Leymoor Road, Golcar

Construction Environment Management Plan (Biodiversity)

HABITAT WORKS

December 2025

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Report Title: Leymoor Road, Golcar
Construction Environment Management Plan (Biodiversity)

Report to: Paul Matthews Architectural
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1. Introduction

1.1 *Background*

1.1.1. Paul Matthews Architectural have submitted a planning application for the proposals for a new stable block off Leymoor Road, Golcar, Kirklees, West Yorkshire. These proposals are detailed within the Paul Matthews Architectural drawing '*Proposed Block Plan'* (Dwg 24/1047/03a, dated 08/2024). Following consultation with the Nature Conservation Officer permission has been granted subject to a condition that a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) be produced and followed.

1.1.2. This CEMP aims to outline the ecological interest of the site and any potential impacts of development along with measures to avoid, control or mitigate these impacts.

1.1.3. BS42020:2013 details the requirements of CEMP and recommends that whilst the format may vary it should be proportionate and tailored to the specific needs of the project and the biodiversity elements should all have common structure.

1.1.4. This plan has been written following the guidance set out in BS42020:2013 and aims to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition with respect to biodiversity as detailed below in Section 1.2.

1.1.5. A CEMP is intended to be an active and iterative document and should be reviewed and updated in the event of any new information becoming available.

1.2 *Regulatory Framework and Planning Conditions*

1.2.1. The ecologist at Kirklees Council requested the production of a CEMP as a planning condition:

"No works shall take place until a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP: Biodiversity) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The CEMP (Biodiversity) shall include the following:

a) Summary of potentially damaging activities
b) Identification of "biodiversity protection zones"
c) Practical measures (both physical measures and sensitive working practices) to avoid or reduce impacts during construction (these may be provided as a set of method statements
d) The location and timing of sensitive works to avoid harm to biodiversity features.
e) The times during construction when specialist ecologists need to be present on site to oversee works.
f) Responsible persons and lines of communication.
g) The role and responsibilities on site of an ecological clerk of works (ECoW) or similarly competent person.
h) Use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs.

The approved CEMP: Biodiversity shall be adhered to and implemented throughout the construction period strictly in accordance with the approved details, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the local planning authority.

The CEMP must also include the following specific plans / documents:

- *Pollution Prevention Plan for the watercourse (using good practice guidance such as CIRIA C532)."*

1.2.2. The consultation response requested that the CEMP follow the best practice guidance set out in BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning and development.

1.2.3. Section 2 subsection 10 of the standard "Implementation of development: biodiversity on construction sites (stage 5)" sets out requirements of a best practice approach including the approach to and production of CEMPs.

2. Schedule of Works

2.1 *Schedule of Works*

2.1.1. Proposals for the Site comprise the partial removal of a small area of '*Modified grassland*' to be replaced by a single storey stable building. The schedule of works has yet to be detailed but will be agreed with the LPA prior to commencement on site.

3. Environmental Assessment

3.1 *Site Description*

3.1.1. The Site is located off Leymoor Road, Golcar, Kirklees, West Yorkshire HD7 4RW (central Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OS NGR) SE 09704 16455) and comprises a former grazed field with locally typical and common grassland species including barren brome *Anisantha sterilis*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius* and creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens.* The Site location is detailed within Figure 1.

3.1.2. The surrounding land use is a combination of pasture and residential areas along with two reservoirs located within 2 km of the Site boundary. Several woodlands exist within 2 km of the Site boundary and a small unidentified stream runs from the northwest of the Site which has been modified and culverted underneath the Site.

3.2 *Ecological Walkover Survey*

3.2.1. An ecological walkover survey was undertaken on 8th May 2025 by Ecology Team Manager Joe Travis BSc (Hons) MSc ACIEEM and Graduate Ecologist Eleanor Collier BSc (Hons) following relevant best practice guidelines.

3.2.2. Full methodologies employed throughout the survey, including desk study, habitat survey and protected species survey can be found within the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal for the Site '*Leymoor Road, Golcar – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal'* (Habitat Works, 2025).

3.3 *Assumptions and Limitations*

3.3.1. 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.

3.4 *Findings*

3.4.1. Detailed findings can be found within the PEA for the Site undertaken by Habitat Works in 2025 '*Leymoor Road, Golcar – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal'.*

3.4.2. The findings of the PEA are summarised below in Table 1.

Table 1 – Summary of the findings within the PEA

Potential Ecological Constraint	Summary from the PEA	Potential Impact
Designated Sites		
Designated Sites	The proposals are confined to the Site boundary, and as such, it is not considered that there will be any direct impact upon any of the designated sites which are all located over 1 km from the Site boundary.	No impact anticipated.
Habitats		
g4 Modified grassland	Due to the size and scale of the habitat to be impacted by the proposals, in conjunction with the habitats being widespread and common in the local landscape, the habitat was considered to be of no greater than site level importance to nature conservation.	No impact anticipated.

u1c Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	The habitat was considered to be of no greater than site level importance to nature conservation.	No impact anticipated.
Off-Site watercourses	Small unnamed stream is culverted beneath the Site, however is above land both up and downstream of the Site.	No greater than the local level
Species		
Amphibians	Given the limited suitable habitats of terrestrial habitats present on the Site, it is not considered that amphibians (including GCN) will be impacted by the proposals.	No greater than the site level.
Badgers	Given the lack of field signs and the limited scale of the habitats present on the Site, it is considered that badgers are not resident on the Site. Badgers are however highly mobile and may occasionally cross the Site when attempting to commute elsewhere.	No greater than the site level.
Bats	The Site offers limited potential for foraging and commuting bats, and with the absence of roosting potential on the Site, it is considered that bats are not a receptor to the proposals.	No greater than the site level.
Birds	Due to the lack of suitable nesting habitats present on the Site, it is not considered that the nesting birds are a constraint to the proposals.	No impact anticipated.
Invertebrates	Given the limited suitable habitat present on the Site, and the presence of more suitable habitat at a larger scale in the wider area, invertebrates are not considered to be a receptor to the proposals.	No impact anticipated.
Reptiles	The Site offers limited suitability for sheltering reptiles. A rubble pile on the access track may offer some suitability, however, given the limited suitability of other habitats present, it is considered that the Site is of no greater than site level importance for reptiles.	No greater than the site level.
Riparian Mammals and White-clawed Crayfish	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 the proposals.	No impact anticipated.
Invasive Species		
Invasive species	Himalayan balsam was observed within the Site during the survey, present on both the main section of the site, and off Site on the other side of the unnamed stream, as well as much of the surrounding grassland.	No greater than the local level.

4. Measures to Avoid, Reduce or Mitigate Impacts

4.1 *Proposals*

4.1.1. Proposals for the Site comprise the partial removal of a small area of '*Modified grassland*' to be replaced by a single storey stable building '*Urban – Developed land, sealed surface'*, as detailed within the Paul Matthews Architectural drawing '*Proposed Block Plan*' (Dwg 24/1047/03a, dated 08/2024).

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 bordered by a small unnamed stream. Although the stream is not subject to the proposals, there is the risk that the stream could be subject to indirect impacts associated with the development. As such, general principles of pollution prevention should be adhered too as detailed within the Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP) documents produced by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). These include:

- GPP5 – works and maintenance in or near water (NRW, NIEA and SEPA, 2018);
- GPP21 – pollution incident response planning (NRW, NIEA and SEPA, 2017); and,
- GPP22 – dealing with spills (NRW, NIEA and SEPA, 2018).

4.2.3. Pollution Prevention Guidelines 1 (NRW, NIEA and SEPA, 2013), is now withdrawn but provides a general overview for good practice environmental measures in construction and where followed will assist with protection of the stream:

- Materials shall not be stored within 10 m of any running water or ditch habitat; and,
- Details of the Environment Agency should be stored in the Site office during construction works so that swift contact can be made should any pollution incident occur which may impact watercourses.

4.3 *Protected Species*

Amphibians

4.3.1. GCN are protected under the WCA 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (Amendment) (EU Exit) 2019 and are a European Protected Species ("EPS").

4.3.2. Common amphibians are protected under the WCA 1981 (as amended) against sale, barter or exchange of captive animals.

4.3.3. As the presence of common amphibians on the Site cannot be ruled out, it is recommended that Best Practice Measures (BPM) are implemented during the proposed development works. Any debris present should be dismantled by hand or using hand tools to minimise the potential for harm to common amphibians should they be sheltering within such features. If common amphibians i.e. smooth newt or palmate newt, common frog or common toad are encountered on Site during the works they should be allowed to move away of their own volition. If in immediate danger of injury, they should be carefully

moved in gloved hands to an area of safe shelter away from the footprint of works.

4.3.4. In the extremely unlikely event of discovering a GCN on the Site during works, works should cease immediately, and an ecologist should be contacted for further advice.

Badgers

4.3.5. 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.

4.3.6. 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 construction has 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.

4.3.7. 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 treelines to allow badgers to continue to use such habitats for foraging and commuting where present locally.

Bats

4.3.8. 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).

4.3.9. 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.

4.3.10. 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.

Foraging and Commuting Bats

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

4.3.12. 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.

4.3.13. 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.

Reptiles

4.3.14. Common reptile species including grass snake, common lizard and slow worm are protected under Schedule 5 of the WCA 1981 (as amended) against intentional killing or injury.

4.3.15. Due to the limited suitable habitats present the Site is considered unlikely to support reptiles, and the loss of habitats present is considered unlikely to impact reptiles at greater than the site level.

4.3.16. The following BPM are recommended with regards to reptiles (these will also help to protect common amphibians):

- All Site personnel to keep a high level of vigilance for reptiles (and amphibians) during works;
- Good general housekeeping of the Site will be employed. All materials (construction materials/arisings) on Site will be stored in a suitable location at least 5 m away from suitable reptile habitat, e.g woodland edge habitats, ideally risen off the ground (e.g. on pallets) or on hard stand/bare ground away from vegetation. Materials arising from the works should be removed from the Site as quickly as possible or placed in a skip or other sealed container immediately if stored on Site. This will avoid colonisation by reptiles and other wildlife and will ensure there is no build-up of debris or other waste which may create suitable habitats for protected species that then has to be removed at a later date; and,
- Should reptiles be encountered works in the area will cease and an ecologist contacted immediately for advice.

4.4 *Invasive Species*

4.4.1 Himalayan balsam was abundant across sections of the Site, however it is also abundant across the unnamed stream catchment, both up and downstream of the Site.

4.4.2 The location of the balsam is outside the footprint of works and will not be disturbed by the development so risk of causing the species to spread off-site is considered to be low. As the plant has been identified within the stream corridor, including upstream of the Site and on adjacent land outside the ownership of the applicant, no specific measures are recommended for trying to manage or control this species on the Site. It is now widely recognised that control of invasive species on watercourses can only be achieved by taking a strategic approach at a catchment level, requiring a commitment from all stakeholders.

4.4.3 Successful management can only typically be achieved by starting on the top of the catchment working in a downstream direction. Efforts to control invasive species on an ad-hoc basis through the catchment is labour intensive, costly and typically fails, particularly with Himalayan balsam which will re-establish from

the upstream seed bank, and as such, is not recommended for these works.

4.4.4 Precautionarily, biosecurity measures should be followed during the works, including the cleaning of boots and equipment (e.g. diggers, shovels etc.). All equipment should be cleaned with water and a brush to prevent the inadvertent spread of the species to new locations where it is not currently established.

4.5 *Biosecurity Measures*

4.5.1. Biosecurity measures will be followed to prevent introduction of biologically injurious material to the Site. To this end, only machinery essential to the works will be used and time on Site will be minimised. To minimise the potential for contamination, machinery should be dedicated to the Site as far as possible. Any new machinery arriving on Site should be cleaned and checked for organic material prior to entry to and exit from the Site.

4.6 *Environmental Advisor*

4.6.1. Whilst the Site is small and the issues identified minor and relatively easily accommodated unforeseen environmental matters may arise and in that event the Environmental Advisor should be contacted.

5. Project Team Roles and Responsibilities

5.1 *Project Team Roles and Responsibilities*

5.1.1. The details of the individuals responsible for different project elements is to be confirmed but key project personnel will be allocated the following roles and their details confirmed to the LPA prior to commencement of works on site.

5.2 *Contracts Manager*

TBC

5.3.1. The Contract Manager is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the CEMP is developed & held on site and that it is implemented throughout all phases of the project.
- Maintaining the CEMP and ensuring that all contractors and visitors comply with it.
- Ensuring that environmental issues identified within the Pre-Construction Information and relevant information gathered from agencies, local councils etc are addressed.
- Communicating the CEMP and other related document to employees, contractors and client representatives as appropriate.

5.3 *Site Manager*

TBC

5.5.1. It is the Site Manager's responsibility to ensure:

- The site and all stored materials and chemicals are safe and secure;
- The site is kept in a tidy and orderly fashion. Waste will be managed responsibly and in line with Client requirements and LPA advice, policies and procedure as appropriate.
- Spill kits are available, and staff are appropriately trained in their use.
- Ensure any Site Induction includes briefing on environmental issues pertinent to the project.
- All site workers are aware of all environmental matters which may arise on site.

5.4 *Site Environmental Advisor*

Joe Travis - Habitat Works Ltd

5.5.2. The Environmental Advisor shall:

- Ensure work is carried out in accordance with legislation and consents, objectives, targets and the Construction Environmental Management Plan with regards to any Environmental activities on site.
- Be available for to provide advice on any matters arising from implementation of the CEMP
- Be responsible for delivering environmental training that may be required.

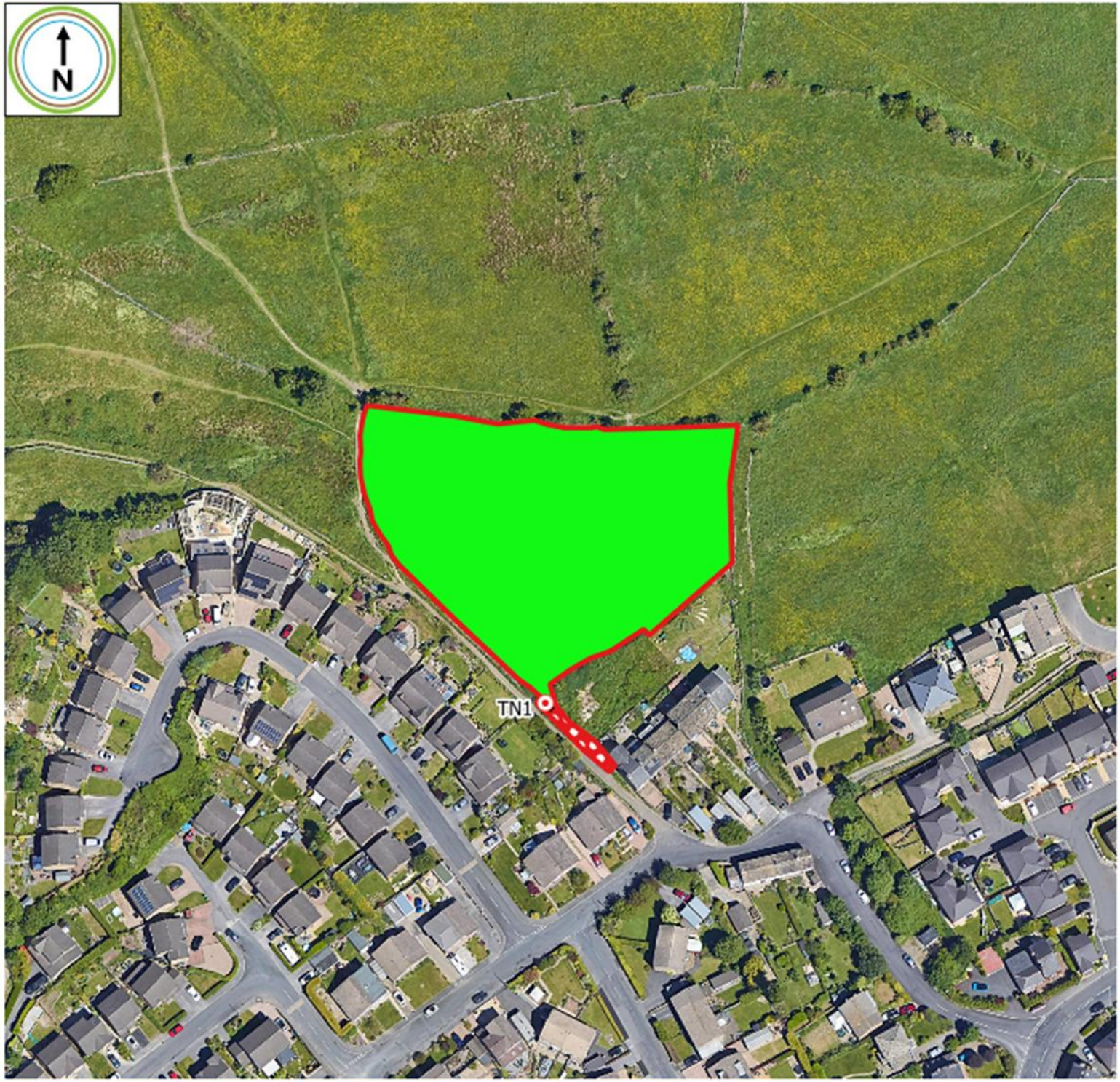
5.5 *Contractors and Visitors*

5.6.1. Contractors and Visitors to the project will be responsible for:

- Ensuring that the control measures identified from environmental surveys are implemented as they are relevant to their work /visit.

- Ensuring that the project management team are notified of any nonconformance of control measures or environmental incident where the environment has been put at risk.

Figure 1. UKHab Habitat Classification Map



Legend

- Site Boundary
- Urban - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
- Grassland - Modified grassland
- Target Note

0 20 40 60 80 m

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Leymoor Road

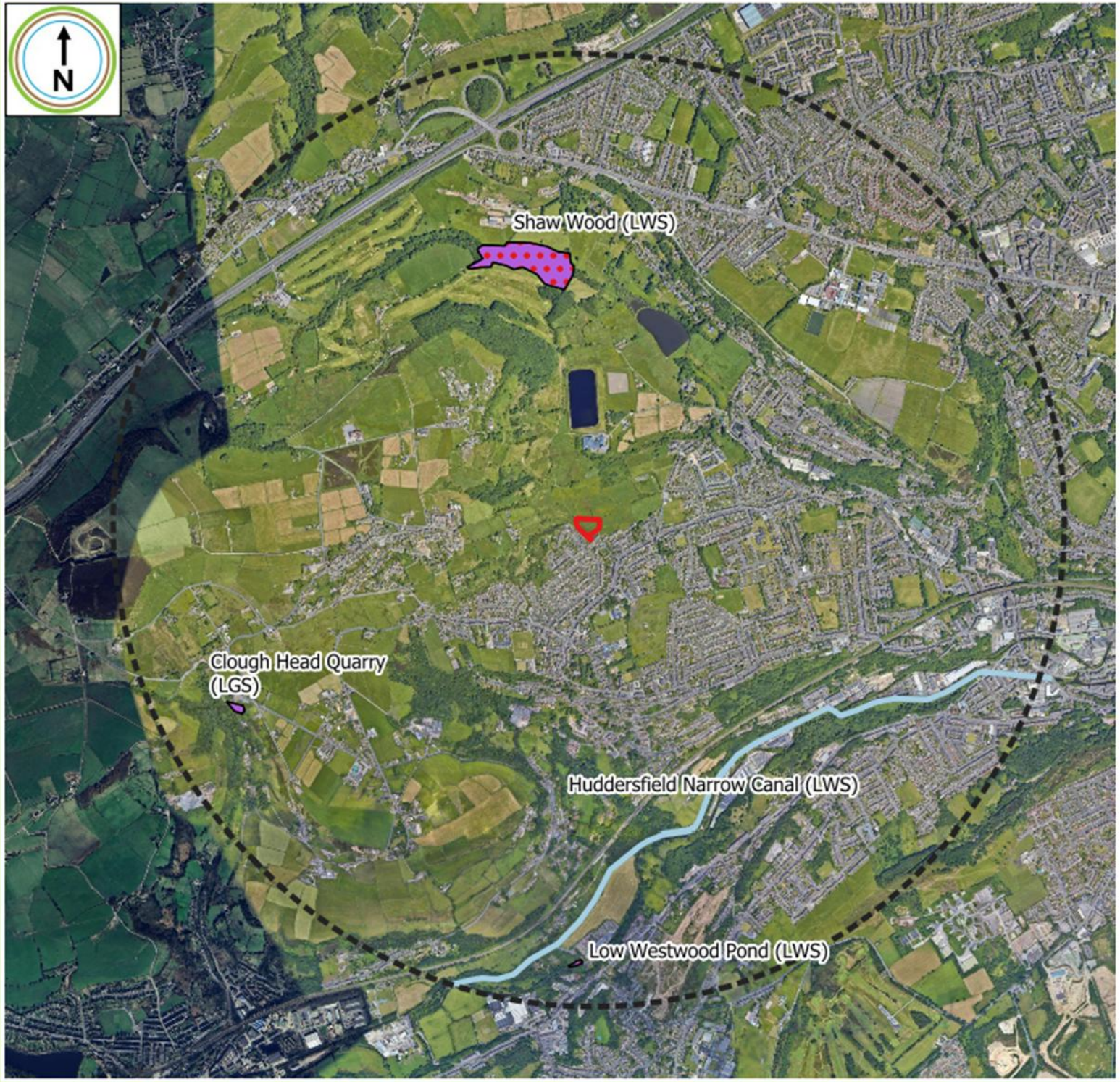
Figure 1
Baseline Habitats Map

May 2025

Scale - 1: 700 @ A4

Drawing Reference: 250520/F1/EC

Figure 2. Designated Sites within 2 km of the Site



Legend

- Site Boundary
- 2 km Buffer
- Designated Sites
- Designated Sites (Linear)

0 250 500 750 1,000 m

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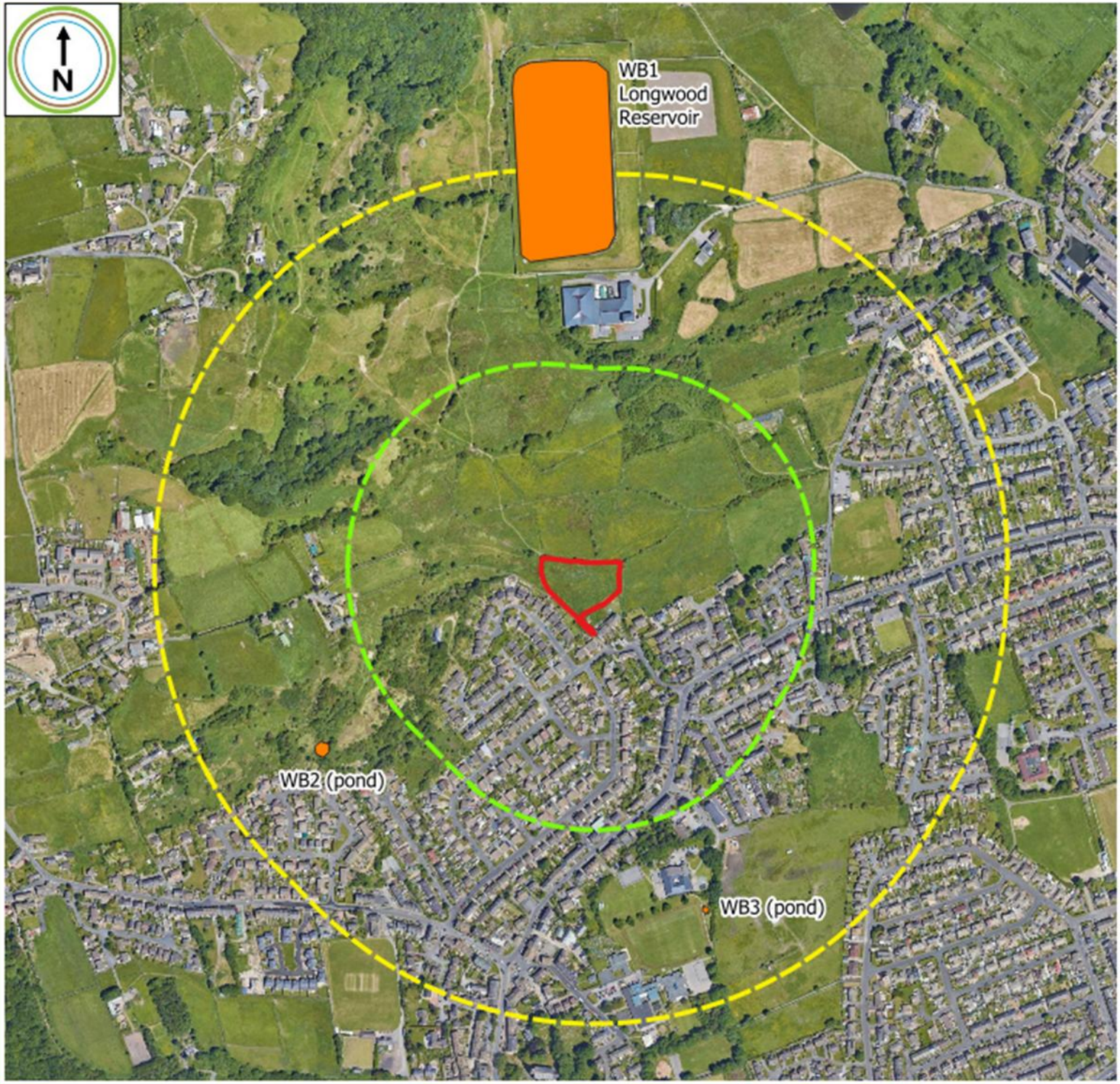
Leymoor Road, Golcar

Figure 2
Designed Sites Map

Basemap: Copyright Google 2024 | May 2025 | Scale - 1: 40,000 @ A4 | Drawing Reference: 250520/F2/EC

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

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Leymoor Road

Figure 3
Waterbodies within 500 m of the Site

Basemap: Copyright Google 2024 | May 2025 | Scale - 1: 700 @ A4 | Drawing Reference: 250520/F3/EC

Appendix 1: Target notes

TN1 – Rubble Pile

Appendix 2. Site Photographs

Photograph 1. The Site from the northwest corner

Photograph 2 – Rubble Pile (TN1)

Photograph 3 – Unidentified stream

Photograph 4 – Example of Himalayan balsam