. and McLeish, A.P. (eds) (2004) *Bat Workers' Manual (3rd edn)*. JNCC, Peterborough.

²⁰ British Standard (2015) BS 8596:2015 *Surveying for bats in trees and woodland – Guide*, October 2015.

- PRF-I – PRF is only suitable for individual bats or very small numbers of bats due to size of lack of suitable surrounding habitats. No further survey work may be required but a precautionary working method statement may be appropriate.
- PRF-M – PRF is suitable for multiple bats and may therefore be used by a maternity colony. These will require further aerial (close) inspection and / or nocturnal surveys which comprise 3 visits between May – September, with at least two in the period May – August. Each visit should be at least 3 weeks apart.

Foraging / Commuting Habitat

- 3.20 The potential for the Site and immediate surrounds to support foraging and commuting bats was also assessed, with particular regard being given to the presence of continuous treelines providing good connectivity in the landscape, and the presence of varied habitat such as scrub, woodland, grassland and open water in the vicinity.

Great Crested Newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus*

Aquatic Habitat

- 3.21 OS mapping and online aerial imagery were analysed for the presence of on and off-site water bodies within 500m of the application Site in accordance with Natural England guidance²¹.

Terrestrial Habitat

- 3.22 An assessment of the suitability of the terrestrial habitats within the Site to support GCN was completed within the subject Site. Suitable terrestrial habitat includes shelter habitat such as scrub and rank vegetation and habitat that could provide suitable hibernation sites such as rubble piles, tussock grassland and compost heaps.

Reptiles

- 3.23 An assessment of the suitability of the habitats present to support common reptile species was completed at the time of the habitat survey. This involved a review of habitats and habitat structure suitable for the shelter of reptiles such as areas of scrub and woodpiles, grassland with well developed, varied structure; and also, the appropriate juxtaposition of areas suitable for basking shelter and forage/hunting. This assessment was based on the methodology detailed in the Herpetofauna Workers Manual (Gent and Gibson, 1998)²², and Froglife Advice Sheet 10 – Reptile Survey (Froglife 1999)²³.

²¹ Natural England: *Standing Advice Sheet: Great Crested Newts* Paragraph 4: 4.1

²² Gent, A.H., & Gibson, S.D., eds 1998. *Herpetofauna Workers' Manual*. Peterborough, joint Nature Conservation Committee.

²³ Froglife 1999. *Froglife Advice Sheet 10: Reptile Survey*. Froglife, London

Other species

- 3.24 Any sightings, evidence of or suitable habitats for other protected fauna, local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species or otherwise notable species was recorded during the survey.

Survey Limitations

- 3.25 The habitat survey was undertaken in July, which is within the optimal season (April – September) for the majority of habitats, therefore no limitations are anticipated in relation to the classification of onsite habitats.
- 3.26 Some areas of the Site, specifically the northeastern corner and along the eastern and southern boundaries could not be closely accessed due to dense scrub.
- 3.27 The Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) was undertaken in July 2025, which is outside of the optimal survey season (December – March, when leaves are absent). This could obscure potential PRFs suitable for bats. However, the trees were young and the presence of hidden PRFs is considered unlikely.

4.0 RESULTS

DESK STUDY

- 4.1 A summary of relevant information provided by third party consultees is provided below and displayed on Figure 1. The original data has not been included in this report.

Statutory Designated Sites

- 4.2 No internationally designated sites occur within the Site boundary. Two internationally designated sites occur within 10km of the Site.
- 4.3 Denby Grange Colliery Ponds Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (also a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)) is located 6.3km northeast of the Site.
- 4.4 The South Pennine Moors Special Protection Area (SPA)/SAC (also a SSSI) is located 9.8km southwest of the Site boundary.
- 4.5 No national or regionally important statutory sites occur within the Site or within 2km of the Site boundary.
- 4.6 Consultation with MAGIC Site check confirms that the Site falls within at least one SSSI Impact Risk Zone (IRZ). However, the development does not fall within any of the categories that would otherwise require consultation with Natural England due to their potential impact, those being:
- **Infrastructure:** Airports, helipads and other aviation proposals.
 - **Minerals, Oil and Gas:** Oil & gas exploration/extraction.
 - **Air Pollution:** Livestock & poultry units with a floorspace > 500m², slurry lagoons > 4000m².

- **Combustion:** General combustion processes >50MW energy input. Including: energy from waste incineration, other incineration, landfill gas generation plant, pyrolysis/gasification, anaerobic digestion, sewage treatment works, other incineration/combustion.

4.7 No sites of local importance with a statutory designation were located within the Site or within 1km of the Site boundary.

Non-Statutory Designated Sites

4.8 No sites of local importance with non-statutory designation occur within the Site or within 1km of the Site boundary.

Table 3: Statutory and Non-Statutory Designated Sites

Site Name	Designation	Proximity to Site (approximate)	Description
Denby Grange Colliery Ponds	SAC/SSSI	6.3km northeast	This waterbody in northeast England, created by coal-mining activity, has consistently yielded high counts of great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> in recent years. The pond is surrounded by wooded slopes, with adjacent anthropogenic habitat associated with the previous mining activities. A large new pond was created recently to help support the population, which was previously reliant on a single breeding site ²⁴ .
South Pennine Moors	SPA/SAC/SSSI	9.8km southwest	The SAC is representative of upland dry heath at the southern end of the Pennine range, the habitat's most south-easterly upland location in the UK. It also represents blanket bog in the south Pennines, the most south-easterly occurrence of the habitat in Europe. Around the fringes of the upland heath and bog of the south Pennines are blocks of old sessile oak woods, usually on slopes. ²⁵ The SPA is designated for its moorland bird assemblage, supporting nationally important breeding populations of merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> and golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ; as well as breeding migratory birds.
Springs Wood	Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	604m northeast	Ancient semi-natural woodlands have developed naturally. Most have been used by humans historically but have

²⁴ <https://sac.incc.gov.uk/site/UK0030036>

²⁵ [South Pennine Moors - Special Areas of Conservation](#)

Site Name	Designation	Proximity to Site (approximate)	Description
			had woodland cover for over 400 years ²⁶ .
Lightcliff Wood/Rough Piece	Planted Ancient Woodland	882m northeast	Planted ancient woodland sites are ancient woods that have been replanted with non-native species, typically conifers, but can also include broadleaved species ²⁶ .
Deciduous Woodland	HPI	142m east	Ten parcels of deciduous woodland HPI are located within 1km of the Site, the nearest being 142m east. Lowland mixed deciduous woodland includes woodlands growing on the full range of soil conditions and includes most semi-natural woodland in the UK. The woods tend to be less than 20ha and often have evidence of past coppicing ²⁷ .

Ancient Woodland and Trees

- 4.9 No Ancient Woodland occurs within the Site. One parcel of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and one parcel of Planted Ancient Woodland occur within 1km of the Site boundary. The closest is Springs Wood, located 604m north.
- 4.10 No ancient or veteran trees occur within 1km of the Site boundary⁴.

Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI)

- 4.11 No HPis occur within the Site. Ten HPis occur within 1km of the Site, all of which are deciduous woodland. The closest parcel is located 142m east of the Site boundary.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

- 4.12 The Kirklees Biodiversity Strategy²⁸ contains sixteen Habitat Action Plans for:
- Semi-natural pasture;
 - Lowland and upland meadows;
 - Lowland dry acid grassland;
 - Blanket bog;
 - Upland heathland;
 - Upland flushes;
 - Lowland heathland;

²⁶ <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/habitats/ancient-woodland/>

²⁷ <https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/2829ce47-1ca5-41e7-bc1a-871c1cc0b3ae/UKBAP-BAPHabitats-30-LowlandMixedDecWood.pdf>

²⁸ <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/delivering-services/policies-and-strategies.aspx>

- Upland oak woodland;
- Lowland deciduous and other woodland;
- Upland mixed ashwoods;
- Wet woodland;
- Arable field margins;
- Hedgerows;
- Rivers, riverine corridors and associated habitats;
- Reedbeds; and
- Scrub and habitat mosaics on previously developed land.

4.13 There are also seven Species Action Plans for:

- Floating water plantain *Luronium natans*;
- Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*;
- Marsh helleborine *Epipactis palustris*;
- Northern wood ant *Formica lugubris*;
- Twite *Carduelis flavirostris* subsp. *Bensonorum/pilipans*
- Water vole *Arvicola amphibius*; and
- White-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*.

West Yorkshire Habitat Network (WYHN)

- 4.14 The West Yorkshire Wildlife Habitat Network has been produced by combining District Wildlife Habitat Networks drawn up between 2011 and 2016 by Wakefield District Council and West Yorkshire Ecology Service (acting on behalf of Bradford, Leeds, Kirklees and Calderdale District Councils).
- 4.15 At the nearest point, the WYHN is located 65m south of the Site boundary.

Soil Type

- 4.16 The Site is located primarily within a parcel mapped as Soilscape 6; this is described as freely draining slightly acid loamy soils. The southwest corner of the Site is located within a parcel mapped as Soilscape 17; this is described as slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils. This information was provided by LandIS²⁹ and broader details of the soil structure can be found below:

²⁹ <https://www.landis.org.uk/soilscares/>

Table 4: Soil Type

Property	Soilscape 6	Soilscape 17
Drainage	Freely draining to local groundwater and river	Impeded drainage to stream network
Fertility	Low	Low
Landcover	Arable and grassland	Grassland with some arable and forestry
Habitats	Neutral and acid pastures and deciduous woodlands; acid communities such as bracken and gorse in the uplands	Seasonally wet pastures and woodlands
Carbon	Low	Medium

Protected / Notable Species Records

- 4.17 Records of protected and notable species provided by desk study consultees are provided in Table 5 below. The species records have been filtered to comprise relevant protected and / or notable species within 1km (and bats within 2km) of the survey area. The locations are shown on Figure 1.

Table 5: Summary of Relevant Protected and Notable Species Records

Species	Scientific Name	Conservation Status	Total No. of Records	Location / Minimum distance of records from Site boundary (m)	Grid ref. accuracy of nearest record
Bat species					
Common pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Regs (Sch2), WCA (Sch5)	Roost: 14 Field Record: 18 Total: 32	Roost: 1.01km east (E) Field record: 526m E	Roost: 1m Field record: 10m
Soprano pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Regs (Sch2), NERC (SPI), WCA (Sch5)	Roost: N/A Field Record: 2 Total: 2	Roost: N/A Field record: 1420m E	Roost: N/A Field record: 100m
Pipistrelle bat species	<i>Pipistrellus</i> spp.	Regs (Sch2), WCA (Sch5)	Roost: 1 Field Record: 6 Total: 7	Roost: 1.83km E Field record: 1.04km E	Roost: 1m Field record: 100m
Noctule bat	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Regs (Sch2), NERC (SPI), WCA (Sch5)	Roost: N/A Field Record: 9 Total: 9	Roost: N/A Field record: 526m E	Roost: N/A Field record: 10m
Daubenton's Bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	Regs (Sch2), WCA (Sch5)	Roost: N/A Field Record: 1 Total: 1	Roost: N/A Field record: 1.81km west (W)	Roost: N/A Field record: 100m
Brown long-eared bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Regs (Sch2), NERC (SPI), WCA (Sch5)	Roost: 2 Field Record: 1 Total: 3	Roost: 1.49km southwest (SW) Field record: 1.82km W	Roost: 1m Field record: 1m

Unidentified bat species	-	Regs (Sch2), WCA (Sch5)	Roost: 1 Field Record: 1 Total: 2	Roost: 1.56km W Field record: 1.72km W	Roost: 100m Field record: 100m
Bird species					
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI)	1	870m northwest (NW)	1m
Amphibian species					
Common toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	WCA (Sch5), NERC (SPI)	2	369m southeast (SE)	1m
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	WCA (Sch5)	3	369m SE	1m
Smooth Newt	<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>	WCA (Sch5)	3	369m SE	1m
Great Crested Newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	WCA (Sch5), NERC (SPI), Regs (Sch2), LBAP	12	369m SE	1m

Status Key: Regs - The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (*as amended*). WCA - The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (*as amended*). Sch 1 - Schedule 1. Sch 2 – Schedule 2. Sch5 - Schedule 5. Sch8 - Schedule 8. Sch9 - Schedule 9. NERC - England Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) Section 41. SPI - Species of Principal Importance. BoCC - Birds of Conservation Concern. LBAP – Local BAP.

- 4.18 There are no records of within 1km of the Site. The Site does not fall into an area of increased probability of activity.
- 4.19 A search of the MAGIC online resource revealed there were no European Protected Species Licences (EPSL) relating to bats within 2km of the Site boundary.
- 4.20 There are no EPSL's or surveys relating to GCN, however there were eight records of GCN licence returns within 1km of the Site boundary. These were all located 770m southeast (grid reference: SE226105) and had positive results for GCN between 08/05/2017 and 09/06/2017.
- 4.21 The Site does not fall within an area of District Level Licensing (DLL).

HABITATS

- 4.22 The habitats recorded within the Site boundary during the habitat survey included:
- Poor semi-improved grassland and bracken;
 - Bramble scrub;
 - Hardstanding;
 - Introduced shrub;
 - Broadleaved trees;

- Scattered scrub; and
 - Ornamental hedgerows
- 4.23 The location of the habitats recorded, and associated target notes are presented on Figure 2 and described below. The botanical species recorded in association with each habitat are listed in Appendix A.

Poor semi-improved grassland (g4; modified grassland)

- 4.24 The Site comprised a small area of unmanaged semi-improved grassland (Photograph 1) located between hardstanding and bramble scrub. Species present included abundant false oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, a locally abundant fescue species *Festuca* sp., and frequent creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg., Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*. Occasionally noted were nettle *Urtica dioica*, valerian *Valeriana officinalis*, cock's foot *Dactylis glomerata*, bush vetch *Vicia sepium*, and reed canary grass *Phalaris arundinacea*, and rarely noted were dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* agg., red clover *Trifolium pratense*, common nipplewort *Lapsana communis*, fox-and-cubs *Pilosella aurantiaca*, English lavender *Lavandula angustifolia*, and a geranium species *Geranium* sp.
- 4.25 A patch of continuous locally dominant bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* was present in the north of the Site (Photograph 2). Due to its size being less than 0.04ha, it was included within the grassland in accordance with the UK Hab definition.



Photograph 1: Poor semi-improved grassland (04.07.2025)



Photograph 2: Patch of bracken in the north of the Site (04.07.2025)

Bramble scrub (h3d)

- 4.26 The majority of the Site was dominated by dense bramble scrub (Photograph 3) which was interspersed with frequent tall ruderal vegetation. Species comprised dominant bramble, abundant creeping thistle, and frequent nettle. Occasionally noted were rosebay willowherb *Chamaenerion angustifolium*, cleavers *Gallium aparine*, and raspberry *Rubus idaeus*. Rarely noted were hairy willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, hedge woundwort *Stachys sylvatica* and dog rose *Rosa canina*.

Hardstanding (u1b; developed land; sealed surface)

- 4.27 A hardstanding driveway was present in the southwest of the Site adjoining to Shelley Woodhouse Lane (Photograph 4).



Photograph 3: Bramble scrub within the Site (04.07.2025)



Photograph 4: Driveway present in the southwest of the Site (04.07.2025)

Introduced shrub (u1 847)

- 4.28 A small strip of introduced shrub was present adjacent to the driveway in the southwest of the Site. Species comprised frequent reed canary grass, and evergreen spindle *Euonymus japonicus*, occasional holly *Ilex aquifolium*, and a pine species *Pinus* sp., and rare creeping thistle, dandelion, and a geranium species.

Broadleaved trees (32; scattered trees)

- 4.29 Multiple individual broadleaved trees were located along the Site boundary (Photograph 6). These were generally young, and species comprised frequent beech *Fagus sylvatica*, occasional goat willow *Salix caprea* and cherry *Prunus avium*, and rare sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior*.



Photograph 5: Introduced shrub beds in the southwest of the Site (04.07.2025)



Photograph 6: Individual trees along the northern Site boundary (04.07.2025)

Scattered scrub

- 4.30 A small patch of scattered scrub was present at the edge of the driveway, adjacent to the western Site boundary (Photograph 7). Species comprised dog rose, valerian, and ash. A line of scattered scrub was present along the eastern Site boundary (Photograph 8).

Species comprised abundant purple beech *Fagus sylvatica f. purpurea* and occasional goat willow.



Photograph 7: Scattered scrub along the western Site boundary (04.07.2025)



Photograph 8: Scattered scrub along the eastern Site boundary (04.07.2025)

Ornamental hedgerow (h2b; non-native and ornamental hedgerow)

- 4.31 Two short lengths of ornamental hedgerow were present along the northern and southern Site boundaries (Photographs 9 and 10). These could not be closely accessed due to dense bramble scrub so could not be identified to species level.



Photograph 9: Hedgerow H1 along the southern Site boundary (04.07.2025)



Photograph 10: Hedgerow H2 along the northern Site boundary (04.07.2025)

Table 6: Summary of Hedgerow Survey

Hedgerow Reference	Species Present	HEGS Score	Important Hedgerow
H1	Unidentified conifer species	3+	No
H2	Privet <i>Ligustrum</i> sp.	3+	No

- 4.32 Under the HEGS assessment, both hedgerows had a moderate conservation value (grade 3).
- 4.33 Neither hedgerow was considered important under the Wildlife and Landscape criteria of the Hedgerow regulations 1997, nor were they considered to represent a Habitat of Principal Importance due to the lack of native species.

Target Notes

4.34 Features recorded as target notes on Figure 2 include:

- TN1 – Stacks of pallets/breezeblocks were present within the hardstanding and grassland in the west of the Site.
- TN2 – A disused caravan was present in the centre of the Site within the bramble scrub.



Photograph 11: TN1 – Stacks of pallets/breezeblocks (04.07.2025)



Photograph 12: TN2 – Disused caravan (04.07.2025)

FAUNA

- 4.35 From the desk study there were no records of _____ within 1km of the Site.
- 4.36 No evidence of _____ was identified within the Site. The Site does provide some foraging and _____ building opportunities for this species, although they are limited in extent.

Bats

- 4.37 From the desk study, up to seven species of bat were recorded within 2km of the Site boundary. These comprised: common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, an unidentified pipistrelle species, noctule, Daubenton's bat, brown long-eared bat, and an unidentified bat species.
- 4.38 The closest records comprised field records of common pipistrelle and noctule from 2018, both located 526m east of the Site. The nearest roost was recorded 1.01km east of the Site and comprised a common pipistrelle summer roost, recorded in June 2024. No further details were provided.
- 4.39 There were no EPSL's for bats identified within 2km of the Site boundary.

Roosts – Trees

- 4.40 No onsite trees were considered to provide potential roosting features for bats; most of the trees were relatively young and all lacked suitable features.

Foraging / Commuting Habitat

- 4.41 The grassland, scrub, and scattered trees provide some potential foraging and commuting habitats for bats, although due to the small size of the Site, the overall potential is limited.
- 4.42 The habitats connected to and surrounding the Site (hedgerows, treelines, and woodland strips) provide a suitable foraging / commuting habitat.

Great Crested Newts (GCN)

- 4.43 From the desk study there were 12 records of GCN within 1km of the Site boundary, located 369m southeast of the Site boundary, and eight records of GCN licence returns from 770m southeast of the Site boundary. It has been determined that these records all relate to the same surveys of Pond 10 and Pond 11, undertaken in relation to planning application 2019/62/90151 (Kirklees Council; granted 02/07/2020), located 360 – 400m southeast of the Site.

Aquatic Habitat

- 4.44 There are no waterbodies present within the Site.
- 4.45 Eleven ponds and five ditches were identified within 500m of the Site boundary (Table 7). The Site is bounded by Shelley Woodhouse Lane to the west and Huddersfield Road B6116 to the north, with both acting as significant barriers to dispersal. Therefore, only suitable aquatic habitat falling within these two roads is considered connected to the Site.

Pond 10 and Pond 11

- 4.46 From the desk study, it was determined that Pond 10 and Pond 11 were subject to GCN presence/likely absence surveys as part of a nearby planning application (2019/62/90151; Kirklees Council) in 2017. GCN surveys were carried out by Brooks Ecological (Great Crested Newt Survey, August 2017, Ref: R-2847-02-A). The surveys concluded that each pond held a small population of GCN (peak count of 3 individuals in each pond across the full survey period).

Terrestrial Habitat

- 4.47 The Site itself does offer some suitable terrestrial habitat for GCN, comprising bramble scrub, bases of hedgerows, and hibernacula (rubble), although limited in extent due to the small size. Habitats in the wider landscape may provide some suitability for GCN given the woodland strips present to the east and south of Site, although the wider residential and arable landscape is not considered optimal for GCN.

Table 7: Waterbodies identified within 500m of the Site (refer to Figure 3)

Pond Ref.	Locality	Straight Line Distance / Direction. Distance via Optimal Connective Habitat in (m)	OS Grid Reference	Connectivity to Application Site
P1	Large pond within private residential property	Straight line distance: c.75m south Connective Distance: c.105m via garden boundary habitats	SE 21931 10744	Directly connected to the application Site through grassland field margins / garden boundaries. Pond could not be accessed at the time of survey but was surveyed as part of a separate withdrawn planning application (2017/60/92299/E). The pond was described as “extremely large with a significant waterfowl presence”, and a HSI was undertaken providing a score of 0.28 (poor). Given the nature of this pond, and from a review of aerial imagery, it can be considered likely that the qualities of this pond have not changed significantly in the meantime. Further consideration required.
P2	Small pond within woodland adjacent to railway	Straight line distance: c.170m northeast Connective Distance: N/A	SE 09170 42834	The feature is separated from the Site by Huddersfield Road B6116 which is a significant barrier to dispersal. No likely potential constraint.
P3	Small pond within garden	Straight line distance: c.200m north Connective Distance: N/A	SE 21875 11079	The feature is separated from the Site by Huddersfield Road B6116 which is a significant barrier to dispersal. No likely potential constraint.
P4	Small pond within garden	Straight line distance: c.190m north Connective Distance: N/A	SE 21871 11068	The feature is separated from the Site by Huddersfield Road B6116 which is a significant barrier to dispersal. No likely potential constraint.
P5	Small pond within garden	Straight line distance: c.180m north Connective Distance: N/A	SE 21882 11062	The feature is separated from the Site by Huddersfield Road B6116 which is a significant barrier to dispersal. No likely potential constraint.
P6	Small pond within woodland adjacent to railway	Straight line distance: c.265m northeast Connective Distance: N/A	SE 22188 10971	The feature is separated from the Site by Huddersfield Road B6116 which is a significant barrier to dispersal. No likely potential constraint.
P7	Small pond within garden	Straight line distance: c.260m north Connective Distance: N/A	SE 21809 11129	The feature is separated from the Site by Huddersfield Road B6116 which is a significant barrier to dispersal. No likely potential constraint.

Pond Ref.	Locality	Straight Line Distance / Direction. Distance via Optimal Connective Habitat in (m)	OS Grid Reference	Connectivity to Application Site
P8	Small pond within garden	Straight line distance: c.260m north Connective Distance: N/A	SE 21843 11134	The feature is separated from the Site by Huddersfield Road B6116 which is a significant barrier to dispersal. No likely potential constraint.
P9	Small pond within field, adjacent to D5	Straight line distance: c.270m north Connective Distance: N/A	SE 21875 11147	The feature is separated from the Site by Huddersfield Road B6116 which is a significant barrier to dispersal. No likely potential constraint.

Pond Ref.	Locality	Straight Line Distance / Direction. Distance via Optimal Connective Habitat in (m)	OS Grid Reference	Connectivity to Application Site
P10	Small pond within wooded area in Shelley College campus	Straight line distance: c.360m southeast Connective Distance: c.630m via field margins and woodland	SE 22161 10569	Feature was surveyed as part of a nearby planning application (2019/62/90151; Kirklees Council) in 2017. Aquatic presence/likely absence surveys found a small population of GCN, with a peak count of 3 individuals. The distance to the pond from Site through suitable habitats is c.630m. Jehle (2000³⁰) determined a terrestrial zone of 63m, within which 95% of summer refuges were located. In addition, following the breeding season, (Jehle and Arntzen, 2000³¹) determined that 64% of newts were recorded within 20m of the pond edge. Furthermore, a maximum migratory range of GCN has been estimated at approximately 250m from a breeding pond (Franklin, 1993³²; Oldham and Nicholson, 1986³³; Jehle, 2000³⁴, Kovar et al 2009³⁵). Running the rapid risk assessment for known breeding GCN presence within P10 and P11 and >0.1ha habitats impacted onsite results in Green: Offence Unlikely. However, P1 could act as a stepping-stone between P10 and the Site. The distance between P1 and P10 is c.450m through suitable habitats, which is still considered outside of the likely migratory range. Furthermore, P1 is considered unlikely to provide optimal habitat for GCN, given the poor HSI score provided in 2017. It is therefore unlikely that GCN would commute over their estimated maximum migratory range, to a sub-optimal pond, and then onwards to the limited sub-optimal habitats onsite. Further consideration required.

³⁰ Jehle, R., 2000. The terrestrial summer habitat of radio-tracked great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) and marbled newts (*T. marmoratus*). *Herpetological Journal*, 10, pp. 137-142

³¹ Jehle & Arntzen (2000). Post-breeding migrations of newts (*Triturus cristatus* and *T. marmoratus*) with contrasting ecological requirements. *Journal of Zoology*. 251, pp. 297-306

³² Franklin, P.S (1993) The migratory ecology and terrestrial habitat preferences of the great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* at Little Wittenham Nature Reserve. M.Phil Thesis. De Montfort University. Dept of Applied Biology and Biotechnology

³³ Oldham, R.S and Nicholson, M (1986) Status and Ecology of the warty newt *Triturus cristatus*. Final Report. Leicester Polytechnic under contract to Nature Conservancy Council

³⁴ Jehle, R (2000) The Terrestrial Summer Habitat of Radio-tracked Great Crested Newts *Triturus cristatus* and Marbled Newts *Triturus marmoratus*. *Herpetological Journal* 10 (4) 137-142

³⁵ Kovar, Roman & Brabec, Marek & Vita, Radovan & Bocek, Radomir. (2009). Spring migration distances of some Central European amphibian species. *Amphibia-Reptilia*. 30. 367-378

Pond Ref.	Locality	Straight Line Distance / Direction. Distance via Optimal Connective Habitat in (m)	OS Grid Reference	Connectivity to Application Site
P11	Small pond within wooded area in Shelley College campus	Straight line distance: c.400m southeast Connective Distance: c.670m via field margins and woodland	SE 22190 10541	Feature was surveyed as part of a nearby planning application (2019/62/90151; Kirklees Council) in 2017. Aquatic presence/likely absence surveys found a small population of GCN, with a peak count of 3 individuals. The distance to the pond from Site through suitable habitats is c.670m. Jehle (2000³⁶) determined a terrestrial zone of 63m, within which 95% of summer refuges were located. In addition, following the breeding season, (Jehle and Arntzen, 2000³⁷) determined that 64% of newts were recorded within 20m of the pond edge. Furthermore, a maximum migratory range of GCN has been estimated at approximately 250m from a breeding pond (Franklin, 1993³⁸; Oldham and Nicholson, 1986³⁹; Jehle, 2000⁴⁰, Kovar et al 2009⁴¹). Running the rapid risk assessment for known breeding GCN presence within P10 and P11 and >0.1ha habitats impacted onsite results in Green: Offence Unlikely. However, P1 could act as a stepping-stone between P11 and the Site. The distance between P1 and P11 is c.500m through suitable habitats, which is still considered outside of the likely migratory range. Furthermore, P1 is considered unlikely to provide optimal habitat for GCN, given the poor HSI score provided in 2017. It is therefore unlikely that GCN would commute over their estimated maximum migratory range, to a sub-optimal pond, and then onwards to the limited sub-optimal habitats onsite. Further consideration required.
D1	Minor ditch within woodland / arable field edge	Straight line distance: c.480m southwest Connective Distance: N/A	SE 21623 10414	The feature is separated from the Site by Shelley Woodhouse Lane which is a significant barrier to dispersal. No likely potential constraint.

³⁶ Jehle, R., 2000. The terrestrial summer habitat of radio-tracked great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) and marbled newts (*T. marmoratus*). *Herpetological Journal*, 10, pp. 137-142

³⁷ Jehle & Arntzen (2000). Post-breeding migrations of newts (*Triturus cristatus* and *T. marmoratus*) with contrasting ecological requirements. *Journal of Zoology*. 251, pp. 297-306

³⁸ Franklin, P.S (1993) The migratory ecology and terrestrial habitat preferences of the great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* at Little Wittenham Nature Reserve. M.Phil Thesis. De Montfort University. Dept of Applied Biology and Biotechnology

³⁹ Oldham, R.S and Nicholson, M (1986) Status and Ecology of the warty newt *Triturus cristatus*. Final Report. Leicester Polytechnic under contract to Nature Conservancy Council

⁴⁰ Jehle, R (2000) The Terrestrial Summer Habitat of Radio-tracked Great Crested Newts *Triturus cristatus* and Marbled Newts *Triturus marmoratus*. *Herpetological Journal* 10 (4) 137-142

⁴¹ Kovar, Roman & Brabec, Marek & Vita, Radovan & Bocek, Radomir. (2009). Spring migration distances of some Central European amphibian species. *Amphibia-Reptilia*. 30. 367-378

Pond Ref.	Locality	Straight Line Distance / Direction. Distance via Optimal Connective Habitat in (m)	OS Grid Reference	Connectivity to Application Site
D2	Ditch within arable field adjacent to treeline and woodland adjacent to railway	Straight line distance: c.150m northeast Connective Distance: N/A	SE 22072 10925	The feature is separated from the Site by Huddersfield Road B6116 which is a significant barrier to dispersal. No likely potential constraint.
D3	Ditch within arable field	Straight line distance: c.370m northeast Connective Distance: N/A	SE 22115 11192	The feature is separated from the Site by Huddersfield Road B6116 which is a significant barrier to dispersal. No likely potential constraint.
D4	Ditch along arable field margin	Straight line distance: c.320m west Connective Distance: N/A	SE 21564 10713	The feature is separated from the Site by Shelley Woodhouse Lane which is a significant barrier to dispersal. No likely potential constraint.
D5	Ditch along arable field margin adjacent to treeline	Straight line distance: c.270m north Connective Distance: N/A	SE 21824 11136	The feature is separated from the Site by Huddersfield Road B6116 which is a significant barrier to dispersal. No likely potential constraint.

Reptiles

- 4.48 From the desk study there were no records of reptiles within 1km of the Site boundary. No evidence of reptiles was observed during the survey.
- 4.49 The Site itself does offer some suitable terrestrial habitat for reptiles, comprising varied vegetation heights within the grassland and bramble scrub; and suitability of hedgerows and hibernacula (rubble) for shelter. Habitats in the surrounding landscape may provide some suitability for reptiles given the woodland strips present to the east and south of Site and presence of ponds and watercourses; although the wider residential and arable landscape is not considered optimal for reptiles.

Birds

- 4.50 From the desk study there was one bird species recorded within 1km of the Site boundary. This was a single house sparrow *Passer domesticus* record, located 870m northwest. This is a BoCC Red list species.
- 4.51 Scattered trees, hedgerows, and bramble scrub provide suitable foraging and nesting habitats for several bird species.

Other

- 4.52 There were two records of common toad *Bufo bufo*, three records of common frog *Rana temporaria*, and three records of smooth newt *Lissotriton vulgaris* within 1km of the Site boundary. The closest records of all three species were 369m southeast, in association

with pond P10. There is no aquatic habitat onsite, however the grassland, bramble scrub, hedgerows, and hibernacula (rubble) onsite provide suitable terrestrial habitat for amphibians, although limited in extent.

- 4.53 There were no records of hedgehog within 1km of the Site boundary and no direct evidence of use by hedgehogs was noted during the survey. However, the onsite grassland, bramble scrub, and hedgerows, as well as the proximity to adjacent residential garden habitats, means the Site is considered to provide suitable commuting, foraging and shelter habitat for this species.

5.0 **DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

PROPOSALS

- 5.1 Proposals comprise the erection of one self-build residential dwelling, with associated garden, parking and private access.

STATUTORY DESIGNATED SITES

- 5.2 Sites such as SPA and SAC are afforded protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2017 (as amended). This legislation transposes European Council Directives 92/43/EEC (EC Habitats Directive) Directive 2009/145/EC (Wild Birds Directive) into domestic law. The purpose of this legislation is to provide protection for natural habitats, wild flora and fauna of international importance.
- 5.3 Denby Grange Colliery Ponds SAC/SSSI is located 6.3km northeast of the Site boundary. The SAC is designated for its large great crested newt population. There are no anticipated construction or operational impact pathways due to:
- The development does not occur within the SAC, thus there will be no loss of habitats within the SAC site.
 - The Site is not within the routine migratory range of GCN (250m) from the SAC, thus there will be no loss of supporting habitats.
 - Given that the proposed development is several kilometres away and small in size, impacts arising from increased road traffic are considered to be imperceptible from road traffic air pollution.
 - The development is located over 6km from the Site adjacent to existing urban areas, so there are not considered to be any impacts from the urban edge effect⁴².
 - The Site is located on the border of the Colne and Holme Operational Catchment and the Dearne Operational Catchment, while the SAC is located within the Calder Lower Operational Catchment. There are not considered to be any direct hydrological links between the Site and the SAC.

⁴² Urban Edge Effect - fly tipping; dumping of garden waste and resultant introduction of invasive/alien plants; traffic causing air pollution and rat running along minor roads and tracks; off-road vehicles leading to track erosion; disturbance to (conservation) grazing livestock; increased incidence of wildfire; and predation from domestic pets and urban scavengers.

- The SAC has public access; however, impacts related to increased visitors are unlikely due to the small size of the development (one unit), and the presence of managed footpaths and other recreational activities in the local area.
- 5.4 South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC/SSSI is located 9.8km southwest of the Site boundary. The SAC is designated for its upland dry heath and blanket bog habitats, whilst the SPA is designated for its moorland bird assemblage. There are no anticipated construction or operational impact pathways due to:
- The development does not occur within the SAC, thus there will be no loss of habitats within the SAC site.
 - The Site does not contain any habitats the SAC is designated for, thus there will be no loss of supporting habitats.
 - The Site does not support any habitats for which the designated SPA species will utilise.
 - Given that the proposed development is several kilometres away and small in size, impacts arising from increased road traffic are considered to be imperceptible from road traffic air pollution.
 - The development is located over 9km from the SAC/SPA adjacent to existing urban areas, so there are not considered to be any impacts from the urban edge effect⁴².
 - The Site is located on the border of the Colne and Holme Operational Catchment and the Dearne Operational Catchment, and the SAC/SPA is located partially within the Colne and Holme Operational Catchment. However, there are not considered to be any direct hydrological links between the Site and the SPA due to the direction of flow.
 - The SAC/SPA has some public access; however, impacts related to increased visitors are unlikely due to the small size of the development (one unit), and the presence of other recreational activities in the local area.
- 5.5 Consultation with MAGIC Site check confirms that the Site falls within at least one SSSI Impact Risk Zone (IRZ). However, the development does not fall within any of the categories that would otherwise require consultation with Natural England due to their potential impact.

NON-STATUTORY DESIGNATED SITES

- 5.6 Local sites are not protected by law but do receive consideration in both national and local planning policy. Local sites have a role in meeting overall national biodiversity targets and appropriate weight should be attached to designated sites in making planning decisions.
- 5.7 No sites of local importance with a non-statutory designation occur within the Site or within 1km of the Site boundary.

Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI) and Ancient Woodland

- 5.8 Ten HPI parcels occur within 1km of the Site, all of which are deciduous woodland, with the closest parcel located 142m east of the Site boundary, along the railway. No construction phase impacts, such as direct (e.g. habitat loss or fragmentation) or indirect

impacts (e.g. accidental damage and pollution events) are expected upon the HPIs given the intervening distance between the Site and HPI boundaries. Impacts related to increased visitors are unlikely given the small size of the development (one unit).

- 5.9 One parcel of ancient semi-natural woodland and one parcel of planted ancient woodland occur within 1km of the Site, the closest being Springs Wood, located 604m north. No construction phase impacts, such as direct (e.g. habitat loss or fragmentation) or indirect impacts (e.g. accidental damage and pollution events) are expected upon the ancient woodland given the intervening distance between the Site and the woodland. No impacts related to increased visitors are anticipated due to the small size of the development (one unit), and lack of public access within Springs Wood.

West Yorkshire Habitat Network (WYHN)

- 5.10 At the nearest point, the WYHN is located 65m south of the Site boundary. As such, given the intervening distance between the Site and WYHN, there are not expected to be any construction phase impacts. However, indirect impacts may arise from accidental habitat damage, a pollution event, dust deposition, noise pollution, and lighting.
- 5.11 Given the residential nature of the proposed development, it is acknowledged that there could be a greater number of people utilising the WYHN for walking and recreation during the operational phase. The WYHN at the nearest point surrounds pond P1, which falls within a private garden and not publicly accessible. The nearest area of WYHN which is publicly accessible falls along the railway, 145m northeast of the Site. Given the small scale of the proposed development (1 unit) this is unlikely to result in a perceptible impact on the nature of the WYHN.

HABITATS

- 5.12 Habitats receive consideration through the planning system by:
- Their inclusion in specific National planning policy, such as consideration in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)⁴³ for veteran trees, ancient woodland, non-statutory sites and ecological networks.
 - Classification as a HPI for the conservation of biodiversity under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, from which are also derived Priority Habitats under local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) and Priority Habitat for England under Biodiversity 2020⁴⁴.
 - Their inclusion in specific local policy.
- 5.13 Habitats to be lost under the footprint of the development comprise grassland, bramble scrub, and introduced shrub, which are considered to provide minimal ecological value given their limited size and species diversity.
- 5.14 The broadleaved trees are considered to have greater ecological value, and it is recommended that these are retained. It is recommended that trees are protected from

⁴³ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF_December_2024.pdf

⁴⁴ Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services, August 2011, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

adverse impacts from the construction phase of development in accordance with BS5837 Trees in Relation to Construction⁴⁵.

FAUNA

- 5.15 are relatively common and widespread in England and whilst legally protected, the emphasis is focused on protection from persecution, rather than on conservation. The act makes it an offence to:
- Wilfully kill, injure, take, possess, or cruelly ill-treat , or attempt to do so.
 - Intentionally or recklessly interfere with interference includes disturbing whilst they are occupying , as well as damaging or destroying or obstructing access routes.
- 5.16 Work that disturbs whilst occupying is illegal without a licence, may be disturbed by work near even if there is no direct interference or damage
- 5.17 Suitable habitat for foraging and making is present onsite, although they are limited in extent due to the small size of the Site. Due to the mobile nature of this species, their presence cannot be ruled out. A pre-commencement survey should be completed prior to Site clearance to identify any new signs of presence, including creation.

Bats

- 5.18 All species of UK bats and their roosts are listed on the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) making it illegal to deliberately disturb any such animal or damage / destroy a breeding site or roosting place of any such animal. Bats are also afforded full legal protection under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is illegal to recklessly or intentionally kill, injure or take a species of bat or recklessly or intentionally damage or obstruct access to or destroy any place of shelter or protection or disturb any animal whilst they are occupying such a place of shelter or protection. Seven bat species, including brown long-eared, noctule and soprano pipistrelle are Species of Principal Importance under the NERC Act 2006.

Roosts – Trees

- 5.19 No onsite trees were considered to provide potential roosting features for bats. Therefore, no further surveys are required.

⁴⁵ The British Standards Institution (2012). BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations. BSI Standards Limited 2012

Foraging / Commuting Habitat

- 5.20 The grassland, scrub, and scattered trees provide some potential foraging and commuting habitats for bats, although limited in extent due to the small size of the Site, and of poor species diversity.
- 5.21 It is recommended that the broadleaved trees which provide suitable commuting habitats for bats are retained within the development. Retained habitats must be protected during construction from impacts arising from accidental habitat damage, a pollution event, dust deposition, noise pollution and lighting. Boundary habitats should, where necessary be fenced off using appropriate fencing for the duration of development operations and habitats will be protected during construction in accordance with BS5837 Trees in Relation to Construction⁴⁶. Pollution prevention measures will also need to be implemented in line with DEFRA guidance⁴⁷. The works will follow best practice methodology, which is in accordance with the above guidance, to protect retained boundary features from pollution related impacts.
- 5.22 Artificial light can deter some more sensitive species and can impact upon favoured foraging and commuting routes. To minimise post development impacts, a sensitive lighting scheme should be adopted to ensure that boundary habitats / ecological landscape planting will not be illuminated. The lighting will scheme will be designed in accordance with guidelines from BCT (2023)⁴⁸, i.e. light spill of 1 lux or less. Any external lighting on the buildings adjacent to suitable bat habitats should be downward facing with LED lamps and ideally set on motion-sensors on short timers (1 minute) to prevent impacts from lighting.

Great Crested Newts

- 5.23 GCN are afforded legal protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). This legislation makes it illegal to deliberately disturb a GCN, damage / destroy a breeding site or resting place of a GCN, recklessly or intentionally kill, injure, or take a GCN recklessly or intentionally damage or obstruct access to or destroy any place of shelter or protection, disturb a GCN whilst they are occupying such a place of shelter or protection. GCN are also listed as a Species of Principal Importance in England under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

Aquatic Habitat

- 5.24 There are no waterbodies within the Site; and eleven waterbodies and five ditches present within 500m.
- 5.25 From the desk study and a review of nearby planning applications, it was established that GCN presence/likely absence surveys were undertaken on ponds 10 and 11 in 2017 as part of a nearby planning application (2019/62/90151; Kirklees Council). It was

⁴⁶ The British Standards Institution (2012). BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations. BSI Standards Limited 2012

⁴⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pollution-prevention-for-businesses>

⁴⁸ Guidance Note GN08/23 Bats and Artificial Lighting At Night, Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) and the Institute of Lighting Professionals

determined that a small population of GCN are present within P10 and P11, 360m – 400m southeast (straight line distance) of the Site boundary.

Terrestrial Habitat

- 5.26 The Site itself does offer some suitable terrestrial habitat for GCN, comprising bramble scrub, bases of hedgerows, and hibernacula (rubble), although limited in extent due to the small size of the Site. Habitats in the wider landscape may provide some suitability for GCN given the woodland strips present to the east and south of Site, although the wider residential and arable landscape is not considered optimal for GCN. The school grounds surrounding ponds 10 and 11 provides optimal great crested newt terrestrial habitat.

Summary

- 5.27 A small population of GCN is confirmed within ponds 10 and 11. These ponds are located c.670m southeast of the Site boundary through suitable connective habitat, which is considered outside of the estimated GCN maximum migratory range of 250m. Although pond 1, c.75m south of the Site boundary, could act as a stepping stone between GCN positive ponds and the Site, the distance through suitable connective habitat is c.450m between these ponds, which is still considered outside of the likely migratory range. Furthermore, P1 is considered unlikely to provide optimal habitat for GCN, given the poor HSI score provided in 2017.
- 5.28 Given the optimal habitats surrounding ponds 10 and 11, within the grounds of the Shelley College campus, it is therefore considered unlikely that GCN would occupy the sub-optimal (at best) terrestrial habitat within the application Site.
- 5.29 Nevertheless, given the presence of a small GCN population within 500m of the Site (straight line distance), and the presence of pond 1 c.75m south of the application Site, a precautionary approach to Site clearance is recommended in order to ensure statutory compliance and prevent harm to individual GCN, in the unlikely event that they are present onsite. This would comprise of toolbox talks and phased vegetation clearance under the supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist, including fingertip searches of the construction area and hand removal of hibernacula. The storage of materials during the construction phase should also prevent stockpiling that could create potential hibernacula, such as storage on pallets. In the unlikely event that GCN were found at any stages of the Site clearance works, operations would stop and the requirement to complete works under a derogation licence issued under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (to legitimise operations) would be considered further.
- 5.30 It is recommended that areas of green space outside of the footprint of the residential unit and garden are used for habitat enhancements with an emphasis on GCN friendly habitats wherever possible. As such, it is recommended that landscape planting includes wildflower grassland including tussock forming grass species, as well as native scrub and / or the provision of hibernacula (e.g., log piles) where possible.

Reptiles

- 5.31 All common reptile species are partially protected under Sections 9(1) and 9(5) of Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (*as amended*) which protects them from intentional killing/injury, possession, and transport. Common reptiles are also Species of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.
- 5.32 No records of reptiles species were present within 1km of the Site boundary. Given the small size of the Site and limited habitats available, reptiles are considered to be likely absent from the Site. However, due to the suitable habitat for reptiles in the wider landscape, a precautionary working method is recommended to ensure no reptiles are killed or injured, in the unlikely event that they are present during Site works. This will comprise phased, directional Site clearance, as well as the hand removal of potential hibernacula under the supervision of a suitable qualified ecologist. The storage of materials during the construction phase should also prevent stockpiling that could create potential hibernacula, such as storage on pallets. This must be outlined within a CEMP.

Birds

- 5.33 All wild bird species are protected while nesting by the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (*as amended*). This legislation protects wild birds, their nests, and eggs from intentional harm; makes it illegal to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild birds; take, damage, or destroy an egg of a wild bird.
- 5.34 Scattered trees, hedgerows, and bramble scrub provide suitable foraging and nesting habitats for several bird species, but due to the limited extent of these habitats the Site is unlikely to support a significant breeding bird assemblage.
- 5.35 Proposals should aim to retain and buffer all trees where possible, and to incorporate them sensitively into any design.
- 5.36 To comply with relevant legislation, any vegetation clearance should be completed outside of the bird breeding season where possible (March – August inclusive, although dates do vary depending on species and weather conditions). Where it is not feasible, affected areas should be checked for nests in advance by an experienced ecologist. Any active nests identified should be left with a minimum 5m buffer to be identified by an ecologist, until such a time that all birds have fledged. This must be outlined within a CEMP.
- 5.37 To compensate for any loss of nesting habitats, nest boxes should be installed within the development / upon retained trees within the Site boundary. New planting should include native species that are rich in fruit and berries.

Other

- 5.38 The grassland, bramble scrub, hedgerows, and hibernacula (rubble) onsite provide suitable terrestrial habitat for amphibians, although limited in extent. Measures to protect amphibians from harm are the same as those outlined within the GCN section.

- 5.39 The grassland, scrub, and hedgerows, as well as the proximity to adjacent residential garden habitats, provide suitable habitat for hedgehog. The hedgehog population in Britain has rapidly declined in recent years with a third thought to be lost since 2020⁴⁹. Hedgehogs are listed as a Species of Principal Importance under NERC Act (2006) and as such are a material consideration during the planning process.
- 5.40 Vegetation removal has a risk of causing injury or death to this species. In order to minimise risk, it is recommended that vegetation removal is undertaken in a precautionary manner. This should comprise a visual check of long vegetation areas prior to removal followed by the cutting of woody vegetation to 150mm above ground level in the first instance with all cut vegetation removed by hand from the working area. The cleared vegetation should then be left for 24 hours prior to clearing vegetation to ground level and grubbing out of roots to allow hedgehogs or other fauna to disperse from the working area. This should be outlined in a CEMP.
- 5.41 Provisions for this species during the operational phase of the development should include the installation of hedgehog gaps (c.13cm x 13cm) within boundary treatments to allow access to garden habitats.

6.0 **BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENTS**

- 6.1 In accordance with NPPF (2024)⁴³, The Environment Act 2021⁵⁰, and Policy LP30: Biodiversity and Geodiversity of the Kirklees Local Plan (adopted 2019)⁵¹ the development should incorporate features to encourage biodiversity, and retain and where possible enhance existing features of nature conservation value within the Site.
- 6.2 The section above identified ecological enhancements that should be incorporated into the development proposal. Outlined below are further additional measures for consideration:
- New habitat creation proposals should aim to increase the diversity of habitats present and provide structural diversity, such as native scrub, tree and hedgerow planting using species which bear fruit and nectar.
 - Any formal lawn areas should where possible be seeded with a species rich flowering lawn mix such as EL1 – Flowering Lawn Mix, Emorsgate Seeds.
 - Installation of a variety of bird and bat boxes upon retained trees and/or the new dwelling.
 - Installation of log piles within green spaces.
 - Small gaps should be left under or in the corner of all fences to permit access for wildlife, such as hedgehogs and fox.

⁴⁹ Wilson E & Wembridge, D (2018) The State of Britain's Hedgehogs 2018. British Hedgehog Preservation Society and Peoples Trust for Endangered Species.

⁵⁰ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents>

⁵¹ <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/planning-policy/pdf/local-plan-strategy-and-policies.pdf>

APPENDIX A: BOTANICAL SPECIES LIST

The habitat types were mapped within the Site and a representative species list for each habitat type recorded. Species lists are not exhaustive of all flora present in each habitat type.

Common Name	Scientific Name	DAFOR
Poor semi-improved grassland		
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	LD
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	F
Bush vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	O
Cock's foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	O
Common nipplewort	<i>Lapsana communis</i>	R
Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	F
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	R
English lavender	<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	R
False oat grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	A
Fescue species	<i>Festuca</i> sp.	LA
Fox-and-cubs	<i>Pilosella aurantiaca</i>	R
Geranium species	<i>Geranium</i> sp.	R
Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	O
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	R
Reed canary grass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	O
Valerian	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	O
Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	F
Bramble scrub		
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	D
Cleavers	<i>Gallium aparine</i>	O
Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	A
Dog rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>	R
Hairy willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	R
Hedge woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	R
Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	F
Raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	O
Rosebay willowherb	<i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i>	O
Introduced shrub and ornamental hedgerows		
Conifer species	-	F
Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	R
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	R
Evergreen spindle	<i>Euonymus japonicus</i>	F
Geranium species	<i>Geranium</i> sp.	R
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	O
Pine species	<i>Pinus</i> sp.	O
Privet species	<i>Ligustrum</i> sp.	F
Reed canary grass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	F
Trees and scattered scrub		
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	R
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	F
Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	O
Dog rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>	R
Goat willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>	O

Purple beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica f. purpurea</i>	A
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	R
Valerian	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	R

DAFOR: D=dominant, A=abundant, F=frequent, O=occasional, R=Rare, L=Local



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Key

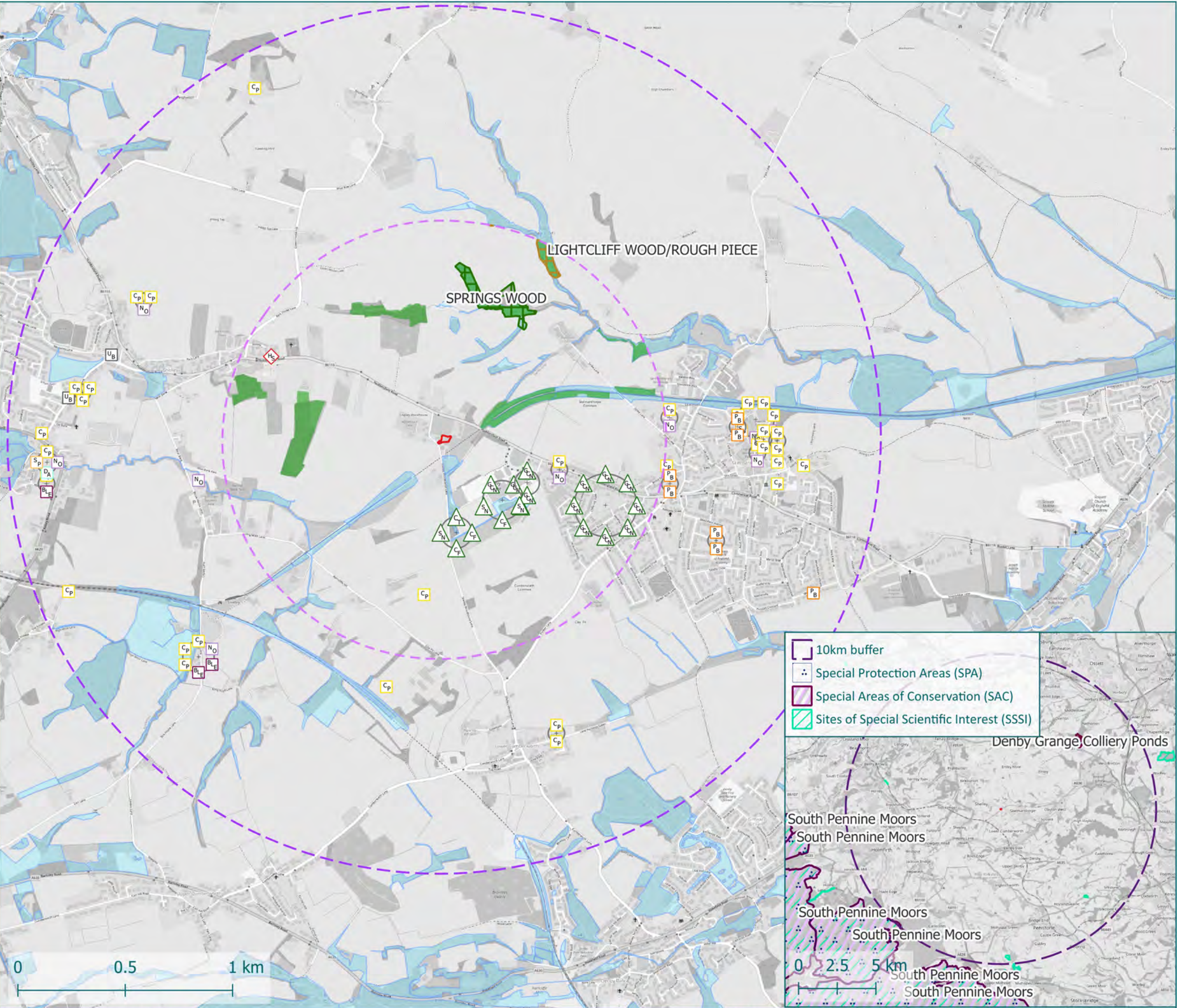
- Site Boundary
- 2km buffer
- 1km buffer
- Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland
- Planted Ancient Woodland Sites
- West Yorkshire Wildlife Habitat Network

Habitats of Principal Importance (HPIs)

- Deciduous woodland

Protected and Notable Species

- Common pipistrelle bat
- Soprano pipistrelle bat
- Pipistrelle bat species
- Noctule bat
- Daubenton's bat
- Brown long-eared bat
- Unidentified bat species
- House sparrow
- Great crested newt
- Smooth newt
- Common toad
- Common frog



Client: Britology Ltd.
Project: 15 Shelley Woodhouse Lane, Huddersfield
Title: Figure 1 - Site Location & Desk Study Results Plan

Plan Reference: FE575_01
Project Reference: FE575
Report Reference: PEA01

Author: AF/DH
Date: 23/9/2025
Scale: 1:18,000



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Key

Site Boundary

Phase 1 Habitats

- Hardstanding
- Introduced shrub
- SI Poor semi-improved grassland
- Bracken - continuous
- Scrub - dense/continuous (bramble scrub)

Hedges: Introduced shrub

Scrub - scattered line

Wall

Broadleaved tree (NONE)

Scrub - scattered

Target notes:
TN1 - Stacks of pallets / breezeblocks
TN2 - Disused caravan





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Key

-  Site Boundary
-  250m buffer
-  500m buffer
-  Waterbody
-  Ditch
-  Great crested newt records



Client: Britology Ltd.

Project: 15 Shelley Woodhouse Lane, Huddersfield

Title: Figure 3 - Waterbody Plan

Plan Reference: FE575_03

Project Reference: FE575

Report Reference: PEA01

Author: DH

Date: 26/9/2025

Scale: 1:5,000



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