



envirotech

**Ecological Consultants
Environmental and Rural Chartered Surveyors**

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

**Reliance Precision and International House, Rowley Mills,
Huddersfield**



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ACCURACY OF REPORT

This report has been compiled based on the methodology as detailed and the professional experience of the surveyor. Whilst the report reflects the situation found as accurately as possible, all of the protected species this survey covers are wild and can move freely from site to site. Their presence or absence detailed in this report does not entirely preclude the possibility of a different past, current or future use of the site surveyed.

We would ask all clients acting upon the contents of this report to show due diligence when undertaking work on their site and/or in their interaction with protected species. If protected species are found during a work programme, and continuing the work programme could result in their disturbance, injury or death, either directly or indirectly an offence may be committed.

If in doubt, stop work and seek further professional advice.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1.1 Envirotech NW Ltd were commissioned to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of land and buildings at Reliance Precision and International House, Rowley Mills, Huddersfield. It is proposed that there is extension to the rear production area and a new 2 floor office extension to the front of the Reliance Precision site including remodelling the car park to the front and rear of the building. International House will have existing extensions reworked and changes to the carpark layout.
- 1.1.2 A data search and desk study of the site and an area within 2km of the site were undertaken to establish the presence of protected species and notable habitats.
- 1.1.3 The site was then visited by a licenced ecologist from Envirotech NW Ltd on the 23rd October 2023 and 22nd January 2025. A full botanical survey of the site was initially undertaken and this was followed by surveys to establish the presence or absence of notable species at the site or in proximity such that they may be affected by the proposed development.
- 1.1.4 The plant species assemblages recorded at the site range between common, amenity species to plantation and semi-natural woodland. Sympathetically landscaped open space and enhanced retained habitat is considered to offer equal or greater ecological value.
- 1.1.5 Bat species are likely to foraging over the site. No bats were recorded roosting on or near site. It is proposed that some roosting provision for bats will however be incorporated into the new houses on site and or in retained trees.
- 1.1.6 Birds are likely to utilise scrub on site for nesting between March and September. Any vegetation clearance should therefore be undertaken outside of this period.
- 1.1.7 No other notable or protected species were recorded on the site although there were signs of badger passage to the woodland areas.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

2.1.1 Envirotech NW Ltd were commissioned to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of land at Reliance Precision and International House, Rowley Mills, Huddersfield, central grid reference SE187143 (Figure 1). A site investigation was undertaken and a report compiled which includes recommendations for any future actions and or mitigation required.

2.1.2 The survey was requested in connection with the proposed extension of the buildings on site and remodelling of the carparks.



2.2 Objectives

2.2.1 The main objectives of the study were:

- The completion of a UK Habs V2 Habitat Survey including the preparation of a vegetation and habitat map of the site and the immediate surrounding area.
- The survey and assessment of all habitats for statutorily protected species.
- An evaluation of the ecological significance of the site.
- The identification of any potential development constraints and the specification of the scope of mitigation and enhancement required in accordance with wildlife legislation, planning policy and other relevant guidance, and;
- The identification of any further surveys or precautionary assessments that may be required prior to the commencement of any development activities.

3. METHODOLOGY AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION

3.1 Data Search

- 3.1.1 The Biological Records centre for Yorkshire “WYE”, the Envirotech dataset, and the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) were searched to establish the presence of any records of statutorily protected, notable or rare species, and any designated sites of international, national, regional or local importance within a 2km radius of the site boundary.
- 3.1.2 The Envirotech dataset is compiled from extensive field surveys from the period 2004-present, as well as records obtained from third parties during this time.
- 3.1.3 Google Earth and Google Street View were consulted to establish the presence of any features of ecological importance within the local area.

3.2 Vegetation and Habitats

- 3.2.1 A vegetation and habitat map was produced for the site and the immediate surrounding area. The mapping is based on the UK Habs V2 Survey methodology.
- 3.2.2 Searches were made for uncommon, rare and statutorily protected plant species, those species listed as protected in the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and indicators of important and uncommon plant communities. All plant nomenclature follows Stace (2019).
- 3.2.3 Searches were carried out for the presence of invasive species, including those listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), namely Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) and giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) on terrestrial habitat and aquatic species such as floating pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*), water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) and New Zealand pygmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*).
- 3.2.4 The survey was also informed by questioning the landowner/site agent to ascertain the recent history of the site.
- 3.2.5 Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI) were cross referenced with Natural England’s inventory against the site boundary and where found ground truthed.

3.3 Timing and Personnel

- 3.3.1 During the visit, weather conditions were suitable for the survey types undertaken being warm and dry in mid autumn and mid winter.
- 3.3.2 The site and surrounding land was visited on the 23rd October 2023 and 22nd January 2025 by
 - (AG) Mr Andrew Gardner BSc (Hons), MSc, MRICS
Natural England Bat Class Licence (Level 2)

Natural England Bat Low Impact Class Licence
Natural England Barn Owl Licence
Natural England Great Crested Newt Licence (Level 1)
Natural England Badger Class Licence
Natural England White Clawed Crayfish Licence

4. SPECIES SURVEY METHODOLOGY

4.1 Amphibian

- 4.1.1 Great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) are protected under Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 and Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981).
- 4.1.2 Water-bodies located within or adjacent to the study area were identified and where access was possible were assessed for their potential to support great crested newts.
- 4.1.3 The criteria used in the assessment are based on those contained in the Herpetofauna Workers Manual and Oldham et al, 2000, and in applying these criteria a precautionary approach was adopted. Following the criteria developed by Oldham et al (2000), the HSI tool developed for use with great crested newts and forming part of Natural England's Licensing process was used to determine the suitability of ponds for great crested newts.
- 4.1.4 The pond assessment was undertaken in order to determine which water-bodies, based on their potential to support great crested newts, should be subject to presence/absence surveys.
- 4.1.5 The site was considered sufficiently low risk for GCN that no further assessments were warranted.

4.2 Badger

- 4.2.1 Badgers (*Meles meles*) and their setts are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act (1992). This legislation arises from animal welfare issues (rather than on the basis of nature conservation grounds) and protects badgers from being killed, injured or disturbed whilst occupying a sett.
- 4.2.2 A disturbance to badgers in their setts may occur as a result of construction operations. Natural England recommends that the use of heavy machinery in proximity of a sett entrance should be avoided, with a 'disturbance free-zone' being established.
- 4.2.3 The degree of disturbance attributed to construction activity is a function of the background level of activity badgers are accustomed to and that which will be attributed to a proposed activity. The "disturbance free zone" is therefore site specific.
- 4.2.4 The survey for badgers comprised an assessment of all suitable habitat within and outside the study area boundary (where this was possible) to a distance of 30m for indications of use by badgers.
- 4.2.5 Signs of badgers which were searched for included:
 - Setts - 'D' shaped entrances at least 25cms wide and wider than they are high with large spoil mounds
 - Discarded bedding at sett entrances (this includes grass and leaves)
 - Scratching posts on shrubs and trees close to a sett entrance

- The presence of badger hairs which are coarse, up to 100mm long with a long black section and a white tip
- Dung pit latrines and footprints
- Habitual runs through vegetation and beneath fences
- Hedgehog carcasses

4.3 Bats

4.3.1 All British bat species are fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), and are included on Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, as a Protected Species. Taken together, these pieces of legislation make it an offence to:

- Intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or capture bats;
- Deliberately or recklessly disturb bats (whether in a roost or not);
- Damage, destroy or obstruct access to bat roosts.

4.3.2 The Bat Conservation Trust (Hundt (2012) and Collins, J. (ed) (2016) issued guidelines on bat survey methodology, a key feature of their recommendation is for the undertaking of a pre-survey assessment - an initial desk-study and a walkover assessment of the survey area and its surrounding area to identify the relative value of the habitats present for bats and likely commuting routes. This is to be followed by a survey program that is appropriate to the likely level of bat activity within the survey area to be determined by and based on the experience of the surveyor.

4.3.3 The potential value of the survey area for foraging bats was assessed through consideration of two main factors: professional knowledge of bat ecology and foraging behaviour in combination with the geographical location, topography and habitats present within the survey area and surrounds.

4.3.4 Trees and structures on and within the survey area boundary were assessed for their potential to support roosting or hibernating bats. This comprised a close inspection of all trees and buildings on the site to allow an assessment of their potential to be used by bats to be made by a licensed surveyor.

4.3.5 Trees were all assessed in accordance with Collins, J. (ed) (2023).

4.4 Birds

4.4.1 All breeding birds, other than pest species, are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 when building a nest, rearing young or sitting on eggs. Some bird species, such as barn owl (*Tyto alba*), are protected when near an active nest site. Several birds are listed as Species of Principal Importance (SPI).

4.4.2 Bird species and behaviour was noted during the other field surveys. All areas are covered equally, in order to avoid the subjective survey of better quality 'bird habitat'.

4.5 Otter

4.5.1 Otters (*Lutra lutra*) are given protection by the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended and Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

This protection means that it is an offence to deliberately or recklessly:

- Kill or injure otters;
- Destroy, damage or obstruct their dens, and
- Disturb them whilst in the den.

4.5.2 Watercourses were assessed for their suitability and for the presence of otters within 10m of the banks. The banks and scrub vegetation were carefully searched for spraints, feeding remains, runs, prints and couches/holts.

4.6 Water Vole

4.6.1 Water voles (*Arvicola amphibious*) and their habitat are fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). This provides protection from killing or taking by certain prohibited methods and their breeding and resting places are fully protected from destruction or obstruction, it is also an offence to disturb them in these places.

4.6.2 There is a stream on the South boundary of the site. This watercourse was surveyed and assessed for evidence of the presence of water vole.

4.6.3 This involved intensive searches by wading upstream where possible, and observing from the banks where not; looking for burrows and other signs including footprints, droppings and chewed vegetation. This was undertaken up to 5m from the water course.

4.7 Survey limitations

4.7.1 The survey was undertaken in autumn and winter. At this time of year plant species are less easily identified and the activity of some species is reduced.

4.7.2 Due to the habitats present on site there were no significant constraints in respect of identifying the botanical interest of the site.

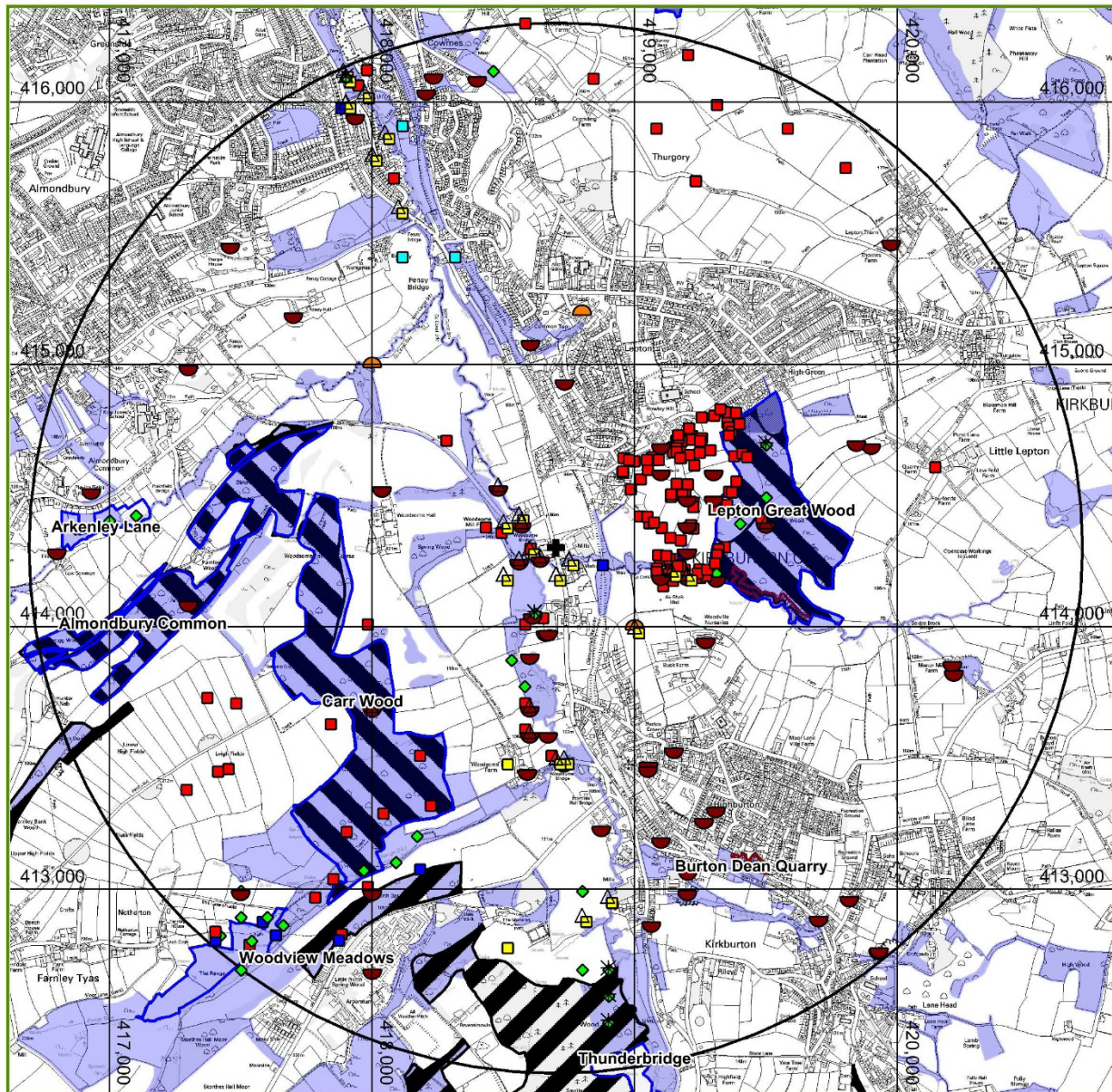
4.7.3 The duration, extent and scope of the surveys were considered sufficient to plan appropriate mitigation and recommend additional precautionary survey work required prior to the commencement of work.

4.7.4 No significant survey limitations were encountered.

5. RESULTS

5.1 *Data Search*

- 5.1.1 Envirotech and WYE hold no records of protected or notable species for the site. There are however records of protected or notable species within 2km (Figure 2). These are discussed in the relevant sections below. The nearest records are for Dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*) and White-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) in the beck to the South of the site.
- 5.1.2 The nearest non-statutory protected site is Lepson Wood Ancient Woodland to the East. The site does not lie in mapped HPI or in a wildlife network (Figure 2 and 3).
- 5.1.3 There are no statutory protected sites within 2km (Figure 4).



Legend

- Site Centroid
- 2km Search Radius
- Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland
- Ancient Replanted Woodland
- Local Wildlife Site
- *Local Geological Site
- Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network

*Public sector information from Natural England licensed under the Open Government Licence v1.0

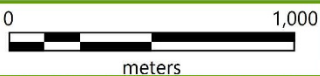
Notable Species

- Amphibian
- Bird
- Bony fish
- Plant and/or lower plant
- Invertebrate
- Reptile
- Terrestrial mammal

Invasive Non-Native Species

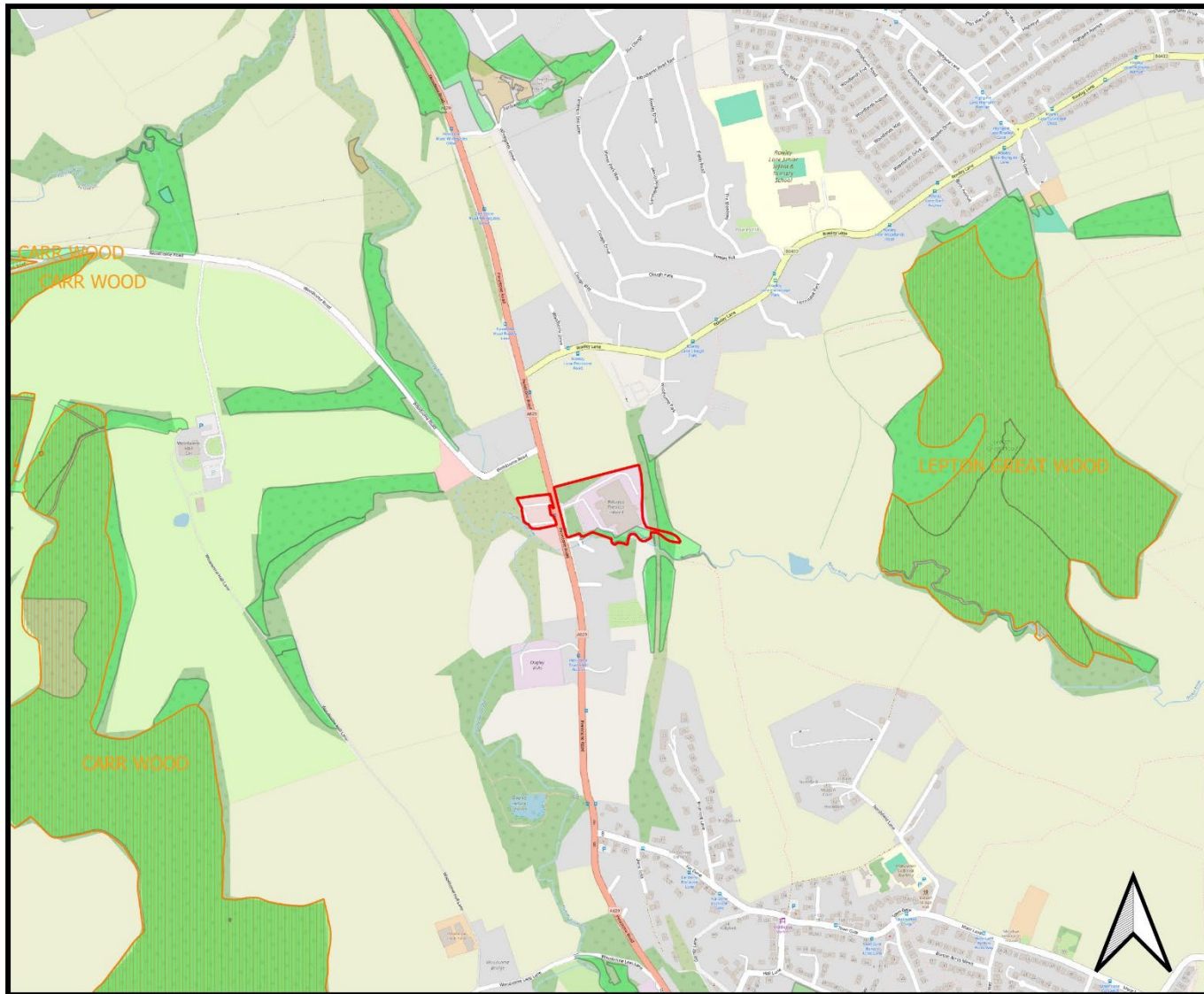
- Animal
- Plant

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**Figure 1:
Species and
Designated Sites**

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-  Red Line Boundary
-  Ancient Woodland
-  Deciduous woodland
-  Good quality semi-improved grassland
-  No main habitat but additional habitats present
-  Traditional orchard

Figure 3

Mapped Habitats of
Principal Importance
and Non-statutory
Protected Sites





Figure 4

Protected Sites and Habitats



6. PHASE 1 SURVEY RESULTS

6.1 *Habitat Results*

6.1.1 A drone was overflown on the 23rd October 2023. This produced a number of images which were stitched together to form a orthomosaic map and provided upto date imagery of the site from which UK Hab V2 mapping has been based. Figure 5 shows the hi-resolution imagery overlain to google earth without the UK Habs mapping overlay for the Reliance Precision site. International House was less vegetatively complex and drone mapping was not undertaken.

6.1.2 The site comprises buildings and car parks with scrub, plantation and semi-natural scrub to its boundary.

6.1.3 See Figure 6 for the UK Habs V2 Plan and Table 1 for the descriptive Target Notes.










Figure 5
Orthomosaic map
drone imagery taken
23.10.23



Target Note	Description	Comment
TN1	Buildings	A range of buildings largely modern portal frame with some brick and block. Hardstanding areas to carparks and pedestrian routes around building perimeters. Steps and ramps to carpark areas.
TN2	Introduced scrub	Small areas of amenity scrub planting to carpark boundaries. Planting included <i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i> .
TN3	Plantation woodland	Well established, but single age plantation woodland. Trees are pole like with poor branching and impoverished understorey dominated by Ivy (<i>Hedra Helix</i>) and Wild Raspberry (<i>Rubus idaeus</i>).
TN4	Broadleaf woodland	Semi-natural woodland to the South boundary where it falls steeply to a small stream. Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>), Oak (<i>Quercus Sp.</i>), Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>), Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) and Goat Willow (<i>Salix caprea</i>). Understorey of Bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus agg</i>). Ash shows signs of ash dieback. No ancient woodland indicator species.
TN5	Scrub	A steep bank with Silver Birch, Heather (<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>), Rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>), Ash, Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>), Bramble, Hart's tongue fern (<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>), Yorkshire Fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>), Foxglove (<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>), Gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>) and Nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>).
TN6	Building Hardstanding and	Buildings and tarmac carpark/ yards
TN7	Modified Grassland	Short mown species poor amenity grassland. Annual Meadow Grass (<i>Poa annua</i>), Daisy (<i>Bellis perennis</i>), Dandelion (<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>)
TN8	Amenity Planting	Short cut, woody non-native, non-invasive shrubs
TN9	Urban Trees	Small group of Alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>) and Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>) above modified grassland

Table 1 Details of Target Notes.



-  Red Line Boundary
-  Target Notes
-  h3h Mixed Scrub
-  u1 Built Up Areas and Gardens
-  u1b5 Building
-  w1f Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
-  w1h Other Woodland; Mixed

0 25 50 m



Figure 6
UK Habitats Survey
Map



● Target Note

Figure 6a
Phase 1 Habitat Survey





- Red Line Boundary
- Target Notes
- Trees
- g4 Modified Grassland
- u1 Built Up Areas and Gardens
- u1b Developed Land Sealed surface
- u1b5 Building
- w1h Other Woodland; Mixed

Figure 7
UK Habitats Survey Map





TN1- Buildings of mixed construction



TN2- Cotoneaster to carpark area boundaries



TN3- Plantation woodland to side of carpark with poor understory and uniform age





TN4- Woodland to the site boundary has a good range of age and species but no ancient woodland indicators are present



TN5- Bank to rear of building with dense scrub



TN6- Well sealed modern buildings



TN7- Modified grassland short mown



TN8- Small woody shrubs to side of building



TN9- Small group of Alder and Sycamore

Table 2 Photographs

6.2 Vegetation

- 6.2.1 Details of the plant species found on site are included in the target notes. Species recorded are all commonly occurring and undoubtedly occur elsewhere in similar habitats in the local area.
- 6.2.2 The buildings and carpark amenity planted areas have a very low species diversity and ecological value.
- 6.2.3 Plantation woodland to the sides of the carparks comprise trees of uniform age with an impoverished understorey.
- 6.2.4 Deciduous woodland to the South and East of Reliance Precision comprises a good range of age and tree species but ground flora is still limited. This is a HPI.
- 6.2.5 Scrub to a bank to the rear of the buildings at Reliance Precision comprises a good range of species although several small ash trees within it are dead from ash dieback.
- 6.2.6 Amenity grassland and Urban trees to the sides of the International House carpark are of low ecological value.
- 6.2.7 There is no evidence of Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed or Himalayan balsam on the site. *Cotoneaster horizontalis* was noted to the carpark boundaries and within scrub at TN5. No other invasive or notable weed species listed on Schedule 9 (Section 14) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) was identified within the site or adjacent land.

6.3 Amphibian

- 6.3.1 There are records for amphibians within 2km of the site. There are no records of great crested newt in the local area.
- 6.3.2 The core development area has a low value to amphibians being within a built environment but the boundary woodland and scrub could be utilised as refuges and/or hibernacula.
- 6.3.3 There were no potential breeding ponds identified within 250m of the site.
- 6.3.4 The proposed development will not result in the permanent loss of or a substantial negative effect on any waterbodies or foraging areas linked to them. Boundary woodland which may provide foraging or refuge sites, are to be retained.

6.4 Badger

- 6.4.1 Records of badgers occur within 2km of the site.
- 6.4.2 Badger setts do not occur on site but badger runs were noted across the woodland to the East. There were no feeding signs on site.

6.4.3 The proposed development will not impact on any existing badger runs or setts. The porosity of the surrounding fields and woodland to the passage of badgers will not be affected.

6.5 Bats

6.5.1 There are 73 records of five bat species of bat within 2km of the site.

6.5.2 The foraging habitat at the site ranges from poor to good for bat species being buildings and carparks surrounded by woodland. The boundary tree lines are good in terms of their structure, diversity and interconnectivity.

6.5.3 There is limited external lighting to the carparks and it is not considered there would be significant degradation of foraging habitat as a result of the proposal so long as the woodland is retained and artificial lighting on these areas is maintained at its current levels.

6.5.4 All trees around the site perimeter were also assessed in accordance with Collins, J. (ed) (2023) and assigned a risk category. All of the trees on site were Negligible Risk with very few being PRF-I. PRF I is only suitable for individual bats or very small numbers of bats either due to size or lack of suitable surrounding habitats. PRF-I trees are within woodland not impacted by the proposal.

6.5.5 Buildings on site to be extended were inspected both internally and externally for use by bats.

6.5.6 Building 1, Rowley Mills, is a modern portal frame building with steel clad walls and roof above a natural stone lower wall. The stone walls are fully sealed. The steel cladding and window frames are fully sealed. There are no internal darkened roof voids. This building has no potential for use by bats for roosting.

6.5.7 Building 2, Rowley Mills, is a two storey dressed stone building under a slate roof with timber soffits. The stone walls are fully sealed and in excellent condition. The timber soffits are fully sealed and in excellent condition. The slate roof is in good condition with only occasional crumbling mortar to the ridgetiles. No suitable gaps for bats were noted. The lead flashing to the chimneys is fully sealed. Access to the roof void was restricted as the access point is above a stairwell, and the internal ceiling has been dropped twice. We are informed that wasps were recently present and were exterminated with introduction of aerosol poison to the roof void. Overall this building has negligible potential for use by roosting bats.

6.5.8 Building 2 is connected to a steel frame glass reception building. This building has no potential for use by bats for roosting.

6.5.9 Building 3, International House, comprises a modern building with machine cut stone walls, timber soffits and a near flat roof. The walls, eaves and roof are fully sealed. Whilst small areas of the timber soffits appeared to be degrading, not suitable roost sites were found. There are not roof voids.

6.5.10 We consider bat species are highly unlikely to rely on the site for feeding but may occur in the local area. Roosting by bats will not occur on the site.

Table 6.3. Showing types of survey approaches that are relevant to tree surveys following steps taken in Figure 6.1.

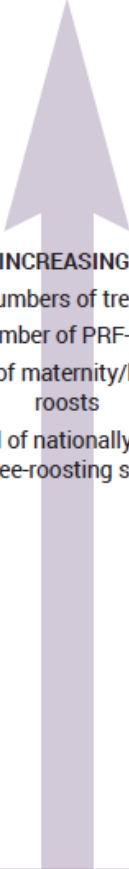
Scenario	Types of approaches after considering impact avoidance as first step in mitigation hierarchy.
Known bat roosts	Roost characterisation surveys (see Section 7.3) followed by EPS licensing (for loss) or PWMS (for e.g. disturbance impacts where buffers are required).
 <p>INCREASING: numbers of trees number of PRF-Ms likelihood of maternity/hibernation roosts likelihood of nationally or locally rare tree-roosting species</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ALBST</p> <p>Consider trapping, tagging and radio-tracking to find roosts of high conservation significance (see Chapter 9).</p> <p>This method is likely to be appropriate on (a) nationally significant infrastructure projects, (b) projects that impact sites designated for tree roosting bats, and/or (c) areas of woodland with high suitability for bats or ancient woodlands. See Box 6.1. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT SNCB IS ESSENTIAL, A BESPOKE APPROACH MAY BE REQUIRED⁷⁹.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FURTHER SURVEYS APPROACH (but consider cost-effectiveness when compared to ALBST)</p> <p>PRF inspection surveys for PRF-M features in summer (see Table 6.4. and Section 6.8). Where features inaccessible or too extensive for PRF inspection, carry out emergence surveys in summer with NVAs (see Table 6.4. and Section 7.2).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Consider winter roosting potential. MAY NEED TO CONSULT WITH RELEVANT SNCB.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ROOST RESOURCE APPROACH (if only PRF-Is^a)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No further surveys.</p> <p>Provide appropriate compensation for all PRF-Is in advance of impacts and a PWMS for works (see Reason & Wray, 2023).</p>
<p>^a If there are larger numbers of trees with features categorised as PRF-I then this increases the likelihood of a roost being present. Conversely, if there are very few trees in the landscape then PRF-I features may have increased importance. Context should always be understood and considered.</p>	

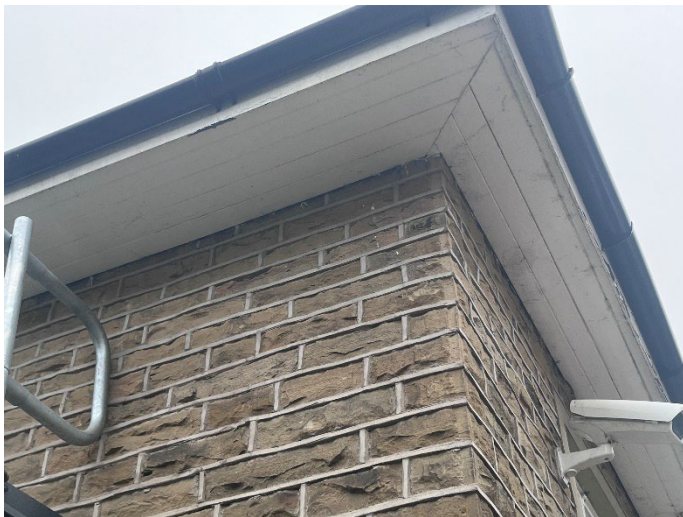
Figure 8 Tree risk categories from Collins, J. (ed) (2023)



Building 1 is fully sealed



Building 1 is fully sealed



Building 2 is well sealed

Access point to roof void is above a suspended ceiling and a stairwell



Roof of building 2 is well sealed



Glass and steel reception building attached to building 2 has no potential for use by bats



Building 3 is well sealed with modern machine cut stone walls and a timber soffit with near flat roof

Table 3 *Photographs of buildings*

6.7 Birds

- 6.7.1 There are 231 records of birds within 2km of the site.
- 6.7.2 The scrub and woodland offers potential habitat for feeding and nesting birds. The buildings and carpark planting has a low potential for use by nesting birds. No bird nests were noted on or in buildings.
- 6.7.3 There were no rot holes or cracks in the trees within the site boundary which would support tree hole nesting species such as woodpeckers.
- 6.7.4 A risk assessment of the site in respect of its future potential for and value to nesting birds could be adequately made.
- 6.7.5 Precautionary mitigation is considered appropriate.
- 6.7.6 The habitat on site is not considered to be of anything more than of local significance, habitats present are well represented in the local area. The impact on nesting birds is therefore considered likely to be minor.

6.8 Otter

- 6.8.1 There are three records of otters within 2km of the site.
- 6.8.2 No indication of the presence or past use of the site by otter was found. The stream to the South is considered unlikely to support fish. There are no waterbodies in proximity to the site which would be attractive to Amphibians.
- 6.8.3 The stream will be retained in the scheme, dense scrub/ woodland will be retained on the site boundaries so as to continue to provide suitable holt sites in the future.

6.9 Water vole

- 6.9.1 There are two records of water voles within 2km of the site.
- 6.9.2 No signs of water voles, such as droppings, feeding piles or footprints were present. The proposed work site is not within 20m of the stream. We consider this species is likely to be absent from the site.

6.10 Other

- 6.10.1 The boundary woodland and scrub on site provides potential for use by hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*). No scat from this species was recorded. There are records within 2km for this species.

6.11 Statutory and Non-Statutory Sites

Direct Impacts:

- 6.11.1 There are no statutory or non-statutory sites which are connected to the site such that site development would directly affect the dispersal of species between them or directly impact upon their integrity.
- 6.11.2 The habitats on site do not represent or are linked to those found in any of the statutory or non-statutory sites locally.

Indirect Impacts:

- 6.11.3 There are no statutory or non-statutory sites which are connected to the site such that site development would indirectly affect the dispersal of species between them or indirectly impact upon their integrity.

7. MITIGATION/RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 *Compensatory planting and habitat enhancement*

- 7.1.1 The roots of trees on the site and its boundaries should be adequately protected during work in accordance with industry standards. All trees should as far as possible be retained in the scheme.
- 7.1.2 The landscaping scheme should utilise plants which are native and wildlife friendly. In particular night flowering species would be beneficial to bats. Wildflower seed could be used to plant verges to enhance the ecological value of the site and continuity

7.2 *Amphibians*

- 7.2.1 There is no requirement for specific mitigation for these species. There are currently no suitable breeding sites on or near the site. However, as a precautionary measure, in the unlikely event that any signs of any amphibian activity is subsequently found, all site works should cease and further ecological advice should be sought with a view to a detailed method statement and programme of mitigation measures being prepared and implemented.

7.3 *Badger*

- 7.3.1 Badger setts are known to occur within 2km of the site. These setts will be undisturbed by work but in order to minimise impacts on badgers passing over the site the following points should also be followed.
- Should any trenches and excavations be required, an escape route for animals that enter the trench must be provided, especially if left open overnight. Ramps should be no greater than of 45 degrees in angle. Ideally, any holes should be securely covered. This will ensure badgers are not trapped during work.
 - All excavations left open overnight or longer should be checked for animals prior to the continuation of works or infilling. Back filling should be completed immediately after any excavations, ideally back filling as an on-going process to the work in hand.
 - Boundary fences/walls should incorporate gaps at their base to facilitate the passage of badgers across the site.

7.4 *Bats*

- 7.4.1 New planting within the site should enhance structural diversity and light spill onto the boundary woodland should be minimised.
- 7.4.2 New roosting provision for crevice dwelling bats could be incorporated into the buildings on site or bat boxes could be erected in retained trees.
- 7.4.3 Any trees to be felled should be re-inspected for bats to confirm they remain absent.

7.4.4 Overall it is considered there is more than sufficient scope for mitigation and compensation at the site such that there will be no adverse impact on the favourable conservation status of bats affected by the proposal.

7.5 Birds

7.5.1 Nesting by birds within the development area is considered unlikely to occur. Birds may nest within scrub and woodland on the periphery of the site.

7.5.2 Any vegetation to be trimmed or cleared should be checked for nesting birds before it is removed. Ideally this should occur outside the bird nesting period March- September. If vegetation clearance is to occur in the March-September period a check for nesting birds should be conducted first by a suitably qualified individual.

7.5.3 New planting within the site and the retention of trees and shrubs on the site boundary will maintain the ecological functionality of the site for breeding birds.

7.5.4 Artificial bird nesting sites for swallow could be incorporated into the new buildings under the eaves in suitable locations.

7.5.5 If nesting birds are found at the site all site works shall cease and further ecological advice shall be sought with a view to a detailed method statement and programme of mitigation measures being prepared and implemented.

7.6 Otter

7.6.1 There is no requirement for specific mitigation for this species. However, as a precautionary measure, in the unlikely event that any signs of any otter activity is subsequently found, all site works should cease and further ecological advice should be sought with a view to a detailed method statement and programme of mitigation measures being prepared and implemented.

7.6.2 The points in respect of not working at night and leaving open trenches with means of escape detailed for amphibians are also applicable to this species which is only likely to pass through the site at night.

7.7 Water vole

7.7.1 There is no requirement for specific mitigation for this species. However, as a precautionary measure, in the unlikely event that any signs of any Water vole activity is subsequently found, all site works should cease and further ecological advice should be sought with a view to a detailed method statement and programme of mitigation measures being prepared and implemented.

8. REFERENCES

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