

Greenhill Bank, New Mill
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
27th September 2021



Prepared by:

Middleton Bell Ecology, 33 Wilthorpe Road, Barnsley S75 1JA

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For Planning	P Middleton MCIEEM	R Bell MCIEEM	P Middleton MCIEEM	27.09.21

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Site Name Land off Greenhill Bank	Location New Mill, Holmfirth HD9 1UN
Local Authority Kirklees Council	Grid Reference SE 16139 08770
Surveyor Peter Middleton MCIEEM	Date of Survey 15/09/2021
National Character Area Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe	Designation of Site None

UK Primary Habitats g Grassland, u1c Artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface.
Secondary (habitat) Codes 10 Scattered scrub, 11 Scattered tree, 16 Tall herb, 17 Ruderal/Ephemeral, 48 Non-native, 53 Felled, 57 Young tree – self-set, 73 Bare ground, 77 Neglected, 133 Nutrient enriched substrates.
Protected/Notable Species, Constraints on Site None
HPIs and SPIs under NERC Act 2006 None
Kirklees BAP None

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1. Summary

- 1.1.1 The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of land off Greenhill Bank, New Mill was commissioned by the client Alan Bowers on 7th September 2021. The UK Habitat Classification survey was undertaken on 15th September 2021.
- 1.1.2 The survey was commissioned to inform a planning application for a proposed residential development, comprising two dwellings.
- 1.1.3 Site habitats are considered to be of importance to nature conservation at the site level only. In addition, the site is not considered to be of importance to any species or species group at greater than the site level.
- 1.1.4 The following additional ecological constraints and associated recommendations to avoid/mitigate/compensate for potential impacts have been identified.
 - An ecologically sensitive landscaping scheme should be designed for the development focusing on the appropriate design and management of eastern and southern boundary habitats.
 - Potential damage to the roots of trees retained at the southern boundary. Root protection measures detailed in British Standard 5837 (2012): Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction, should be followed.
 - Site clearance to be undertaken when it will not affect nesting birds (March to August) or to be proceeded by a nesting bird check undertaken by an ecologist.
- 1.1.5 In addition to the mitigation and compensation detailed above, enhancement recommendations include:
 - The new development should include two wall-integrated cavity bat boxes, situated high on south or west-facing gables.
 - The new development should include two integrated swift boxes under soffits or high on gables.
 - Boundaries designed not to impede the free movement of hedgehogs.
- 1.1.6 The findings of this survey are considered to be valid for up to 24 months of the survey date. After this time re-survey of the site may be necessary.

2. Introduction

- 2.1.1 The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of land off Greenhill Bank Road, New Mill was commissioned by the client Alan Bowers on 7th September 2021. The UK Habitat Classification survey was undertaken on 15th September 2021.
- 2.1.2 The survey was commissioned to inform a planning application for a proposed residential development, comprising two dwellings.
- 2.1.3 The site consists of a linear area of fairly steeply sloping land adjacent to and below Greenhill Bank Road. The site is near to the centre of New Mills, 2km east of Holmfirth and approximately 7.6km south of Huddersfield town centre.
- 2.1.4 The purpose of this report is to present the findings of a UK Habitat Classification survey together with determining the potential for, or presence of, protected and notable species. An appended map of the site shows the habitats present. Where impacts can be confidently determined, recommendations in relation to avoiding, mitigating and compensating for these impacts are included in this report, together with biodiversity enhancement recommendations.
- 2.1.5 Key legislation relating to designated sites and protected species and habitats is presented in Appendix 3. The implications of legislation are detailed in the body of the report where necessary.

3. Site Description

- 3.1.1 The site consists of a linear area 0.23ha in extent, which is steeply sloping from west to east. The site was formally allotment gardens and since their abandonment the area has been under the forces of natural succession. Semi natural habitats on site comprise tall herb, scrub and scattered trees together with a recently constructed access with an unvegetated unsealed surface, areas of previously felled trees and a little bare ground where a track has been cut.
- 3.1.2 Land surrounding the site consists of the built environment (residential) to the north and east, pasture to the south with land beyond Greenland Bank Road to the west comprising trees, grassland and small woodland plantings (see Figure 1).
- 3.1.3 The site falls within National Character Area 37: The Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe National Character Area (NCA). The Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe is a transitional landscape from the upland areas of the Southern Pennines NCA in the west, through to the low-lying land of the Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield NCA to the east. The most striking aspect of the landscape is the mingling of predominantly 'gritstone' industrial towns and villages with the strong valley forms and pastoral agriculture of the Pennine foothills.
- 3.1.4 The Soilsmap map shows soils in the area to comprise freely draining slightly acidic loamy soils.

of undertaking botanical surveys including appraisals of Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) in Barnsley, Doncaster and East Yorkshire, as well as National Vegetation Classification (NVC) survey in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

- 4.2.3 Notable, rare or scarce plant species were highlighted if present. Evidence of protected species or species of nature conservation importance was recorded where present at the time of survey. Species recorded are included within the report as appropriate. Information is presented on the UK Habitat Classification plan, using Secondary Codes and Target Notes where appropriate to identify particular features of interest, where appropriate. Additionally, and where possible, habitats were classified using the National Vegetation Classification (NVC), as described in the JNCC National Vegetation Classification – Users Handbook (Rodwell, 2006).
- 4.2.4 Aerial photographs (Google Earth) were studied to place the site in its wider context and to look for ecological features that would not be evident on the ground during the walkover survey. This is particularly useful for identifying wildlife corridors and ponds but because the latter are often not apparent on aerial photographs, OS 1:25 000 scale maps are also used.
- 4.2.5 Habitats of Principal Importance (HPIs) and Species of Principal Importance (SPIs) are included on Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 were noted together with priority species and habitats as included on the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).

4.3 Methods of Assessment

- 4.3.1 The value and sensitivity of ecological features present on site were determined based on the guidance provided within 'Guidelines on Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland' (CIEEM, 2018). Individual ecological receptors (habitats and species that could be affected by the development) for the scheme were assigned levels of importance for nature conservation. The highest level is international, then decreasing in order of importance through national, regional, county, local and lastly site.

4.4 Survey Limitations

- 4.4.1 No significant limitations to an effective survey were encountered.

5. Ecological Baseline

5.1 Data Consultation

- 5.1.1 Designated sites present within 2km of the application area are detailed in Table 1. (Also, see Appendix 4). The nearest Ancient Semi Natural Woodland is Morton Wood which is 1.9km south of the site centroid. The site does not lie within the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network (KWHN).

Table 1. Designated sites

Designation	Name	Interest	Distance from site
Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	Holme Grassland	Rare NVC Community	1.35km east-southeast
	Upper and Lower Stones Wood	Species rich acid woodland	1.4km east-southeast
	Round Wood	Species rich acid woodland	1.5km northeast
	Hagg Wood	Species rich acid woodland	1.8km north
	Round Wood	Species rich acid woodland	1.8km north
	Morton Wood	Species rich acid woodland	1.9km south

- 5.1.2 Records of protected and notable species obtained are discussed in the species sections of the results.

5.2 Field Survey

UK Habitat Classification Survey

- 5.2.1 The arrangement of site habitats is shown on the UK Habitat Classification plan in Appendix 1, whilst a field survey botanical species list is provided in Appendix 2.
- 5.2.2 The site is considered to be of no more than site level importance to nature conservation for the habitats supported. The site is not considered to be of importance to any species or species groups at greater than the site level.
- 5.2.3 A detailed description of the site habitats and the site's potential to support protected and notable species is provided below.

Habitats

g - grassland with secondary codes

- 5.2.4 The largest component of habitats on site comprises a community comprising many tall herb/ruderal species (secondary code 16)(Plates 1 & 2). Plant species present include frequent rosebay willowherb *Chamerion angustifolium*, great willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, nettle *Urtica dioica* and hedge bindweed *Calystegia sepium*. There is also scattered scrub (secondary code 10) which comprises frequent cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* (non-native), together with occasional bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, silver birch *Betula pendula*, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, wych elm *Ulmus glabra*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, goat willow *Salix caprea*, grey willow *Salix cinerea*, garden privet *Ligustrum ovalifolium* and pendunculate oak *Quercus robur*.
- 5.2.5 At the southern end of the site and in the northwest corner there are scattered trees (secondary code 11) all of which are self-set and immature. Species include frequent silver birch and rarely occurring pendunculate oak, garden privet and hawthorn. Some felling of trees has recently occurred in the centre and north end of the site (secondary code 53).

Plate 1. View south showing non-native scrub in foreground, clear-fell mid-distance (left) and scattered trees in distance



Plate 2. View looking northeast (downhill) from Greenhill Bank Road



- 5.2.6 A track which has been cleared in order to enable the removal of site trees supports scattered ruderal/ephemeral vegetation (secondary code 17) and a little bare ground (secondary code 73). Pioneer species include knotgrass *Polygonum aviculare*, bristly oxtongue *Picris echioides*, creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, scentless mayweed *Tripleurospermum inodorum*, smooth sowthistle *Sonchus oleraceus*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*. On some parts of the track cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata* and creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens* are abundant.

h3 Dense scrub (non-native) (48)

- 5.2.7 Near the recently made site entrance adjacent to the road, is an area of non-native dense shrub comprising dominant *Spiraea* species.

Plate 3. View north along recently cleared (track)



u1c Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface

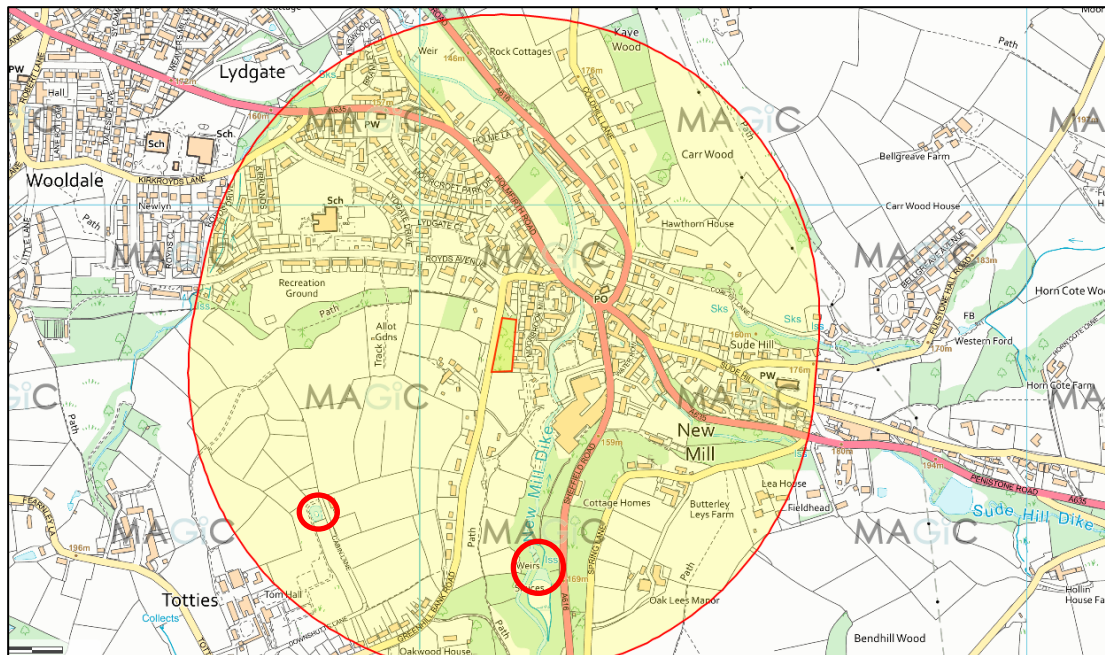
- 5.2.8 An entrance has been made to access the site off Greenhill Bank Road. A track has been made and covered with limestone ballast.

Species and species groups

Amphibians

- 5.2.9 No Great Crested Newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus* record or any other amphibian records were provided by WYE for locations within a 2km radius of the site.
- 5.2.10 No GCN EPS mitigation licences have been issued for any locations within a 7km radius of the site, whilst GCN survey licence returns do not include a presence record for a location within less than 6km of the site.
- 5.2.11 Two ponds were identified during the pond search for locations within 500m of the application site. One is 330m south of the site and east of New Mill Dyke whilst the second pond is 355m southwest of Greenhill Bank Road. Taking into account the lack of records, barrier to movement and local knowledge of the area, GCN are considered highly unlikely to be a receptor to the proposed scheme.

Figure 2. Pond search (500m search), as indicated by red circles



Badger

- 5.2.12 No badger setts or other evidence of usage were found on site. Records of badger in the search area were provided and the site falls within the area of increased probability of badger activity.

Bats

Historical records

- 5.2.13 Ninety-nine bat records were provided by WYE for locations within a 2km radius of the site. Species included in the records which were positively identified comprise common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, Leisler's bat *Nyctalus leisleri* and noctule *Nyctalus noctula*. Other records relate to either an unidentified *Pipistrellus* species, an unidentified *Myotis* species or an unidentified species of bat. The closest record to site comprises a common pipistrelle field record, collected in 2018 from a location 49m from the site centroid.
- 5.2.14 Four historic bat EPS mitigation licences have been obtained for locations within 2km of the application site. All are between 1.79km and 2km with the nearest issued in 2016 to permit the destruction of a common pipistrelle resting place.

Bat foraging, commuting habitat and site trees

- 5.2.15 The site is limited in extent and largely enclosed on all sides by the built environment (road and residential properties). No site trees display features with potential to accommodate roosting bats.

Birds

- 5.2.16 No birds were recorded on site during the survey. On site habitats have the potential to support the nesting and foraging of a range of more common bird species.

Hedgehog

- 5.2.17 No hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* records was provided by WYE for any location within a 2km radius of the site. The site would appear to offer some appeal to this species but perhaps no more than is offered by surrounding habitats.

Invasive species

- 5.2.18 No species included on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, were found on site.

Invertebrates

- 5.2.19 The ubiquitous habitats on site are unlikely to support notable assemblages of invertebrates.

Plants

- 5.2.20 The habitats present do not include long-established unimproved grasslands, ancient woodlands, species rich hedgerows or other diverse botanical communities. Therefore, protected or priority plants are unlikely to be present.

Reptiles

- 5.2.21 No reptile records were provided by WYE for locations within a 2km radius of the site. Considering there are no waterbodies and there is little connectivity with suitable habitats elsewhere, reptiles are not considered likely to be a receptor to the proposed scheme.

6. Assessment

6.1 Proposals

- 6.1.1 The assessment of impacts is based upon the site plan; Proposed site plan – Site Layout, 2 Dwellings at Greenhill Bank Road, Drawing no 6, 26/06/2021. Neil Bowen Chartered Architect.
- 6.1.2 The proposed plan shows the two dwellings offset towards Greenhill Lane to the west of the site, with gardens bordered by shrubby vegetation to the east.

6.2 Assessment of Impacts

Designated sites

- 6.2.1 No impacts are anticipated upon designated sites due to the nature of the development, its location and the distance of designated sites from the application area.

Habitats

- 6.2.2 Trees at the southern boundary will be retained, however, the vast proportion of site habitats will be lost. Impacts upon habitats are nevertheless considered to be no more than site level importance to nature conservation.

Species

Bats

- 6.2.3 New or retained shrubby vegetation along the eastern and southern edges of the site will retain much of the site's appeal to foraging bats.
- 6.2.4 Negative impacts upon foraging bats are therefore considered unlikely to be more than at a site level.

Birds

- 6.2.5 Impacts upon foraging and nesting birds as a consequence of the loss of semi natural habitats are not considered to be more than at the site level.

6.3 Further Survey and Mitigation

Habitats

- 6.3.1 There is potential to mitigate the impacts associated with the loss of semi-natural habitats through implementation of an ecologically sensitive landscaping scheme focusing on the appropriate design and management of retained habitats at the southern and eastern edges of the site. These measures could be secured through a planning condition requiring an Ecological Design Strategy (EDS) to be produced.
- 6.3.2 Trees on the southern boundary will be retained. British Standard 5837 (2012): Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction, should be followed. Root Protection Zones (RPZ's) should be calculated and implemented to prevent harm to trees at the site's boundaries.
- 6.3.3 Immediately prior to site clearance (earth stripping), a reinspection of the site for the presence of badger setts is recommended.

Species

Birds

- 6.3.4 It is strongly recommended that site clearance should take place at a time when nesting birds are not likely to be impacted (outside March to August). If limited vegetation removal works are to be undertaken during the main bird nesting season, then they should be preceded by a nesting bird check to be undertaken by an ecologist.

6.4 Enhancements

- 6.4.1 In accordance with the aims of planning policy NPPF: 15, it is suggested that the developer follows the recommendations detailed below. Please note that the enhancements have been informed by the results and findings of the field survey.
 - Two wall-integrated bat boxes should be included in new dwellings. These boxes should be situated high on south or west facing gables and away from artificial light spill. Boxes should not be located directly above windows or doors.
 - Two integrated swift boxes should be installed at wall top height under soffits or high on the gables of the new dwellings, but not over windows and doors.

- Boundary fences should be designed not to impede the free movement of hedgehogs.

6.5 Conclusion and Residual Effects

- 6.5.1 In order to further reduce scheme impacts and to ensure the scheme maximises potential benefits to nature conservation, it is recommended that all mitigation and enhancement measures detailed in Sections 6.3 and 6.4 are adopted.

7. References

Butcher B, Carey P, Edmonds R, Norton L & J Treweek (2020) The UK Habitat Classification User Manuals Version 1.1 at <http://www.ukhab.org/>

CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal and Marine. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

CIEEM (2017) Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

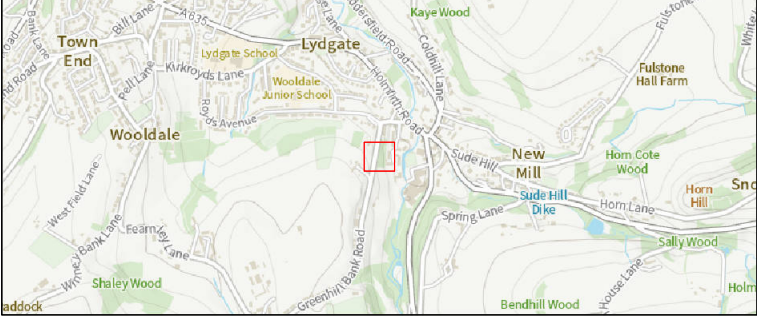
Collins, J (ed.) (2016) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines. The Bat Conservation Trust.

Eaton MA, Aebischer NJ, Brown AF, Hearn RD, Lock L, Musgrove AJ, Noble DG, Stroud DA and Gregory RD (2015) Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. British Birds 108, 708–746.

Rodwell, JS (2006) NVC Users' Handbook. JNCC.

Wilmore GTD, Lunn J and Rodwell JS. (2011) The South Yorkshire Plant Atlas, Yorkshire Naturalist Union.

Appendix 1. UK Habitat Classification Plan



Survey Information

Site boundary (2,263.9m²)

UK Habitat Survey (Primary Habitats)

g - Grassland (2,104.6m²)

h3 - Dense scrub (144.4m²)

u1c - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed (14.9m²)

Secondary codes:

10 - Scattered scrub

11 - Scattered trees

16 - Tall herb

17 - Ruderal/ ephemeral

48 - Non-native

53 - Felled

57 - Young trees - self-set

73 - Bare ground

133 - Nutrient-enriched substrate

Source:
Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2021, All rights reserved. License Number 100049837.

N

0 2.5 5 10

Metres

PROJECT TITLE

GREENHILL BANK ROAD

DRAWING TITLE

Figure 1. UK Habitat Survey Plan

VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked
1.0	17/09/21	UKHab	MP	PM

DRAWING NUMBER:

MIDDLETONBELLECOLOGY/Greenhill/UKHab

SCALE	1:350	PLOT SIZE	A3	DATUM	OSGB	PROJECTION	BNG
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Middleton Bell Ecology

33 Wilthorpe Road, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S75 1JA
www.middletonbellecology.co.uk
T: 01226 286282

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Appendix 2. Plant Species Recorded on Site

D = Dominant, **A** = Abundant, **F** = Frequent, **O** = Occasional, **R** = Rare

Species	Common name	DAFOR Rating
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey willow	O
<i>Epilobium spp.</i>	Hybrid willowherb	O
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i> var. <i>jacobaea</i>	Ragwort	O
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady-fern	R
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Wych Elm	O
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	F
<i>Spiraea</i>	Spiraea	Loc D
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	Scentless Mayweed	R
<i>Picris echinoides</i>	Bristly Oxtongue	R
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle	O
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	Loc A
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass	R
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Iris	R
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	O
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Broad Buckler-fern	O
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	R
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb	O
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent	O
<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	Garden Privet	O
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog Rose	O
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry Laurel	F
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	O
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	Loc A
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	O
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	R
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed	O
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak	O
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	Loc A
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	O
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow	O
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	O
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly-bush	O
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb	Loc A

Appendix 3. Relevant Legislation and Policy

Wildlife legislation relating to statutory designated sites and species is summarised in Table A1 and A2 below. This legal information is intended for summary only, and the original legal documents should be consulted if a detailed understanding is required.

Table A1. Legislation relating to designated sites and habitats.

Designated Site	Legal Status
Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	While they have no direct legal status, Local Wildlife Sites are considered important enough to receive recognition within the planning system. National planning policy requires local authorities to identify Local Wildlife Sites and provide for their protection through local policy.

Table A2. Legislation relating to species.

Species	Legal Status
European protection	
European Protected Species (EPS) (including bats, Great Crested Newt (GCN), otter and hazel dormouse)	These animal species and their breeding sites or resting places are protected under Regulation 41 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, which makes it illegal to: • Intentionally or deliberately capture, injure or kill any such animal or to deliberately take or destroy their eggs. • Deliberately disturb such an animal. • Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal. European Protected Species (EPS) licences can be granted by Natural England in respect of development to permit activities that would otherwise be unlawful under the Conservation Regulations, providing that the following 3 tests (set out in the EC Habitats Directive) are passed: • The development is for reasons of overriding public interest. • There is no satisfactory alternative; and • The favourable conservation status of the species concerned will be maintained and/or enhanced. Under Regulation 9(5) of the Conservation Regulations, Planning Authorities have a legal duty to 'have regard to the requirements of the EC Habitats Directive in the exercise of their functions'. This means that they must consider the above 3 tests when determining whether Planning Permission should be granted for developments likely to cause an offence under the Conservation Regulations. As a consequence, Planning Applications for such developments must demonstrate that the 3 tests will be passed. Natural England also allow sites to be registered on the Bat Low Impact Class Licence to permit activities that would otherwise be unlawful under the Conservation Regulations where the 3 tests can

Species	Legal Status
	be passed and the bat roosts to be impacted are of low conservation status.
National protection	
European Protected Species and other species including water vole and white clawed crayfish	These animals receive full protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000), which makes it illegal (subject to exceptions) to: • Intentionally kill, injure or take any such animal. • Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct any place used for shelter or protection by any such animal; and • Intentionally or recklessly disturb such animals while they occupy a place used for shelter or protection.
Common amphibians and reptile species	These animals receive limited protection under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000), which makes it illegal to intentionally kill or injure any such animal.
Badger	The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 makes it illegal to wilfully kill or injure a Badger or attempt to do so and also make it illegal to intentionally or recklessly interfere with a Badger sett. This includes damaging or destroying a sett, obstructing access to a sett and disturbing a Badger while it is occupying a sett. Licences can be granted by Natural England to permit sett closure and/or disturbance between July and November inclusive.
Schedule 1 birds	Special penalties relate to offences concerning birds listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). In addition to the offences detailed above relating to all wild birds, it is illegal to intentionally or recklessly disturb any Schedule 1 bird or their dependent young while nesting.
All bird species	All wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000), which makes it illegal (subject to exceptions) to: • Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird. • Take, damage or destroy the nest (whilst being built or in use) or eggs of any wild bird.
Invasive species	The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) contains measures for preventing the establishment of non-native species which may be detrimental to native wildlife, prohibiting the release of animals and planting of plants listed in Schedule 9 of the Act. In relation to Schedule 9 plants, it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause these plant species to grow in the wild.

Species and Habitats of Principal Importance

Planning authorities have a duty under Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 to have regard to priority species and habitats in exercising their functions including development control and planning. In compliance with Section 41 of the NERC Act, the Secretary of State has published a list of species and habitats considered to be of principal importance for conserving biodiversity in England under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. This is known as the list of Habitats and Species of Principal Importance (HPI/SPI). The HPI/SPI list is used to guide planning authorities in implementing their duty under the NERC Act.

National Planning Policy Framework

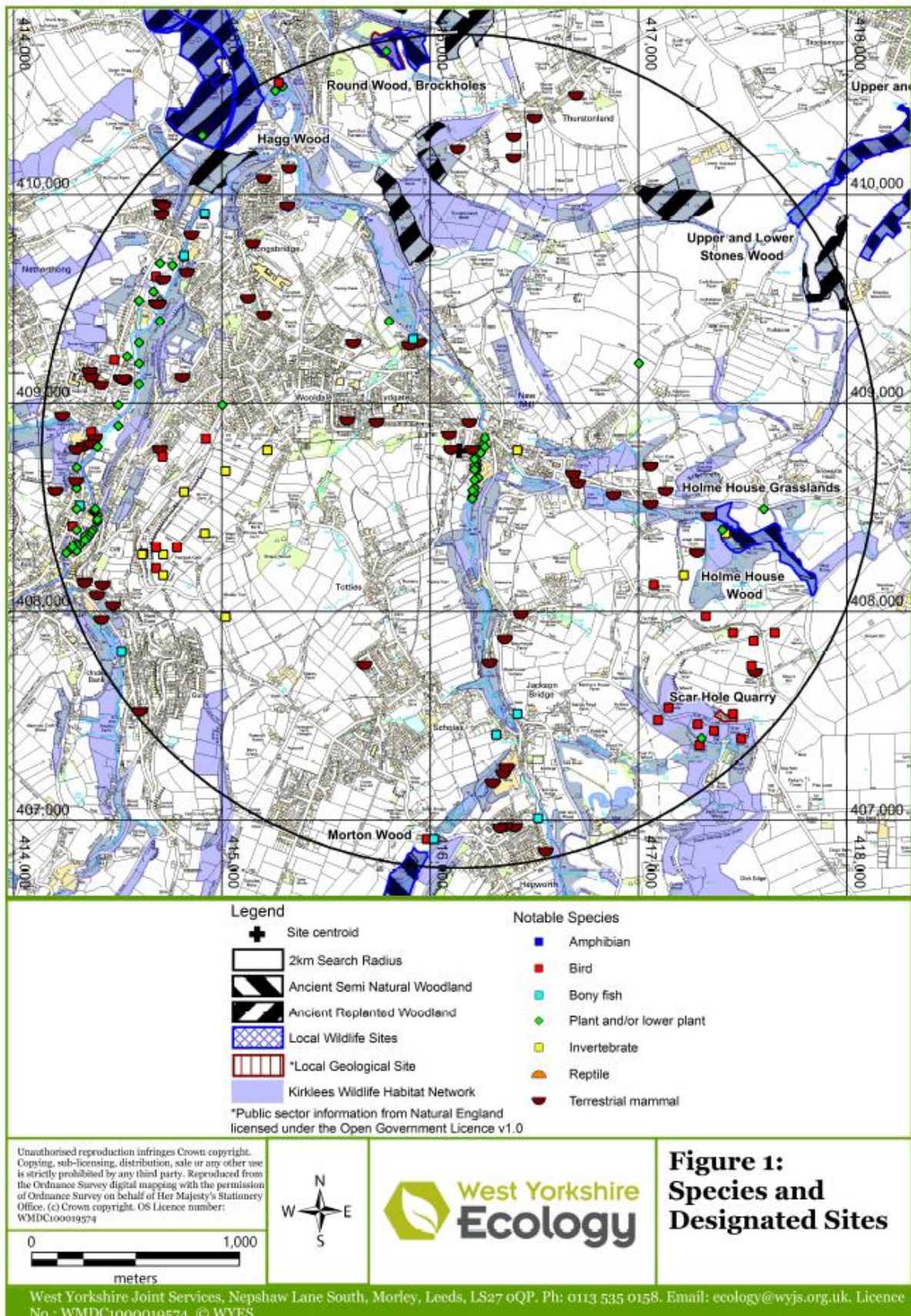
The National Planning Policy Framework for England was revised in 2021. The NPPF's policy on biodiversity has been summarised by the Government as: "The Framework underlines that

the planning system should seek not just to protect, but, where possible to enhance biodiversity – making sure we don't just have isolated pockets of wildlife, but rich and connected green spaces for all kinds of species to thrive. Planning permission should be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland.”

Local Biodiversity Action Plans

The HPI/SPI list included on Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 is supported by a series of Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs), usually set up on a local authority local authority administrative boundary basis. Each LBAP identifies those habitats and species considered to be most important in that area (usually referred to as priority habitats and species). Commonly, an LBAP will identify a number of habitats and species for which “action plans” have been prepared.

Appendix 4. Distribution of Designated Sites within the Search Area



Appendix 5. Proposed site plan



REVISION	DATE	DESCRIPTION



Unit 2, The Office Campus, Paragon
Business Park, Red Hall Court,
Wakefield, WF1 2UY

Project Proposed 2 dwellings
at Greenhill Bank Road
for Mr Bowers

Drawing Site Layout

01924 380873
Date 21/06/2021
Drg No

A1	2342	Scale
R	6	1:200