Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.

LAND OFF SUNNY VIEW, BATLEY.

OS REF: SE 22555 24703.

ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT.

Ref No: **250245/EcIA Rev4.**

Date: **15th October 2026.**

Unit 34, The Business Village, Cudworth, Barnsley. S72 8RP.
info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk
www.whitcher-wildlife.co.uk
Company No. 4401613.

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. Plans are being prepared for residential development on land to the rear of White Lee Gardens, Batley.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd has been commissioned to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the site to establish whether there are any issues that may affect the proposed works.

1.3. The site survey was carried out on 3rd March 2025. Upon completion of that survey Whitcher Wildlife Ltd were subsequently commissioned to prepare an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) to support the planning application.

1.4. Revision 4 has been prepared because there have been amendments to the scheme that impact on BNG. These are the change of use of the area behind flats 34 to 37 to a communal area and amendments to the public open space area where there is to be a pumping station installed.

1.5. Appendices I to IV of this report provide additional information on specific species and are designed to assist the reader in understanding the contents of this report.

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2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.

2.1. Prior to visiting the site, the survey area was cross referenced to maps and aerial photographs to give a general idea of the habitats and potential issues within the area and to identify potential access and walking routes.

2.2. The survey area was walked where access was agreed and public rights of way were used where no access was agreed. All habitats within and immediately around the survey area were documented and the dominant species within that habitat listed in line with the UK Habitat Classification methodology to identify the primary habitat types throughout the survey area. All primary habitats are accompanied by secondary codes which are used to add further specific details where necessary. Each primary habitat and unique set off secondary codes will be shown individually in the appended annotated map.

2.3. The survey area and immediate surrounding area was thoroughly searched for evidence of badger (*Meles meles*) activity by looking for the following signs in line with Harris S, Cresswell P and Jefferies D (1989). *Surveying Badgers*. Mammal Society: -

* Badger setts.
* Badger latrines or dung pits.
* Badger snuffle holes and evidence of foraging.
* Badger paths.
* Badger prints in areas of soft mud.
* Badger hairs caught on fencing.

2.3. The survey area was searched for watercourses and where found all watercourses within the survey area and for approximately 100m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) activity by looking for the following signs, in line with Dean M, Strachen R, Gow D and Andres R (2016). *The Water Vole Mitigation Handbook (The Mammal Society Mitigation Guidance Series).* Eds Fiona Mathews and Paul Chanin. The mammal Society, London: -

* Water vole burrows.
* Water vole faeces and latrines.
* Water vole feeding stations.
* Water vole runs.
* Water vole prints in areas of soft mud.
* Water vole lawns.
* Predator field signs.

2.5. The survey area was searched for watercourses and where found all watercourses within the survey area and for approximately 50m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of otter (*Lutra lutra*) activity by looking for the following signs in line with the P Chanin (2003). *Monitoring the Otter* and *Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers: Monitoring Series No10 Guidelines: -*

* Otter prints in soft mud.
* Otter spraints.
* Otter Holts.

2.6. The survey area was searched for watercourses and waterbodies. Where found, and where safe to enter the water, all were thoroughly searched for the presence of crayfish, for approximately 50m in each direction of the site, by searching under rocks and logs. Where stated, crayfish traps were also deployed into the watercourse. All survey work was carried out in accordance with the *Conserving Natural 2000 Rivers Monitoring Series No 1, Protocol for Monitoring the White Clawed Crayfish*.

2.7. The survey area was searched for trees and structures and where found these were checked for potential bat roosting sites in line with Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition)* by looking for the following signs: -

* Holes, cracks or crevices.
* Bat Droppings.

2.8. The land immediately adjacent to the survey area was assessed for bat roosting potential and bat foraging potential. Connective routes and flight lines were also assessed whilst on site and using maps of the area.

2.9. The area within 500m of the survey site was cross referenced to maps to highlight all ponds close to the site. Where possible, all ponds identified were accessed using agreed access or public rights of way to assess the potential for great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) to be present.

2.10. The survey area was assessed for the potential for reptiles and suitable reptile habitats. Where applicable the area was also searched for the presence of reptiles.

2.11. Where appropriate, the habitat within and surrounding the survey area was searched for species such as hazel, oak, honeysuckle, bramble and other species which may provide potential habitat for hazel dormice (Muscardinus avellanarius). Field signs such as feeding remains and nests were also searched for where possible, in line with P

Bright, P Morris and T Mitchell-Jones *The Dormouse Conservation Handbook 2nd Edition*.

2.12. Where appropriate, the area within and surrounding the survey area was assessed for its potential to house habitat for red squirrels. Field signs of red squirrels were searched for at least every 50m, looking for any dreys, feeding signs or sightings of red squirrels.

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

2.14. This document is prepared in line with The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This sets out the government policy on biodiversity and nature conservation and places a duty on Planning Authorities to give material consideration to the effect of a development on legally protected species when considering planning applications. The NPPF and the Planning Practice Guidance on "Natural Environment" also promote sustainable development by ensuring that developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity and that it is conserved and enhanced within the development.

2.15. This report is prepared in line with the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act that came into force on 1st Oct 2006. Section 41 (S41) of the Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.

2.16. This survey was carried out by Jess Brown BSc (Hons) MSc ACIEEM FRGS. Since 2018 Jess has had experience in a professional capacity as an Ecologist carrying out protected species and habitat surveys. Jess holds a Natural England survey licences in respect of bats, great crested newts, and barn owls, and a Scottish Natural Heritage survey licence in respect of barn owls. She has also successfully completed a number of courses run by FSC and CIEEM in the relative protected species and carrying out site assessments using vegetation and has completed a MSc in Biological Recording. Jess is an Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

2.17. Revision 4 has been prepared by Derek Whitcher who has over thirty years' experience of surveying for wildlife and has run his own wildlife consultancy since 1998. He has extensive experience of a wide variety of survey techniques for a variety of species of protected wildlife supplemented by attendance on a wide range of training courses through CIEEM, FSC and BCT. As a member of CIEEM he is

committed to continuous professional development, a continual process of learning and career development, a condition of CIEEM membership. He holds current Natural England survey licences for bats and great crested newts.

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

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3. ECOLOGICAL BASELINE.

3.1. Data Search Results.

3.1.1. A data search for existing records of protected species and local designated sites within 2km of the surveyed area was submitted to West Yorkshire Ecology.

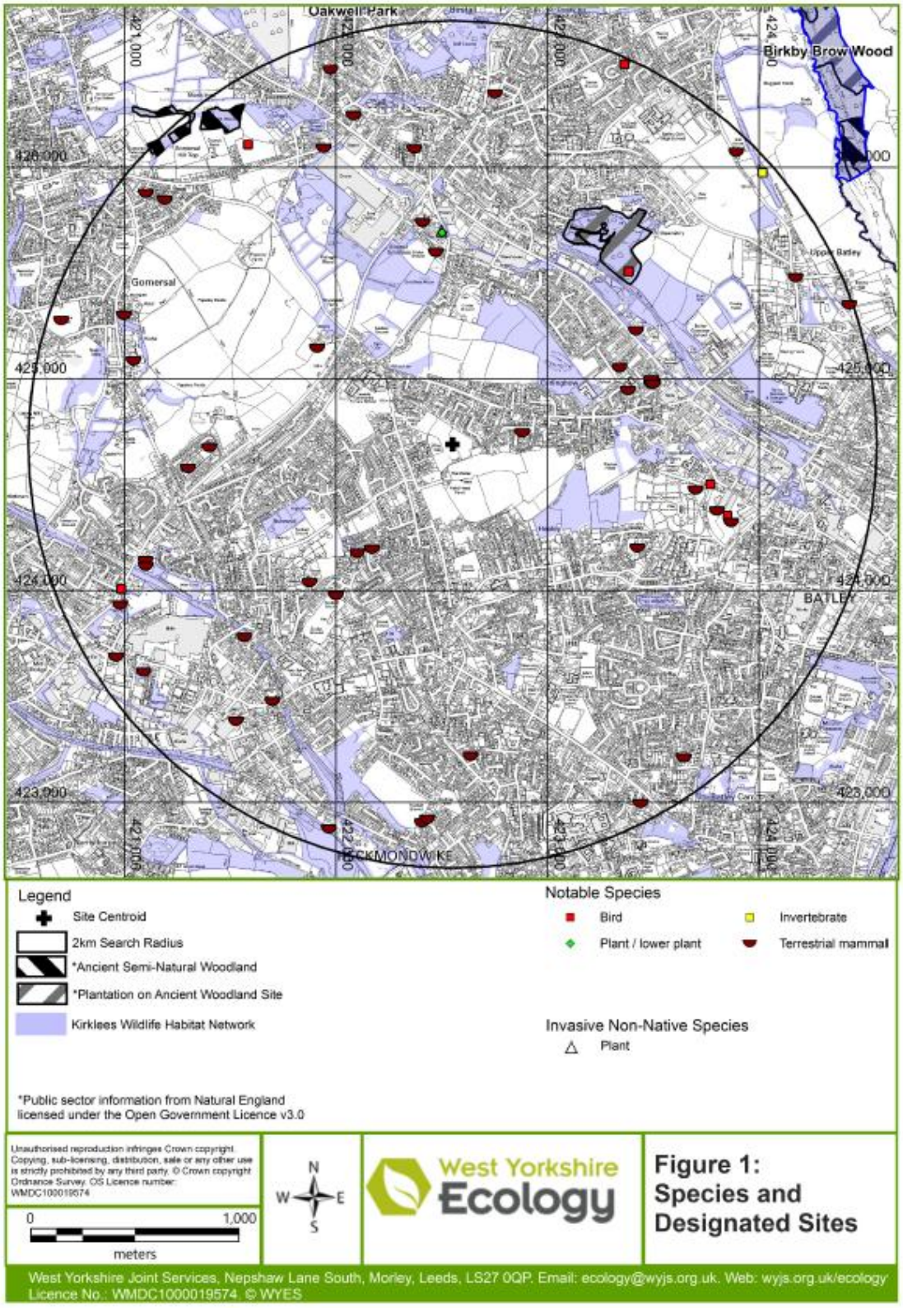
3.1.2. There are no statutory designated sites within 2km of the survey area. However, the survey area lies within 2km of several areas listed on the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network, shown on the map on the next page. No areas of the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network overlap the survey area.

3.1.3. A search of the MAGIC website also shows that part of the site lies within an impact risk zone for a SSSI, but the risk zone does not apply to this type of development.

3.1.4. The data search returned results of badger and common bat species within 2km of the survey area.

3.1.5. The nearest badger record is more than 200m from the survey area, and the nearest sett record is more than 2km from the survey area.

3.1.6. The data search returned seventy-three records of eight bat species within 2km of the survey area. The closest record is an auditory record of Leisler's approximately 800m from the survey area. The closest roost record is a pipistrelle sp. roost approximately 930m from the survey area.



3.2. The Surveyed Area.

3.2.1. The survey area is located in the residential area of Batley, West Yorkshire. It is surrounded by residential houses and urban greenspaces in all directions.

3.2.2. The limits of the survey area are outlined in red in the aerial map below. The survey area is surrounded by residential housing, grassland, and urban greenspaces.



3.3. Survey Limitations.

The survey was carried out during a sub-optimal time of year for identifying plant species. Therefore, it is possible that some plant species could not be identified during this survey.

3.4. Description of Habitats.

3.4.1. Appendix V of this report contains an annotated map marked up with the varying primary habitats across the site. These are site are listed below, followed by descriptions of each habitat. Secondary codes have been applied where appropriate.

- g3c – Other neutral grassland
- h3d – Bramble scrub
- h2a – Native hedgerow (priority habitat)
- u1e – Built linear feature

3.4.2. g3c – Other neutral grassland

Secondary codes: 10 Scattered scrub; 81 Ruderal/ephemeral

The site comprised an enclosed field which was previously divided into multiple individual fields. The northwest of the site was previously used as a compound/storage area for the construction of the new housing development adjacent to the site. The grassland was dominated by cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), broadleaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), broadleaved plantain (*Plantago major*), tufted hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), crested dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), creeping soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), annual meadow-grass (*Poa annua*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), nettle (*Urtica dioica*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), common vetch (*Vicia sativa*). In addition, scattered scrub species were scattered throughout the grassland including gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), butterfly-bush (*Buddleia davidii*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), and elder (*Sambucus nigra*).



3.4.3. h3d – Bramble scrub

A margin of dense bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) scrub was present on the western boundary of the survey area.



3.4.4. h2a – Native hedgerow (priority habitat)

A hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) hedgerow was present on the western boundary of the survey area.



3.4.5. u1e – Built linear feature

A wooden panelled fence was present on the northwestern boundary of the site, and wooden post fencing was present on the northeastern boundary of the site.



3.5. Description of Fauna.

3.5.1. No badger setts or field evidence was identified within the survey area.

3.5.2. There are no watercourses present within the survey area to provide any habitat for water voles, otters or crayfish.

3.5.3. The site survey and a search of Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and aerial imagery found one pond within 500m of the survey area, which was located within private grounds of a school. The pond is approximately 440m from the survey area, and is separated from the survey area by busy roads which provide ecological barriers to the movement of great crested newts into the survey area. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that great crested newts are present within the survey area.



3.5.4. No built structures were present within the survey area to provide potential roosting opportunities for bats.

3.5.5. No trees with potential bat roost features were identified within the survey area.

3.5.6. The survey area provides potentially suitable foraging habitat for bats and potential commuting routes between other areas of suitable habitats in the surrounding area, as well as any potential roosts within the surrounding residential housing. Overall, it is assessed as having moderate potential for foraging and commuting bats.

3.5.7. There is potential for nesting birds within the vegetation of the survey area between March and August (inclusive).

3.5.8. The habitat edges provide some suitable habitat for reptiles. However, the survey area is located within an urban area surrounded by residential housing and roads, therefore there is very little ecological connectivity with other areas of suitable habitat. Furthermore, the site is publicly accessible and regularly disturbed by dogwalkers. Therefore, it is likely that suitability of the site is limited to low numbers of common reptile species.

3.5.9. The survey area lies outside the natural range of hazel dormouse and red squirrel and there are no records of these species within 2km of the survey area.

3.5.10. The survey area provides suitable commuting routes for hedgehogs through the site and neighboring properties.

3.5.11. No invasive plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) were identified within the survey area.

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4. IMPACT ASSESSMENT, MITIGATION AND RESIDUAL EFFECTS.

4.1. Designated Sites.

4.1.1. Impact Assessment.

The desktop data search shows that there are no statutory designated sites within 2km of the survey area, but there are several areas listed within the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network. However, due to the distance of these and ecological barriers separating them from the survey area, there will be no direct impact as a result of the development of the site.

4.1.2. Mitigation.

No mitigation is considered necessary.

4.1.3. Residual Impacts.

The proposed development will have no residual impact on designated sites.

4.2. Habitats.

4.2.1. Impact Assessment.

4.2.1.1. The habitats on the site are dominated by grassland with bramble scrub edges. The areas on the site are included in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric as shown below.

4.2.1.2. The baseline habitat Biodiversity Units (BU) on the site was calculated at 9.79 Bu as shown in the tables below.

Habitat Type	Extent (ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment	Biodiversity units
Other neutral grassland	2.4277	Medium	Poor	9.71
Bramble scrub	0.0707	Medium	N/A	0.28
Total	**2.5**			**9.99**

4.2.1.3. The baseline hedgerow Biodiversity Units (BU) on the site was calculated at 0.03 BU as shown in the tables below.

Hedgerow Type	Length (km)	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment	Biodiversity units
Native hedgerow	0.017	Low	Poor	0.03
Total	**0.017**			**0.03**

4.2.1.4. There are no watercourse features on the site. Condition assessments have been calculated on the separate spreadsheet provided.

4.2.2. Mitigation.

4.2.2.1. The tables below demonstrate the areas of habitat to be retained and habitats to be created on site. A large area in the southeast of the site has been set aside as public open space. Within this area, the habitats created will include a mix of species-rich grassland, native scrub buffers, community allotments, and a kickabout area seeded with a flowering lawn species rich grass mix, with urban habitats such as footpaths and play areas. Also in this area, seventy-one ornamental and fruit trees will be planted, as well as fifty-four native trees.

Habitat Type	Extent (ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment	Biodiversity units
Retained habitats:				
Bramble scrub	0.014	Medium	N/A	0.05
Created habitats:				
Mixed scrub	0.171	Medium	Moderate	1.14
Developed land; sealed surface	0.976	V.Low	N/A - Other	0.00
Vegetated garden	0.389	Low	Condition Assessment N/A	0.75
Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	0.039	V.Low	N/A - Other	0.00
Sustainable drainage system	0.095	Low	Good	0.32
Allotments	0.075	Low	Good	0.43

Modified grassland (kickabout area)	0.145	Low	Moderate	0.5
Modified grassland (species-rich)	0.459	Low	Good	0.57
Urban tree	0.236	Medium	Moderate	0.72
Urban tree	0.261	Medium	Poor	0.73
Total	**2.5 (Exc. trees)**			**7.23**

4.2.2.2. The addition of native hedgerows between features within the public open space has been proposed to improve the overall biodiversity of the site.

Hedgerow Type	**Length (km)**	**Distinctiveness**	**Condition Assessment**	**Biodiversity units**
Created hedgerows:				
Native hedgerow	0.134	Low	Moderate	0.45
Total	**0.134**			**0.45**

4.2.2.3. The proposals avoid the loss of bramble scrub, a medium distinctiveness habitat, where possible, although some loss is unavoidable due to the size and nature of the proposed development. The retention of other neutral grassland habitats is not possible due to the requirement for public open space for recreational use. Recreational use of the grassland would likely result in the degradation of the habitat, which is already in poor condition, and therefore the retention of other neutral grassland habitat not considered compatible with the intended use of the public open space. There is no scope to minimise these impacts, as any recreational use at all is likely to have a negative impact on the habitat. For the same reason, there is no scope to improve or restore the grassland habitat.

4.2.2.4. Instead, it is proposed that the other neutral grassland is offset with areas of species-rich modified grassland, managed appropriately to achieve good condition. In addition, areas of mixed native scrub and multiple trees will be planted to further increase the biodiversity value of the site, while maintaining the integrity of the site as public open space.

4.2.2.5. Inevitably, due to the creation of housing and gardens on the site, an overall loss remains. Therefore, the remaining deficit will be offset through the purchase of units from a habitat bank.

4.2.3. Residual Effect.

The proposals for the site will deliver 7.23 habitat Bu, which is a loss of 2.57 habitat Bu. This represents a 26.22% net loss of habitat biodiversity units, and the trading rules have not been met. The proposals will also deliver 0.45 hedgerow Bu, which is a gain of 0.41 units. This represents a net gain of 1219%. Overall, with the purchase of additional biodiversity units, this is assessed to have a **positive residual effect at a site level**.

4.3. Species – Birds.

4.3.1. Impact Assessment.

4.3.1.1. The vegetation on site provided suitable nesting habitat for birds during the breeding season, which extends from March to August each year. Therefore, any vegetation clearance carried out within the nesting bird season is likely to have a high impact on nesting birds.

4.3.2. Mitigation.

4.3.2.1. Where possible, all vegetation clearance and site clearance will be carried out outside the nesting bird season.

4.3.2.2. Where it is necessary to undertake such works within the nesting bird season a nesting bird survey will be carried out immediately prior to the works. In the event that any active nests are found, they and a suitable buffer around them will be left undisturbed until the young have fledged.

4.3.3. Residual Effect.

With the above mitigation measures in place there will be a **no negative residual impact** on nesting birds at a site level.

4.4. Species – Bats.

4.4.1. Impact Assessment.

4.4.1.1. The site provides moderate potential foraging and commuting habitat for bats, with routes between other areas of suitable habitats in the surrounding area and potential roosts in surrounding residential properties.

4.4.1.2. However, the proposed development consists of residential houses with garden habitat and public open space with grassland and scrub, which would be assessed as having moderate potential for foraging and/or commuting bats. Although the site is adjacent to larger areas of greenspace to the east, there is no direct connectivity to areas of habitat with higher than moderate potential for foraging and/or commuting bats.

4.4.2. Mitigation.

4.4.2.1. A sensitive lighting scheme will be implemented as part of the new development, ensuring that all lighting is downward directional and directed away from any boundary vegetation or trees.

4.4.2.2. In addition, the site layout has been designed to include significant connective corridors of native planting through the site and around the boundaries of the site through the buffers of native scrub. These link the new development with habitats in the wider area, which in combination with new garden habitats will maintain moderate value habitats for foraging and commuting bats.

4.4.3. Residual Effect.

With the above mitigation measures in place there will be a **no negative residual impact** on bats at a site level.

4.5. Species – Reptiles.

4.5.1. Impact Assessment.

The habitat edges provide some suitable habitat for reptiles. However, the survey area is located within an urban area surrounded by residential housing and roads, therefore there is very little ecological connectivity with other areas of suitable habitat.

Furthermore, the site is publicly accessible and regularly disturbed by dogwalkers. Therefore, it is likely that suitability of the site is limited to low numbers of common reptile species.

4.5.2. Mitigation.

4.5.2.1. All onsite personnel will be briefed on the identification of reptiles. Toolbox talks have been provided to aid with identification.

4.5.2.2. In the unlikely event that multiple reptiles or any hibernating reptiles are discovered, works will stop immediately, and Whitcher Wildlife will be contacted for further advice.

4.5.2.3. Any stored materials moved from the ground, including the brash piles present on the site, must be carefully lifted and not dragged along the ground to prevent harm to any reptiles that may be sheltering beneath.

4.5.2.4. Prior to site clearance, all vegetation will be cut to a minimum of 200mm above ground level and the arisings should be carefully removed from site. This will encourage any reptiles at ground level to vacate the area and will deter them from returning.

4.5.3. Residual Effect.

With the above mitigation measures in place there will be a **no negative residual impact** on reptiles at a site level.

4.6. Species – Hedgehogs.

4.6.1. Impact Assessment.

The survey area provides suitable commuting routes for hedgehogs through the site and neighboring properties.

4.6.2. Mitigation.

4.6.2.1. The mitigation listed in section 4.5.2. for reptiles will also protect hedgehogs during the construction phase.

4.6.2.2. In addition to the above mitigation, at least one hedgehog access will be provided in all garden fences between properties and at regular intervals in perimeter fences to permit free access for hedgehogs across the site.

4.6.3. Residual Effect.

With the above mitigation measures in place there will be a **no negative residual impact** on hedgehogs at a site level.

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5. BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT MEASURES.

5.1. In line with the NPPF some biodiversity enhancements for fauna species will be provided on the site.

5.2. This will be achieved by providing integrated bird and bat boxes in 50% of the new houses.

5.3. Integrated Habibat bat boxes with custom facing, like shown below, will be installed in a suitable location on the southern aspect of the houses, at least 3m from ground level.



5.4. Integrated universal swift nest boxes will also be installed on the eastern aspect of the houses, at least 3m from ground level. Swift boxes have also been proven to be used by other small birds, including sparrows and therefore will cater for a variety of bird species.

5.5. A sensitive lighting scheme will be installed on the site with all external lighting being downward directional lighting that does not illuminate any of the new bat roosting features provided or the boundary vegetation features.

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Prepared by:	
Jess Brown BSc (Hons) MSc ACIEEM	Date: 11th March 2026

Checked by:	
Ruth Georgiou BSc MCIEEM	Date: 31st October 2025

Amended by:	
Derek Whitcher BSc, MCIEEM, MCMI	Date: 15th October 2026

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Appendix I. NESTING BIRD INFORMATION.

Ecology

The nesting season will vary according to the weather each year but generally commences in March, peaks during May and June and continues until September. It is also worth remembering that some birds nest in trees and scrub, but others are ground nesting or prefer man- made structures or buildings.

Surveys

Nesting bird surveys search for potential nest sites in vegetation, buildings etc. Potential nesting sites are observed over a suitable period of time for bird movements or calling male birds that would indicate the presence of a nest. The presence of a nest can be identified from the field signs without the necessity to see the nest itself, thereby avoiding any disturbance of the nests. The best way to avoid this issue is to plan for vegetation clearance to be carried out outside the bird-nesting season.

Legislation

Nesting birds are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Part 1. -(1) Of the Act states that: - If any person intentionally: - kills, injures or takes any wild bird; takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird, he shall be guilty of an offence.

Part 1.-(5) of the Act states that:- If any person intentionally:- disturbs any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on, or near a nest containing eggs or young; or disturbs young of such a bird, he shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a special penalty.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 amends the above by inserting after “intentionally” the words “or recklessly”.

Appendix II. BAT INFORMATION.

Ecology

There are currently 18 species of bat residing in Britain, 17 of which of which are known to breed here. They are extremely difficult to identify in the hand and even more so in flight.

Many species appear to be diminishing in numbers, probably due to habitat change and shortage of food, caused by pesticides, as insects are their sole diet.

As their diet consists solely of insects, bats hibernate during the winter when their food source is at its most scarce. They will spend the winter in hollow trees, caves, mines and the roofs of buildings.

Certain species, particularly the pipistrelle (the commonest and most widespread British bat) can quickly adapt to man-made structures and will readily use these to roost and to rear their young.

Surveys

During walkover surveys, bat roosts can be identified by looking for:

- Suitable holes, cracks and crevices within any building, tree or other structure.
- Bat droppings along walls, window cills, or on the ground.
- Prey remains, such as insect wings.

Further investigations can be made using endoscopes, by carrying out aerial inspections of trees or by conducting bat activity surveys during dusk and dawn over summer months.

Legislation

Bats are protected under Appendix II and III of the Bern Convention (1982), Schedule 5 and 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), Annex IV of the Habitats Directive (some species under Annex II), Annex II of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) and EUROBATS

Appendix III. REPTILE INFORMATION.

Ecology

There are five main species of reptile that reside in the UK; Common or Viviparous Lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*); Sand Lizard (*Lacerta agilis*); Slow Worm *(Anguis fragilis*); Grass Snake (*Natrix natrix*) and Adder (*Vipera berus*). The Adder is the only native species that is venomous although this is rarely harmful to humans.

Reptiles occupy a wide range of habitats including woodland, marshes, heathland, moors, sand dunes, hedgerows and bogs. Sand Lizards are confined to moorland and coastal sand dunes where they lay their eggs in the warm sand. The range of the Sand Lizard in the UK is therefore very limited. Slow Worms can be found in a wide variety of habitats throughout Britain and is the most likely reptile to be found in urban and suburban environments.

Maintaining the right body temperature is vital to reptiles' survival. In the morning, they find a warm basking site to heat up their bodies, then later they may move back into the shade because they do not sweat and have to be careful not to overheat. During hot summers, Adders will try to move to damper, cooler sites.

Over winter reptiles will hibernate in burrows or under longs where they are protected from the cold and predators, emerging from February onwards as the weather warms up.

Reptiles generally begin to mate April to May with young born in late July to September. The Common Lizard gives birth to live young, hence the term viviparous, meaning live bearing.

Surveys

Reptile surveys involve the searching of refuge such as logs and stones for any animal sheltering below. Artificial refuge may be laid out on site for the purpose of reptile surveys.

Legislation

Reptiles are protected under Appendix II (sand lizards) and Appendix III (common lizard, slow worms, smooth snake, grass snake and adders) of the BERN Convention (1982), partially protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), Annex IV of the Habitats Directive and are all listed under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Communities Act (2006) making them a species of principal importance.

This makes it an offence to disturb any reptile while it is occupying a structure or place it uses for shelter or protection or to obstruct access to such a place.

agreement. Numerous species are also listed under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) making them species of principal importance.

All bats and their roosts are therefore protected in the UK. This makes it an offence to kill, injure or take any bat, to interfere with any place used for shelter or protection, or to intentionally disturb any animal occupying such a place.

The UK has designated maternity and hibernacula areas as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) under the Habitats Directive. Implementation of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan also includes action for a number of bat species and the habitats which support them.

Where development proposals are likely to affect a bat roost site, a licence is required from Natural England.

Appendix IV. HEDGEHOG INFORMATION.

Ecology

The hedgehog was a common species once widespread throughout the country but it has suffered a major decline due to loss of habitat. They are now found distributed across the UK, but the population increases to the south and east. Hedgehogs are rare in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The hedgehog is a small, spiny mammal around 20cm long with a long snout. The back and sides of the hedgehog are covered in 25mm (1") long spines. These are absent from the face, legs and underside, which are covered with coarse, grey-brown fur.

Hedgehogs are highly active and range widely. They need to be able to move freely through a well-connected range of habitats to find food, mates and areas to nest. Studies show that hedgehogs can travel around 2km in a night in urban areas and 3km a night in rural landscapes. A viable population of urban hedgehogs is thought to need 0.9km^2 of well-connected habitat.

Hedgehogs nest year-round and produce different types of nest for daytime resting, breeding and hibernation. Daytime nests are a retreat during the active season, and are often temporary, flimsy and found in areas of rough grassland, loose leaf piles or garden vegetation. Breeding nests are made by females and are used to raise young. They tend to be more robust, like hibernation nests. Winter nests can be used for several months to hibernate through periods of cold weather and low food availability. The sturdiest nests rely on medium-sized deciduous leaves and a structure to hold the leaves in place. Bramble patches, log piles and open compost heaps are common locations for breeding and hibernation.

Hedgehogs are omnivores, but the bulk of their diet consists of macro-invertebrates such as beetles, worms, slugs, earwigs, caterpillars and millipedes. In urban areas, supplementary food in the form of cat, dog or formulated hedgehog food can make up a significant part of their diet. Access to water is also very important.

Surveys

Hedgehogs are nocturnal animals, so despite their spiny appearance they are often difficult to find.

All surveys should be conducted between May and November when hedgehogs are active.

Droppings can be found in grassland, farmland and in gardens. The droppings are crinkly, often studded with shiny fragments due to their diet of insects. They are variable in size, 15-50mm long and 8-10mm thick, blue/black in colour and sweet smelling with a hint of linseed oil.

Footprint tunnels and camera traps can also be used to survey for hedgehogs.

Further survey techniques can also be used to survey for hedgehogs, but these require a survey licence to carry out surveys involving trapping and torch or spotlight searches.

Legislation

The hedgehog is considered an endangered species, but it benefits only from general protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. They are listed under Schedule 6 of the Act, which makes it illegal to kill, trap or capture wild hedgehogs, with certain methods listed. They are also listed under the Wild Mammals Protection Act (1996), which prohibits cruel treatment of hedgehogs and they are a species of 'principal importance' under the NERC Act, which confers a 'duty of responsibility to public bodies'.

However, none of these deal with the issues that are a threat to the hedgehog. The main threat is the increasing loss of habitat, the increasing traffic on our roads and the increasing use of herbicides, in particular those used to kill garden slugs.

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Appendix V. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA. (PRE-DEVELOPMENT)



Site: Land to the Rear of White Lee Gardens, Batley

Reference: 250245

Date: 17.10.2025

Produced by: Jess

Appendix VI. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA. (POST-DEVELOPMENT)



Site: Land to the Rear of White Lee Gardens, Batley

Reference: 250245

Date: 15.10.2026

Produced by: Samuel Bentley