



FUTURESECOLOGY

Britology Ltd

Abbey Road, Shepley

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (PEA)

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Site is approximately 0.12ha in extent and is located within Shepley, Huddersfield.
- 1.2 The proposals comprise the erection of two residential buildings with associated gardens, parking and access.
- 1.3 The Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network is located c.51m north of the Site boundary, along the Shepley Dike. Mitigation measures to prevent indirect impacts are recommended.
- 1.4 In general, the existing onsite habitats were of limited ecological value. Two on site trees are considered to have greater ecological value. It is recommended that these are retained and protected from construction impacts.
- 1.5 Offsite habitats provide suitable commuting and foraging habitat for bat species, and it is recommended that these are protected from construction impacts. A sympathetic lighting design in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) should also be implemented during the construction and operational phases of the development to protect retained, offsite adjacent, and newly created habitats. These measures would negate any impacts on commuting or foraging bats.
- 1.7 All recommendations and best practice precautionary working methods pertaining to faunal species will be outlined within a CEMP.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The following report has been prepared by Futures Ecology Ltd. on behalf of Britology Ltd. It provides the results of a habitat survey and preliminary protected species survey at Abbey Road, Shepley (grid reference: SE 20175 10649).
- 2.2 The habitat survey and preliminary protected species surveys were undertaken on the 11th of March 2026.
- 2.3 The key objectives of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (PEAR) are to:
- gain an understanding of the baseline ecology of the Site and immediate surrounding area.
 - determine whether the Site supports or has the potential to support protected species.
 - identify any likely ecological constraints and mitigation measures likely to be required.
 - identify the opportunities offered by the potential project to deliver ecological enhancement.
 - assess the potential of the development to deliver measurable net gain.

SITE LOCATION AND CONTEXT

- 2.4 The proposed development Site is 0.12ha in extent and comprised of a hardstanding access track, ephemeral/short perennial, poor semi-improved grassland, bramble scrub, blackthorn scrub, and two broadleaved trees.
- 2.5 The landscape immediately surrounding the Site consisted of residential properties to the south, east and west and a grassland field to the north. Beyond this there is woodland 35m south and Shepley Dike 56m north.
- 2.6 The site is located within the village of Shepley, approximately 8.1km southeast of Huddersfield.

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

- 2.7 Development proposals comprise the construction of two residential dwellings along with associated access, parking, and gardens.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

PERSONNEL

- 3.1 The habitat and protected species surveys were undertaken on the 11th March 2026 by J. Lally MSc, BSc (Hons). J. Lally MSc, BSc (Hons) has 2 years' experience of conducting and leading protected species and habitat surveys across a wide range of sites. J. Lally is able to conduct River Condition Assessments (RCA) following certification as a Qualified Surveyor in September 2024 by the Cartographer RCA Team and RGS.

DESK STUDY

- 3.2 Prior to the field survey, aerial photographs and mapping tools were reviewed using online mapping resources at a minimum scale of 1:25,000; Google Maps¹; and the Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)² to assess the landscape context of the survey area and surrounding areas.
- 3.3 The MAGIC website was used to obtain information about:
- Statutory designated sites of international, national and local importance.
 - Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).
 - Approved European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) licences.
 - Natural England Environmental DNA surveys and Habitat Suitability Assessments of Ponds for great crested newt in support of District Level mitigation Licensing.
- 3.4 To support the field survey and compile baseline information of relevance to the Site, ecological information was sought from third party organisations:
- West Yorkshire Joint Services (WYJS).
 - West Yorkshire Bat Group (WYBG).
 - Natural England's Open Dataset.
 - Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory (ATI)³.
 - LANDIS⁴.
- 3.5 Relevant data requested included records of protected or notable species and sites designated for nature conservation interest.
- 3.6 The search area for designated sites and protected species is determined by the likely Zone of Influence⁵ and the likely significant affect. The search areas for the various levels of site designation and for protected / notable species is detailed below:
- Sites of international statutory designation such as Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Sites are searched for within a 10km radius around the application site.
 - Sites of national or regional importance with a statutory designation of Site of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI) or National Nature Reserve (NNR) within 2km.
 - Sites of local importance with statutory designation of Local Nature Reserve (LNR), or non-statutory designation of Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) or the equivalent Local Wildlife Site (LWS) within 1km.

¹ www.google.com/maps

² www.magic.defra.gov.uk

³ <http://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk>

⁴ Hallett, S.H., Sakrabani, R., Keay, C.A. and Hannam, J.A. (2017) Developments in Land Information Systems: Case studies in land resource management capabilities and options. Soil Use and Management. doi: 10.1111/sum.12380. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/sum.12380/full>

⁵ The Zone of Influence (ZOI) is defined by CIEEM as being the "area over which ecological features may be affected by biophysical changes as a result of a proposed project and associated activities" CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland. Terrestrial, Freshwater and Marine.

- Records of notable / protected species (i.e., including Species of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) species within 1km and bats within 2km.
- EPSM licences relating to bats within 2km and GCN within 1km.

FIELD SURVEY – HABITATS

Extended Phase 1 Survey

- 3.7 The survey was undertaken on the 11th of March 2026, during weather conditions that were dry and clear. Survey methodology followed guidance from Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) 2016⁶ comprising a walkover of the survey area mapping (using JNCC standard habitat codes) and broadly describing and classifying the principal habitat types and other features of interest. The frequencies at which plant species occurred were noted using the DAFOR⁷ method. Whilst the plant species lists obtained should not be regarded as exhaustive, sufficient information was obtained to determine broad habitat types.
- 3.8 Habitats were also assessed for their potential to support protected or notable species including any incidental sightings of birds recorded during the walkover. Where potentially suitable habitats were observed during the scope of this assessment, detailed protected species surveys were undertaken using methodology detailed below.
- 3.9 The distribution and extent of any invasive species listed on Schedule 9, Section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (*as amended*) were also noted during the survey.

UK Habitat Classification (UK Hab)

- 3.10 A summary of the habitats present on-site is provided within the report including UK Hab equivalent habitats (from the UK Habitats Classification methodology⁸).

FIELD SURVEY – FAUNA

⁶ JNCC (2016) Handbook for Phase1 Habitat Survey – a technique for environmental audit. ISBN 0 86139 636 7

⁷ DAFOR: D - Dominant (>75%), A – Abundant (51 – 75%), F – Frequent (26 – 50%), O – Occasional (11 – 25%), R – Rare (1-10%), L - Locally

⁸ [ukhab – UK Habitat Classification](#)

¹¹ Natural England (2015) Badger Surveys and Mitigation accessed May 2021 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/badgers-surveys-and-mitigation-for-development-projects#survey-methods> (accessed December 2019)

¹² Harris, S., Creswell, P., & Jefferies, D. (1989). *Surveying Badgers*. The Mammal Society.

¹³ Creswell, P., Harris, S., & Jefferies, D.J. (1990) The history, distribution, status, and habitat requirements of the badger in Britain. Nature Conservancy Council.

Bats**Daytime Bat Walkover (DBW)**

- 3.12 The DBW was undertaken on the 11th March 2026.

Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA)

- 3.13 All trees to be affected by the proposals within the survey area (T1 and T2) were assessed for their potential to support roosting bats using statutory guidance (Natural England, 2019)¹⁴ and best practice survey methodology (Collins, 2013¹⁵ and Mitchell-Jones, A.J. and McLeish, A.P. (eds), 2004)¹⁶.
- 3.14 The trees were inspected from the ground using close focussing binoculars, a high-powered torch, and an endoscope where appropriate. Potential Roosting Features (PRF) for bats such, holes / cavities, loose bark, cracks / splits, occluded bark, and gaps behind ivy stems (please note that this list is not exhaustive) were sought (Based on P16, *British Standard 8596:2015*¹⁷). Other factors such as orientation of the feature, its height from the ground, the direct surroundings and its location in respect to other features may enhance or reduce the potential value of the PRF. Signs indicating possible use by bats were also recorded such as bat droppings, odour, scratches, staining and audible sounds.
- 3.15 An assessment was made on the level of bat roosting potential offered by the trees, based on the presence of the features detailed above. Table 1 below outlines the suitability categories as per the Bat Survey Guidelines¹⁸ which now supersedes The British Standard Document¹⁴ which groups trees with moderate and high potential.

Table 1 Suitability of Trees for Bat Roosts - Based on Table 4.2 of Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th ed.), The Bat Conservation Trust, London

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

- 3.16 Upon completion of the above assessment the PRF's can be assigned the following as an estimation from the GLTA, or if the PRF's can be fully inspected using an endoscope:

¹⁴ Bats: surveys and mitigation for development projects: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bats-surveys-and-mitigation-for-development-projects> (accessed 12/11/2019)

¹⁵ Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologist: Good practice Guidelines (4th edition), The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

¹⁶ Mitchell-Jones, A.J. and McLeish, A.P. (eds) (2004) *Bat Workers' Manual (3rd edn)*. JNCC, Peterborough.

¹⁷ British Standard (2015) BS 8596:2015 *Surveying for bats in trees and woodland – Guide*, October 2015.

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

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

Foraging / Commuting Habitat

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

Great Crested Newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus*

Aquatic Habitat

- 3.18 OS mapping and online aerial imagery were analysed for the presence of on and off-site water bodies within 500m of the application Site in accordance with Natural England guidance¹⁹.

Terrestrial Habitat

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

Reptiles

- 3.20 An assessment of the suitability of the habitats present to support common reptile species was completed at the time of the habitat survey. This involved a review of habitats and habitat structure suitable for the shelter of reptiles such as areas of scrub and woodpiles, grassland with well developed, varied structure; and also, the appropriate juxtaposition of areas suitable for basking shelter and forage/hunting. This assessment was based on the methodology detailed in the Herpetofauna Workers Manual (Gent and Gibson, 1998)²⁰, and Froglife Advice Sheet 10 – Reptile Survey (Froglife 1999)²¹.

¹⁹ Natural England: *Standing Advice Sheet: Great Crested Newts* Paragraph 4: 4.1

²⁰ Gent, A.H., & Gibson, S.D., eds 1998. *Herpetofauna Workers' Manual*. Peterborough, joint Nature Conservation Committee.

²¹ Froglife 1999. Froglife Advice Sheet 10: Reptile Survey. Froglife, London

Other species

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

Survey Limitations

- 3.22 The entirety of the Site could be accessed and surveyed, although not all habitats within 30m could be accessed due to the presence of private gardens.
- 3.23 The extended Phase 1 Survey was conducted outside the optimal period for habitat surveys (April – September). However, given the nature of the habitats present on Site this was not considered to be a constraint as there was enough vegetation to identify all habitats within the Site.

4.0 RESULTS**DESK STUDY**

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

Statutory Designated Sites

- 4.2 No statutory designated sites occur within the Site boundary.
- 4.3 Two internationally designated site occur within 10km of the Site. Denby Grange Colliery Ponds SAC is located 7.86km north-east and South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA 8.59km south-west of the Site boundary.
- 4.4 No sites of national importance with a statutory designation were located within 2km of the Site boundary.
- 4.5 Consultation with MAGIC site check confirms that the application Site lies within the 5-10km Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) for Dark Peak SSSI. However, the development proposals do not fall within the categories that would otherwise require consultation with Natural England due to their potential impact, those being:
- *Infrastructure: Airports, helipads and other aviation proposals.*
 - *Minerals, Oil and Gas: Oil & gas exploration/extraction.*
 - *Air Pollution: Livestock & poultry units with a floorspace > 500m², slurry lagoons > 4000m².*
 - *Combustion: General combustion processes >50MW energy input. Including: energy from waste incineration, other incineration, landfill gas generation plant, pyrolysis/gasification, anaerobic digestion, sewage treatment works, other incineration/combustion.*

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

Non-Statutory Designated Sites

- 4.7 No sites of local importance with non-statutory designation occur within the Site. Five sites of local importance with non-statutory designation were present within 1km of the Site boundary (Table 2).

Ancient Woodland and Ancient / Notable Trees

- 4.8 No ancient trees were located within 1km of the Site boundary.
- 4.9 Six parcels of ancient woodland were located within 1km of the Site boundary, comprising five parcels of 'ancient semi-natural woodland' and one parcel of 'ancient replanted woodland' (Table 2)

Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI)

- 4.10 No HPIs occur within the site. There are twenty-six parcels of HPI that occur within 1km of the Site. The closest HPI is deciduous woodland, 171m south of the Site boundary.

Table 2 Summary of Designated Sites and Notable Habitats

Site Name	Designation	Proximity to Site (approximate)	Description
Denby Grange Colliery Ponds	SAC / SSSI	7.86km north-east (NE)	This waterbody in northeast England, created by coal-mining activity, has consistently yielded high counts of great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> in recent years. The pond is surrounded by wooded slopes, with adjacent anthropogenic habitat associated with the previous mining activities.
South Pennine Moors	SAC / SPA	8.59km south-west (SW)	The SAC is representative of upland dry heath at the southern end of the Pennine range, the habitat's most south-easterly upland location in the UK. It also represents blanket bog in the south Pennines, the most south-easterly occurrence of the habitat in Europe. Around the fringes of the upland heath and bog of the south Pennines are blocks of old sessile oak woods, usually on slopes. The SPA is designated for its moorland bird assemblage, supporting nationally important breeding populations of merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> and golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ; as well as breeding migratory birds.

Site Name	Designation	Proximity to Site (approximate)	Description
Gelder Wood	LWS / Ancient Woodland	224m north-west (NW)	The site meets criterion Wd3 for acid species-richness. The site is not publicly accessible.
Shepley Mill Wood	LWS / Ancient Woodland	545m west (W)	The site meets Criterion Wd5 for its bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> abundance. The site is publicly accessible via footpaths along the east and west boundaries.
Yew Tree Wood	LWS / Ancient Woodland	735m south (S)	The site meets criteria Wd3 and Vp3 for its species rich acid woodland and county rare species, respectively. The site is not publicly accessible.
Upper and Lower Stones Wood	LWS / Ancient Woodland	791m W	A large ancient woodland site which consists of Round Wood to the north, Lower Stone Wood in the centre and Upper Stone Wood to the south. This site has been designated on Wd1 for ancient semi-natural woodland and Wd3 for acid woodland species diversity. Most of the woodland appears to be seminatural, although there are a few small areas of Beech plantation in Upper Stone Wood and some areas of more recent regeneration after quarrying in Round Wood.
Shelley Wood	LWS / Ancient Woodland	969m NW	The site meets Criterion Wd1 and Wd3 for its ancient semi-natural woodland and species rich acid woodland, respectively. The site is publicly accessible via footpaths on the south and west edges of the wood.
Ancient semi-natural woodland	Ancient Woodland	202m NW	There are five parcels within 1km.
Ancient replanted woodland	Ancient Woodland	740m south (S)	One parcel within 1km.
Deciduous woodland	HPI	171m (S) – closest parcel	There are fifteen parcels within 1km.
Good quality semi-improved grassland	HPI	598m south-east (SE)	There are six parcels within 1km.
Lowland meadows	HPI	679m SE	One parcel within 1km.
No main habitat but additional habitats present	HPI	326m NW	There are three parcels within 1km.
Traditional orchard	HPI	506m NE	One parcel within 1km.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

4.11 The Kirklees Biodiversity Strategy²² contains sixteen Habitat Action Plans for:

- Arable field margins
- Blanket bog
- Hedgerows
- Lowland and upland meadows
- Lowland deciduous and other woodland
- Lowland dry acid grassland
- Lowland heathland
- Reedbeds
- Rivers, riverine corridors and associated habitats
- Scrub and habitat mosaics on previously developed land.
- Semi-natural pasture
- Upland flushes
- Upland heathland
- Upland mixed ashwoods
- Upland oak woodland
- Wet woodland

4.12 There are also seven Species Action Plans for:

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

Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network (KWHN)

4.13 The Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network provides a landscape scale approach to the creation, protection, enhancement, and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure. At the nearest point, the KWHN is located c.51m north of the Site boundary, along the Shepley Dike.

²² <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/delivering-services/policies-and-strategies.aspx>

Soil Type

4.14 The Site is located entirely within a parcel mapped as Soilscape 6; this is described as “freely draining, slightly acid loamy soils”. This information was provided by Landis²³ and broader details of the soil structure can be found below:

- Drainage: Freely draining
- Fertility: Low
- Landcover: Arable and grassland
- Habitats: Neutral and acid pastures and deciduous woodlands; acid communities such as bracken and gorse in the uplands
- Carbon: Low

Protected / Notable Species Records

4.15 Records of protected and notable species provided by desk study consultees are provided in Table 3 below. The species records have been filtered to comprise relevant protected and / or notable species within 1km (and bats, water vole and otter within 2km) of the survey area. The locations are shown on Figure 1.

Table 3 Summary of relevant protected and notable species records

Species	Scientific Name	Conservation Status	Total No. of Records	Location / Minimum distance of records from Site boundary (m)	Grid ref. accuracy of nearest record
Bat species					
Common pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Regs (Sch2), WCA (Sch5), WYBAP, LBAP	Roost: 15 Field Record: 19 Total: 34	Roost: 56m west (W) Field record: 124m north-west (NW)	Roost: 1m Field record: 100m
Soprano pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Regs (Sch2), NERC (SPI), WCA (Sch5), WYBAP, LBAP	Roost: 0 Field Record: 4 Total: 4	Field record: 24m NW	Field record: 100m
Pipistrelle bat species	<i>Pipistrellus</i> spp.	Regs (Sch2), WCA (Sch5), WYBAP, LBAP	Roost: 2 Field Record: 1 Total: 3	Roost: 471m NW Field record: 1.09km south-west (SW)	Roost: 100m Field record: 10m
Noctule bat	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Regs (Sch2), NERC (SPI), WCA (Sch5), WYBAP, LBAP	Roost: 0 Field Record: 10 Total: 10	Field record: 124m NW	Field record: 100m

²³ <https://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales/>

Daubenton's bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	Regs (Sch2), WCA (Sch5), WYBAP, LBAP	Roost: 0 Field Record: 1 Total: 1	Field record: 124m NW	Field record: 100m
<i>Myotis</i> bat species	<i>Myotis</i> spp.	Regs (Sch2), WCA (Sch5), WYBAP	Roost: 0 Field Record: 1 Total: 1	Field record: 1.03km SW	Field record: 1m
Brown long-eared bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Regs (Sch2), NERC (SPI), WCA (Sch5), WYBAP, LBAP	Roost: 2 Field Record: 1 Total: 3	Roost: 976m south-east (SE) Field record: 56m W	Roost: 1m Field record: 1m
Unidentified bat species	-	Regs (Sch2), WCA (Sch5), WYBAP, LBAP	Roost: 6 Field Record: 1 Total: 7	Roost: 391m NW Field record: 384m north (N)	Roost: 1m Field record: 100m
Other mammal species					
European water vole	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	NERC (SPI), WCA (Sch5), WYBAP, LBAP	1	532m east (E)	1m
Bird species					
Common bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	BoCC (Amber), NERC (SPI), LBAP	4	384m N	100m
Common crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	WCA (Sch1_part1)	1	491m N	100m
Common cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), WYBAP	4	384m N	100m
Common gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	BoCC (Red)	1	384m N	100m
Common redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	BoCC (Amber)	1	491m N	100m
Common whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	BoCC (Amber)	2	384m N	100m
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	BoCC (Amber), NERC (SPI), WYBAP, LBAP	2	152m W	100m
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	BoCC (Red), WCA (Sch1_part1)	3	384m N	100m
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	BoCC (Red)	1	384m N	100m
Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	BoCC (Amber)	2	384m N	100m
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	WCA (Sch1_part1)	3	384m N	100m
House martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	BoCC (Red), WYBAP	6	384m N	100m

House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), WYBAP, LBAP	2	384m N	100m
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	BoCC (Amber), WYBAP, LBAP	1	384m N	100m
Lesser black-backed gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	BoCC (Amber)	1	384m N	100m
Lesser redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), WYBAP	4	384m N	100m
Lesser spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), WYBAP	1	384m N	100m
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), WYBAP, LBAP	3	384m N	100m
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	BoCC (Amber)	1	384m N	100m
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	BoCC (Red)	3	218m N	100m
Pink-footed goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	BoCC (Amber)	2	384m N	100m
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	BoCC (Amber), WCA (Sch1_part1)	4	384m N	100m
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	BoCC (Amber)	1	152m W	100m
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), WYBAP, LBAP	2	384m N	100m
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	BoCC (Amber), NERC (SPI), WYBAP, LBAP	4	384m N	100m
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	BoCC (Amber)	1	384m N	100m
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	WYBAP, LBAP	5	384m N	100m
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	BoCC (Red), WYBAP	3	384m N	100m
Tawny owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	BoCC (Amber)	1	384m N	100m
Tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), WYBAP, LBAP	1	384m N	100m
Willow tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), WYBAP, LBAP	3	384m N	100m
Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	BoCC (Amber)	2	384m N	100m
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	BoCC (Amber)	2	412m NW	100m
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	BoCC (Amber)	2	152m W	100m
Yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), WYBAP, LBAP	1	384m N	100m

Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), WYBAP	4	384m N	100m
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Status Key: Regs - The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (*as amended*). WCA - The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (*as amended*). Sch 1 - Schedule 1. Sch 2 – Schedule 2. Sch5 - Schedule 5. Sch8 - Schedule 8. Sch9 - Schedule 9. NERC - England Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) Section 41. SPI - Species of Principal Importance. BoCC - Birds of Conservation Concern. WYBAP – West Yorkshire Biodiversity Action Plan. LBAP – Kirklees Biodiversity Strategy.

- 4.17 A search of the MAGIC online resource revealed there was one European Protected Species Licences (EPSL) relating to bats within 2km of the Site boundary: located 1.1km south-west (EPSM2011-3782, common pipistrelle, 08/12/2011 to 01/12/2013).
- 4.18 There are no EPSL's relating to GCN or records of GCN surveys from Natural England's Open Dataset²⁴ within 1km of the Site boundary.
- 4.19 The site does not fall within an area of District Level Licensing (DLL).
- 4.20 Eight ponds, three ditches and two watercourses were identified within 500m of the Site boundary (see Figure 3 and GCN section below for further details):
- P1 – 112m south-east
 - P2 – 177m south-west
 - P3 – 192m south-west
 - P4 – 232m north-west
 - P5 – 377m north-east
 - P6 – 426m north-east
 - P7 – 413m south-west
 - P8 – 490m north
 - D1 – 155m east
 - D2 – 465m east
 - D3 – 342m south
 - WC1 – 38m west
 - Shepley Dike – 56m north

²⁴ <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/8643f1b9-b419-4ee8-8e9c-18200e0edc31/great-crested-newt-edna-habitat-suitability-index-pond-surveys-for-district-level-licensing-2017-2018-2019>

HABITATS

- 4.21 The habitats recorded within the Site boundary during the Phase 1 habitat survey included:
- Hardstanding
 - Bramble scrub
 - Blackthorn scrub
 - Poor semi-improved grassland
 - Ephemeral / short perennial vegetation
- 4.22 The location of the habitats recorded are present on Figure 2 and described below. The botanical species recorded in association with each habitat are listed in Appendix A. The habitat descriptions below include UK Hab codes in parentheses for each habitat type in the subheading.

Hardstanding (u1b6)

- 4.23 There is an access road present within the site.



Photograph 1: Hardstanding road within the site boundary (11.03.2026).



Photograph 2: Hardstanding road within the site boundary (11.03.2026).

Bramble scrub (h3d)

- 4.24 Areas of bramble *Rubus fruticosus* scrub occurred on the eastern boundary and northwestern boundary of site.



Photograph 1: Bramble scrub area along the eastern boundary of site (11.03.2026).



Photograph 2: Bramble scrub area along the northwestern boundary of site (11.03.2026).

Blackthorn Scrub (h3a)

- 4.25 An area of blackthorn scrub *Prunus spinosa* was present covering the central section of the site.
- 4.26 An unidentified bird's nest was found within the scrub (Target note 1 on Figure 2).



Photograph 1: Blackthorn in the centre of the site (11.03.2026).



Photograph 2: Bird nest within the blackthorn in the centre of the site (11.03.2026).

Poor semi-improved grassland (g4)

- 4.27 An area of poor semi-improved grassland was present in the northeast of site. Species recorded included yorkshire fog, cow parsley, hogweed, common nettle, creeping buttercup, willowherb sp., common bittercress from the quadrats; as well as occasional bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and rare creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense* and forget me not *Myosotis sylvatica*.

Table 4 Poor semi-improved grassland quadrats

Poor semi-improved grassland					
Common Name	Scientific Name	Quadrat Ref.	Q1	Q2	Q3
		Quadrat Grid Ref.	SE201811 0659	SE201921 0656	SE201871 0653
Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>		D	F	F
Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>		O	-	-
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>		O	-	-
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>		O	F	R
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>		R	-	-
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>		-	O	-

Willow herb sp.	<i>Epilobium sp.</i>		-	F	O
Common bittercress	<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>		-	-	F
Total number of species (forbs):			5	4	4
Average number of species (forbs):			4.3		



Photograph 3: Grassland in the northeast of site (11.03.2026).



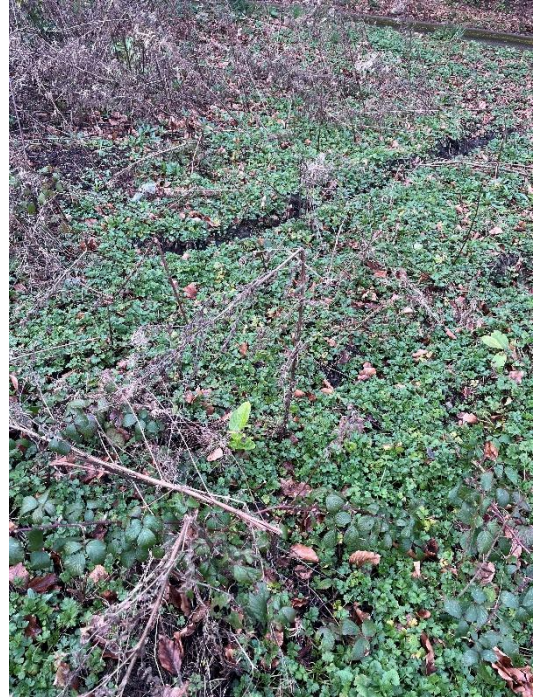
Photograph 4: Grassland in the northeast of site (11.03.2026).

Ephemeral/short perennial (81)

- 4.28 The southern area of site adjacent to the hardstanding road comprised ephemeral/short perennial land. Species recorded included dominant creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, abundant willowherb sp. *Epilobium sp.*, frequent bramble, occasional pendulous sedge *Carex pendula*, dock sp. *Rumex sp.* and Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, and rare soft rush *Juncus effusus*.



Photograph 5: Ephemeral/short perennial in the south of site (11.03.2026).



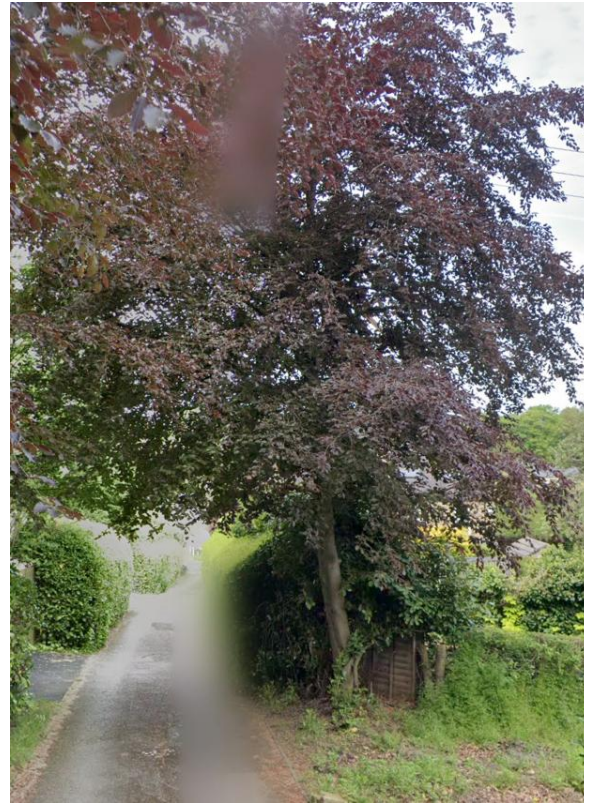
Photograph 6: Ephemeral/short perennial in the south of site (11.03.2026).

Urban trees (200)

- 4.29 Two urban trees occur on site in the south, adjacent to the hardstanding road. T1 is a small ash and T2 is a medium beech.



Photograph 7: Small ash tree on southeastern boundary (11.03.2026).



Photograph 8: Medium beech tree in south of site. (Image from Google Maps - May 2023).

Hedgerows

- 4.30 No hedgerows were present on site, however directly adjacent to the site were hedgerows within private residential gardens.

FAUNA

Bats

- 4.33 From the desk study up to eight species of bat were identified within 2km of the Site. These comprised common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, pipistrelle bat species, noctule bat, Daubenton's bat, myotis bat species, brown long-eared bat and an unknown bat species.

- 4.34 The nearest roost record was a common pipistrelle roost 56m west of the site and was a transitional roost with a single pipistrelle. The assumed location of this roost is within a residential building off Abbey Road. One ESPL relating to bats (common pipistrelle) was found to be present 1.1km southwest.

Roosts – Trees

- 4.35 No potential roosting features were identified on trees within or adjacent to the site.

Foraging / Commuting Habitat

- 4.36 Habitats within the Site offered little opportunity for foraging or commuting bats, given the lack of linear features, such as hedgerows or treelines and the small size of the grassland and scrub, with limited botanical diversity.
- 4.37 Offsite hedgerows to the west and either side of the hardstanding road, as well as woodland to the south provide greater foraging and commuting habitats for bats, with these habitats connecting to the wider landscape including Shepley Dike which provides higher value commuting and foraging habitat.

Great Crested Newts (GCN)

- 4.38 From the desk study no records of GCN were returned from the consultees and there were no known EPSL's relating to GCN, no GCN Class Survey Licence Returns or records of GCN surveys from Natural England's Open Dataset²⁵ within 1km of the site boundary.

Aquatic Habitat

- 4.39 No waterbodies are present on site, although there are eight ponds, three ditches and two watercourses present within 500m of the Site boundary (Figure 3).

Table 5 Waterbodies identified within 500m of the application site (refer to Figure 3)

Pond Ref.	Locality	Straight Line Distance / Direction. Distance via Optimal Connective Habitat in (m)	OS Grid Reference	Connectivity to Application Site
P1	Ornamental pond on private property	Straight line distance: 112m south-east (SE) Connective Distance: > 112m	SE 20298 10584	Directly connected to the site via private garden habitats and a hedgerow/tree line. Pond could not be accessed at the time of survey. Further consideration required.
P2	Ornamental pond on private property	Straight line distance: 177m south-west (SW) Connective Distance: N/A	SE 20008 10479	The feature is separated from the Site by A629 Abbey Road which is a significant barrier to GCN dispersal. No Likely Potential Constraint

²⁵ <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/8643f1b9-b419-4ee8-8e9c-18200e0edc31/great-crested-newt-edna-habitat-suitability-index-pond-surveys-for-district-level-licensing-2017-2018-2019>

Pond Ref.	Locality	Straight Line Distance / Direction. Distance via Optimal Connective Habitat in (m)	OS Grid Reference	Connectivity to Application Site
P3	Pond in a field to the rear of residential private property	Straight line distance: 192m SW Connective Distance: N/A	SE 19947 10508	The feature is separated from the Site by A629 Abbey Road which is a significant barrier to GCN dispersal. No Likely Potential Constraint
P4	Large pond within woodland.	Straight line distance: 232m north-west (NW) Connective Distance: N/A	SE 19898 10826	The feature is separated from the Site by A629 Abbey Road which is a significant barrier to GCN dispersal. No Likely Potential Constraint
P5	Pond within open space bordering arable fields.	Straight line distance: 377m north-east (NE) Connective Distance: N/A	SE 20367 11001	Poorly connected to the application Site, with Shepley Dike (flowing watercourse) forming a significant barrier to GCN dispersal. Furthermore, intervening distance is beyond the upper routine migratory range of 250m for GCN (Franklin, 1993 ²⁶ ; Oldham and Nicholson, 1986 ²⁷ ; Jehle, 2000 ²⁸). No Likely Potential Constraint.
P6	Pond within open space bordering arable fields.	Straight line distance: 426m NE Connective Distance: N/A	SE 20378 11066	Poorly connected to the application Site, with Shepley Dike (flowing watercourse) forming a significant barrier to GCN dispersal. Furthermore, intervening distance is beyond the upper routine migratory range of 250m for GCN (Franklin, 1993 ²⁹ ; Oldham and Nicholson, 1986 ³⁰ ; Jehle, 2000 ³¹). No Likely Potential Constraint.

²⁶ Franklin, P.S (1993) The migratory ecology and terrestrial habitat preferences of the great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* at Little Wittenham Nature Reserve. M.Phil Thesis. De Montfort University. Dept of Applied Biology and Biotechnology.

²⁷ Oldham, R.S and Nicholson, M (1986) Status and Ecology of the warty newt *Triturus cristatus*. Final Report. Leicester Polytechnic under contract to Nature Conservancy Council

²⁸ Jehle, R (2000) The Terrestrial Summer Habitat of Radio-tracked Great Crested Newts *Triturus cristatus* and Marbled Newts *Triturus marmoratus*. Herpetological Journal 10 (4) 137-142

²⁹ Franklin, P.S (1993) The migratory ecology and terrestrial habitat preferences of the great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* at Little Wittenham Nature Reserve. M.Phil Thesis. De Montfort University. Dept of Applied Biology and Biotechnology.

³⁰ Oldham, R.S and Nicholson, M (1986) Status and Ecology of the warty newt *Triturus cristatus*. Final Report. Leicester Polytechnic under contract to Nature Conservancy Council

³¹ Jehle, R (2000) The Terrestrial Summer Habitat of Radio-tracked Great Crested Newts *Triturus cristatus* and Marbled Newts *Triturus marmoratus*. Herpetological Journal 10 (4) 137-142

Pond Ref.	Locality	Straight Line Distance / Direction. Distance via Optimal Connective Habitat in (m)	OS Grid Reference	Connectivity to Application Site
P7	Ornamental pond on private property	Straight line distance: 413m SW Connective Distance: N/A	SE 19875 10276	The feature is separated from the Site by A629 Abbey Road which is a significant barrier to GCN dispersal. Furthermore, intervening distance is beyond the upper routine migratory range of 250m for GCN (Franklin, 1993³²; Oldham and Nicholson, 1986³³; Jehle, 2000³⁴). No Likely Potential Constraint
P8	Pond within fenced area adjacent to preschool playground	Straight line distance: 490m north (N) Connective Distance: N/A	SE 20019 11126	Residential development acts as a significant barrier to dispersal, and the intervening distance is beyond the upper routine migratory range of 250m for GCN (Franklin, 1993³⁵; Oldham and Nicholson, 1986³⁶; Jehle, 2000³⁷). No Likely Potential Constraint.
D1	Drainage ditch in open field within tree line	Straight line distance: 155m east (E) Connective Distance: > 155m	SE 20358 10654	Directly connected to the site via private garden habitats and a hedgerow/tree line. Feature could not be accessed at the time of survey. Further consideration required.
D2	Ditch along field margin	Straight line distance: 465m E Connective Distance: >465m	SE 20661 10579	Ditch D2 is over 250m from the Site, which is beyond the upper routine migratory range of 250m for GCN (Franklin, 1993³⁸; Oldham and Nicholson, 1986³⁹; Jehle, 2000⁴⁰). No Likely Potential Constraint.

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

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

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

³⁵ Franklin, P.S (1993) The migratory ecology and terrestrial habitat preferences of the great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* at Little Wittenham Nature Reserve. M.Phil Thesis. De Montfort University. Dept of Applied Biology and Biotechnology.

³⁶ Oldham, R.S and Nicholson, M (1986) Status and Ecology of the warty newt *Triturus cristatus*. Final Report. Leicester Polytechnic under contract to Nature Conservancy Council

³⁷ Jehle, R (2000) The Terrestrial Summer Habitat of Radio-tracked Great Crested Newts *Triturus cristatus* and Marbled Newts *Triturus marmoratus*. Herpetological Journal 10 (4) 137-142

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

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

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

Pond Ref.	Locality	Straight Line Distance / Direction. Distance via Optimal Connective Habitat in (m)	OS Grid Reference	Connectivity to Application Site
D3	Ditch connecting to WC1	Straight line distance: 432m south (S) Connective Distance: > 432m	SE 20018 10270	Ditch D3 is over 250m from the Site, which is beyond the upper routine migratory range of 250m for GCN (Franklin, 1993 ⁴¹ ; Oldham and Nicholson, 1986 ⁴² ; Jehle, 2000 ⁴³). No Likely Potential Constraint.
WC1	Mainly culverted tributary of Shepley Dike	Straight line distance: 38m west (W) Connective Distance: N/A	SE 20057 10584	Culverted watercourse, unsuitable for GCN. No Likely Potential Constraint.
Shepley Dike		Straight line distance: 56m N Connective Distance: >56m	SE 20368 10744	Flowing watercourse, unsuitable for GCN. No Likely Potential Constraint.

Terrestrial Habitat

- 4.40 The Site itself does offer some terrestrial habitat for GCN, given the presence of bramble and blackthorn scrub, although limited in extent due to the small size of the Site. Habitats in the wider landscape may provide some suitability for GCN given the woodland present to the south and presence of hedgerows in the wider landscape, although the wider residential and sheep grazed landscape is not considered optimal for GCN.

Reptiles

- 4.41 From the desk study no records of reptile species were provided from within 1km of the Site.
- 4.42 The Site itself does offer some suitable terrestrial habitat for reptile species, comprising varied vegetation heights within the grassland and scrub. Habitats in the wider landscape may provide some suitability for reptiles given the presence of watercourses, a woodland to the south and the presence of hedgerows in the wider landscape, although the wider residential and sheep grazed landscape is not considered optimal for reptiles.

Birds

- 4.43 From the desk study records there were thirty-six protected or notable bird species recorded within 1km of the Site boundary.

⁴¹ Franklin, P.S (1993) The migratory ecology and terrestrial habitat preferences of the great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* at Little Wittenham Nature Reserve. M.Phil Thesis. De Montfort University. Dept of Applied Biology and Biotechnology.

⁴² Oldham, R.S and Nicholson, M (1986) Status and Ecology of the warty newt *Triturus cristatus*. Final Report. Leicester Polytechnic under contract to Nature Conservancy Council

⁴³ Jehle, R (2000) The Terrestrial Summer Habitat of Radio-tracked Great Crested Newts *Triturus cristatus* and Marbled Newts *Triturus marmoratus*. Herpetological Journal 10 (4) 137-142

- 4.44 Habitats present onsite (grassland, scrub, ephemeral/short perennial) provide some suitable habitat for foraging and nesting birds.
- 4.45 An unidentified bird's nest was found within the blackthorn scrub on site.

Other species

- 4.46 A record of water vole was returned by the desk study. The Site is not considered suitable to support water vole.
- 4.47 No hedgehog records were returned by the desk study within 1km of the site. However, the onsite grassland and scrub, as well as proximity to adjacent residential garden habitats, means that the Site is considered to provide suitable commuting, foraging and shelter habitat for this species.

5.0 DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPOSALS

- 5.1 Development proposals comprise the construction of two residential dwellings along with associated parking, access roads and gardens.

STATUTORY DESIGNATED SITES

- 5.2 Sites such as SPA and SAC are afforded protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2017 (as amended). This legislation transposes European Council Directives 92/43/EEC (EC Habitats Directive) Directive 2009/145/EC (Wild Birds Directive) into domestic law. The purpose of this legislation is to provide protection for natural habitats, wild flora and fauna of international importance.

Denby Grange Colliery Ponds SAC / SSSI

- 5.3 Denby Grange Colliery Ponds SAC is located 7.86km north-east. The SAC is designated for its high counts of great crested newts.
- 5.4 In accordance with the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), none of the identified impact pathways are considered to result in a likely significant effect on the SAC. There are no anticipated construction or operational impact pathways due to:
- The development does not occur within the SAC, thus there will be no loss of habitats within the SAC site.
 - The Site is not within the routine migratory range of GCN (250m) from the SAC, thus there will be no loss of supporting habitats.
 - There are not considered to be any direct hydrological links between the Site and the SAC.

- Given that the proposed development is several kilometres away and small in size, impacts arising from increased road traffic are considered to be imperceptible from road traffic air pollution.
- The development is located over 7km from the Site adjacent to existing urban areas, so there are not considered to be any impacts from the urban edge effect⁴⁴.
- The SAC has public access however impacts related to increased visitors are unlikely due to the small size of the development (two units) and the presence of managed footpaths and other recreational activities in the local area.

South Pennine Moors SAC / SPA

- 5.5 South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA is located 8.59km south-west of the Site boundary. The SAC is designated for its European dry heaths, blanket bogs and old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles. In addition, it possesses Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* and Transition mired and quaking bogs which are Annex 1 qualifying features but not a primary reason for its designation. The SPA is designated for its moorland bird assemblage.
- 5.6 In accordance with the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), none of the identified impact pathways are considered to result in a likely significant effect on the SPA. There are no anticipated construction or operational impact pathways due to:
- The development does not occur within the SPA or SAC, thus there will be no loss of habitats within the SAC/SPA site.
 - The habitats for which the SAC is designated are not present within the proposed development site (dry heath, blanket bog and sessile oak woods). Thus, there will be no loss of supporting habitats.
 - The SPAs are designated for their breeding bird assemblage (hen harrier, peregrine, merlin, red grouse, dunlin, short-eared owl, twite, golden plover, lapwing, snipe, curlew, redshank, common sandpiper, whinchat, wheatear and ring ouzel). Habitats present within the site, and the adjacent areas, are not considered suitable for these species. Given the minor size of the site and the habitats present, as well as the intervening distance between the Site and SPA the populations of breeding birds listed above are not considered likely to utilise the site for foraging or breeding.
 - Given that the proposed development is for two residential dwellings, impacts arising from increased road traffic are imperceptible from road traffic air pollution.

Dark Peak SSSI

- 5.7 Consultation with MAGIC site check confirms that the application Site lies within the 5-10km Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) for Dark Peak SSSI (within South Pennine Moors). However,

⁴⁴ Urban Edge Effect - fly tipping; dumping of garden waste and resultant introduction of invasive/alien plants; traffic causing air pollution and rat running along minor roads and tracks; off-road vehicles leading to track erosion; disturbance to (conservation) grazing livestock; increased incidence of wildfire; and predation from domestic pets and urban scavengers.

the development proposals do not fall within the categories that would otherwise require consultation with Natural England.

- 5.8 As the development is located at over 400m from the sites there is not considered to be any impacts from the urban edge effect⁴⁵.

NON-STATUTORY DESIGNATED SITES

- 5.9 Local sites are not protected by law but do receive consideration in both national and local planning policy. Local sites have a role in meeting overall national biodiversity targets and appropriate weight should be attached to designated sites in making planning decisions.

Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)

- 5.10 Five sites of local importance with non-statutory designation were present within 1km of the Site boundary. Gelder Wood LWS located 224m northwest of the Site boundary; Shepley Mill Wood LWS located 545m west; Yew Tree Wood LWS located 735m south; Upper and Lower Stones Wood located 791m west and Shelley Wood LWS located 969m northwest.
- 5.11 No construction phase impacts, such as direct (e.g. accidental damage resulting in habitat loss) or indirect impacts (e.g. pollution events), are expected upon any LWS given the intervening distance between the Site and the LWS boundaries. Due to the small scale of the proposed development, there are no anticipated operational impacts, such as recreational pressure.

Ancient Woodland

- 5.12 Six parcels of ancient woodland were located within 1km of the Site boundary, comprising five parcels of 'ancient semi-natural woodland' and one parcel of 'ancient replanted woodland'.
- 5.13 All of these parcels share boundaries with the LWS listed above. As detailed above, there are not expected to be any direct or indirect impacts upon these habitats.

Habitats of Principal Importance (HPIs)

- 5.14 Twenty-six HPIs occur within 1km of the Site, including Deciduous woodland, Good quality semi-improved grassland, Lowland meadows, Tradition orchards and No main habitat but additional habitats present.
- 5.15 The nearest HPI is deciduous woodland located 171m south of the Site boundary.
- 5.16 No construction phase impacts, such as direct (e.g. habitat loss or fragmentation) or indirect impacts (e.g. accidental damage and pollution events) are expected upon the HPIs given the intervening distance between the Site and HPI boundaries. Impacts related to increased visitors are unlikely given the small size of the development (two units).

⁴⁵ Urban Edge Effect - fly tipping; dumping of garden waste and resultant introduction of invasive/alien plants; traffic causing air pollution and rat running along minor roads and tracks; off-road vehicles leading to track erosion; disturbance to (conservation) grazing livestock; increased incidence of wildfire; and predation from domestic pets and urban scavengers.

Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network (KWHN)

- 5.17 The Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network is located c.51m north of the Site boundary, along the Shepley Dike. There are no direct hydrological links between the Site and the KWHN. As such, there will be no direct impacts (e.g. habitat loss or fragmentation) that might otherwise damage the physical continuity or impair the function of the KWHN. However, indirect impacts may arise from accidental habitat damage, a pollution event, dust deposition, noise pollution, lighting, and increased recreational pressure. Mitigation as described below will be implemented to ensure impacts are minimised / avoided and that the proposal does not result in a reduction in the functionality of the KWHN.
- 5.18 Pollution prevention measures will need to be implemented in line with guidance outlined by Natural England⁴⁶. There is no direct hydrological link between the proposed development and the LWS, however due to the proximity of the beck, additional pollution prevention measures are recommended. Although formally withdrawn, the Environment Agency advice document 'Pollution preventative Guidelines' (PPG6)⁴⁷ still provides suitable support for such development schemes. The works will follow best practice methodology, which is in accordance with the above Environment Agency guidance, to protect the watercourse from pollution related impacts. This will be outlined within a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).
- 5.19 Light spill from construction could disrupt the normal crepuscular or nocturnal patterns of protected species, such as bats and other wildlife. During construction, any light used on Site will be directed into the Site to avoid any light spill to the KWHN. All external lighting outside of operational hours is to be used for safety and security reasons only. Additional measures to minimise light spill during construction should be considered which are based on best practice guidance⁴⁸ include a combination of the following steps:
- Avoiding unnecessary lighting.
 - The use of low-intensity lighting (sodium lamps or similar), where possible.
 - The use of low level and / or hooded lamps to minimise light spill.
 - Minimising light spill with the use of directed lighting.
- 5.20 Given the residential nature of the proposed development, it is acknowledged that there could be a greater number of people utilising the KWHN for walking and recreation during the operational phase. However, there is no public access to the KWHN and given the small scale of the proposed development (2 units) this is not expected to have a significant impact on the nature of the LWS.

HABITATS

- 5.21 Habitats receive consideration through the planning system by:

⁴⁶ Natural England, 2023. Pollution prevention for businesses. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pollution-prevention-for-businesses>

⁴⁷ Environment Agency, 2012. Working at construction and demolition sites: PPG6 Pollution Prevention Guidelines

⁴⁸ Bat Conservation Trust and the Institute of Lighting Professionals in 2023, 'Bats and Artificial Lighting At Night' Guidance Note GN08/23

- Their inclusion in specific National planning policy: such as consideration in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024)⁴⁹ for veteran trees, ancient woodland, non-statutory sites, and ecological networks.
 - Classification as a Habitat of Principal Importance (HPI) for the conservation of biodiversity under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, from which are also derived Priority Habitats under local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) and Priority Habitat for England under Biodiversity 2020⁵⁰.
 - Their inclusion in specific local policy.
- 5.22 Habitats to be lost under the footprint of the development comprise poor semi-improved grassland ephemeral/short perennial, blackthorn scrub and bramble scrub, which are considered to provide minimal ecological value given their limited size and species diversity. The lost habitats onsite could be easily replaced with a higher value habitat and their loss is unlikely to be a constraint to development.
- 5.23 Two broadleaved trees are present within the site boundary, considered to have greater ecological value and it is recommended that these are retained and buffered where possible within the development, in accordance with BS5837 Trees in Relation to Construction⁵¹. Offsite but adjacent hedgerows should also be buffered during the construction phase where possible to prevent impacts.

FAUNA

⁴⁹ Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (December 2024). National Planning Policy Framework. London.

⁵⁰ Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services, August 2011, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

⁵¹ British Standard (2005) Trees in Relation to Construction.

Bats

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

Roosts – Trees

- 5.28 The onsite trees offered no bat roosting potential. Therefore, no further surveys are required.

Foraging and Commuting

- 5.29 The habitats onsite could provide some suitable habitat for foraging and/or commuting bat species, although these habitats are limited in extent and of poor species diversity, therefore they are unlikely to represent a significant resource for the local bat population.
- 5.30 Retained and offsite habitats must be protected during construction with measures outlined within a CEMP, to include no lighting of offsite habitats. Artificial light can deter some more sensitive species and can impact upon favoured foraging and commuting routes. To minimise post development impacts, a sensitive lighting strategy for the site will be designed in accordance with BCT Guidance⁵² post development, i.e. light spill of 1 lux or less. Any external lighting on the building adjacent to suitable bat habitats should be downward facing with LED lamps and ideally set on motion-sensors on short timers (1 minute) to prevent impacts from lighting.

Great Crested Newts (GCN)

- 5.31 GCN are afforded legal protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). This legislation makes it illegal to deliberately disturb a GCN, damage / destroy a breeding site or resting place of a GCN; recklessly or intentionally kill, injure or take a GCN; recklessly or intentionally damage or obstruct access to or destroy any place of shelter or protection; or disturb a GCN whilst they are occupying such a place of shelter or protection. GCN are also listed as a Species of Principal Importance in England under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.
- 5.32 From the desk study no records of GCN were returned from the consultees and there were no known EPSL's relating to GCN, no GCN Class Survey Licence Returns or records of GCN surveys from Natural England's Open Dataset⁵⁹ within 1km of the Site boundary.

⁵² <https://theilp.org.uk/publication/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/>

Aquatic Habitat

- 5.33 No waterbodies are present within the Site. Eight waterbodies, three ditches and two watercourses occur within 500m of the Site.
- 5.34 A maximum routine migratory range has been estimated at approximately 250m from a breeding pond. As a result, alongside significant barriers to dispersal such as A629 Abbey Road and Shepley Dike, most features have been scoped out as no likely potential constraint relating to GCN.

Pond P1 and Ditch D1

- 5.35 Pond P1 and Ditch D1 are located 112m and 155m, respectively, east of the Site boundary. These features were within private, inaccessible land and so could not be accessed at the time of survey. Pond P1 is located within a residential garden, whilst Ditch D1 is located within sheep grazed pasture.
- 5.36 The Natural England Rapid Risk Assessment was run to highlight the possible impacts of the proposals, should P1 and D1 support breeding GCN.
- 5.37 Including the entirety of the land within the redline, indicates that 0.12ha of land will be impacted 100-250m of P1 and D1. The results of which indicate an offence is highly unlikely.

Table 6 NE Rapid Risk Assessment for the Full Redline

Component	Likely effect	Notional offence probability score
Great crest newt breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Land within 100m of any breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Land 100 – 250m from any breeding pond(s)	0.1 – 0.5ha lost or damaged	0.1
Land >250m from any breeding pond(s)	No effect	0
Individual great crested newts	No effect	0
Maximum		0.1
Rapid Risk Assessment Result	Green: Offence Highly Unlikely	

- 5.38 "Green: offence highly unlikely" indicates that the development activities are of such a type, scale and location that it is highly unlikely any offence would be committed should the development proceed. It is likely that any residual offences would have negligible impact on conservation status, and enforcement of such breaches is unlikely to be in the public interest.

Terrestrial Habitat

- 5.39 The Site itself does offer some terrestrial habitat for GCN, given the presence of bramble and blackthorn scrub, although limited in extent due to the small size of the Site. Habitats in the wider landscape may provide some suitability for GCN given the woodland present to the south and presence of hedgerows in the wider landscape, although the wider residential and sheep grazed landscape is not considered optimal for GCN.

Summary

- 5.40 Given that there is a lack of suitable breeding habitat and limited foraging resource provision onsite, it is considered unlikely that GCN are present onsite. However, given the presence of P1 and D1 within 250m of the Site, a precautionary approach to site clearance is recommended in order to ensure statutory compliance, in the unlikely event that GCN are present in the wider area. This would comprise of toolbox talks and phased vegetation clearance under the supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist. This should be outlined in a CEMP.

Reptiles

- 5.41 All common reptile species are partially protected under Sections 9(1) and 9(5) of Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) which protects them from intentional killing/injury, possession, and transport. Common reptiles are also Species of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.
- 5.42 No records of reptile species were present within 1km of the Site boundary. Habitats onsite offered suitable opportunities for reptile species, albeit in a limited extent, given the areas of hardstanding offering basking opportunities, coupled with varied vegetation heights offered by grassland and scrub. Given the limited suitability of onsite habitats and lack of records locally, reptile presence is deemed unlikely.
- 5.43 In the highly unlikely event that reptiles are present during Site works, to ensure no reptiles are killed or injured, clearance will follow a precautionary working method, comprising phased, directional site clearance, which will be outlined within a CEMP.

Birds

- 5.44 All wild bird species are protected while nesting by the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended). This legislation protects wild birds, their nests and eggs from intentional harm, and makes it illegal to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild birds; take, damage or destroy the nest of a wild bird while the nest is in use of being build or take / destroy an egg of a wild bird.
- 5.45 Habitats present onsite (primarily the scrub) provide some suitable habitat for foraging and nesting birds, but given the small size of the Site is unlikely to support a significant breeding bird assemblage.
- 5.46 To comply with relevant legislation any removal of vegetation should be timed to avoid the nesting season where possible (March to September inclusive, although dates vary

depending on species and weather conditions). Where it is not feasible, affected areas should be checked for nests in advance by an experienced ecologist. Any active nests identified will be left with a minimum 5m buffer to be identified by the ecologist, until such a time all birds have fledged.

Other species

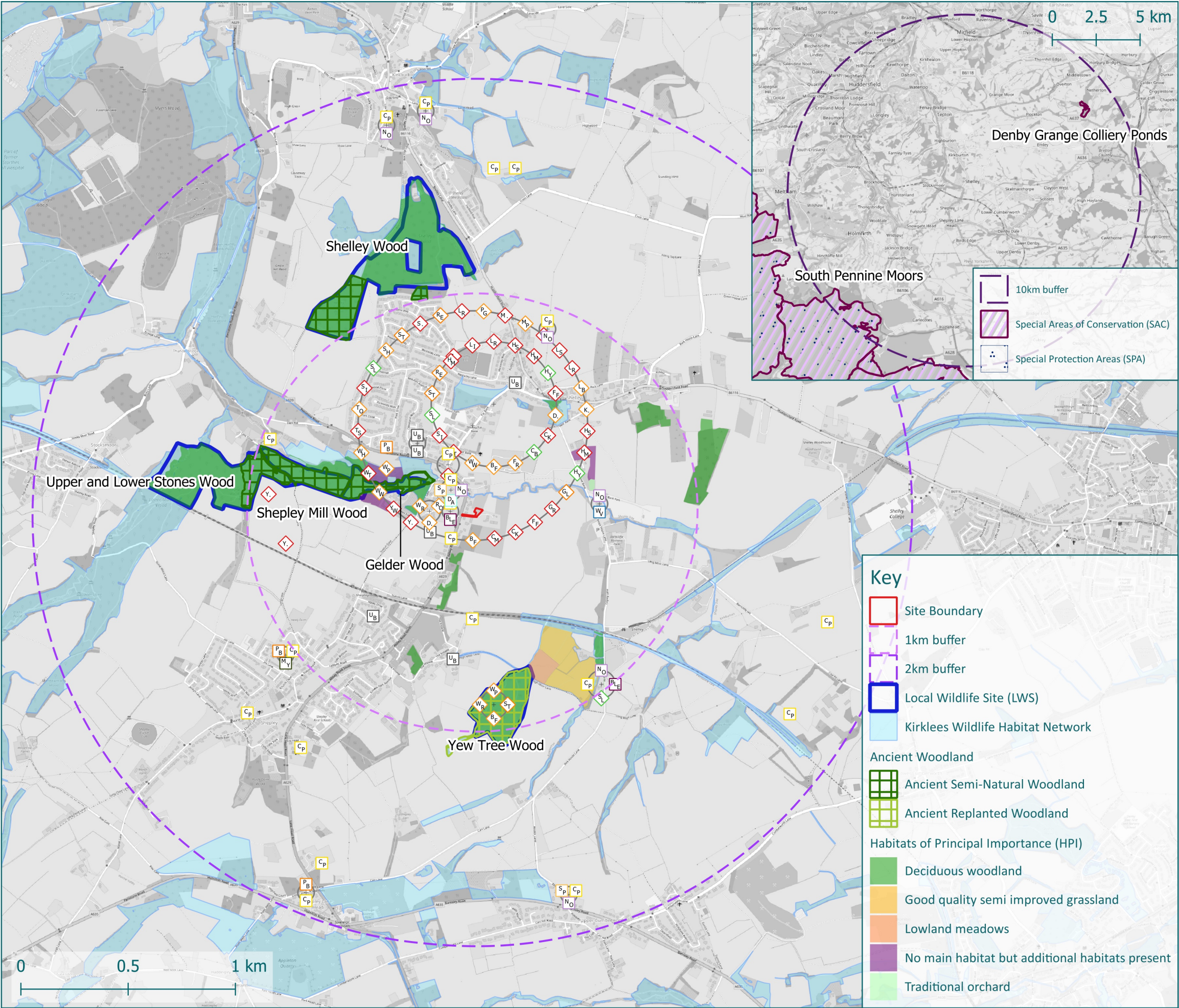
- 5.47 The habitats present onsite (grassland and scrub) as well as the proximity to adjacent residential garden habitats, means the Site is considered to provide suitable commuting and foraging habitat for hedgehog.
- 5.48 The hedgehog population in Britain has rapidly declined in recent years with a third thought to be lost since 2020. Hedgehogs are listed as a Species of Principal Importance under NERC Act (2006) and as such are a material consideration during the planning process.
- 5.49 Vegetation removal has a risk of causing injury or death to this species. In order to minimise risk, it is recommended that vegetation removal is undertaken in a precautionary manner. This should comprise a visual check of long vegetation areas prior to removal followed by the cutting of woody vegetation to 150mm above ground level in the first instance with all cut vegetation removed by hand from the working area. The cleared vegetation should then be left for 24 hours prior to clearing vegetation to ground level and grubbing out of roots to allow hedgehogs or other fauna to disperse from the working area. This should be outlined in a CEMP.
- 5.50 In order for post-development habitats to remain accessible hedgehog access gaps should be incorporated into any boundary fences.

6.0 BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENTS

- 6.1 In accordance with NPPF (2024)⁵³, The Environment Act 2021, and Policy LP30: Biodiversity and Geodiversity of the Kirklees Local Plan (Adopted 27 February 2019)⁵⁴, the development should incorporate features to encourage biodiversity, and retain and where possible enhance existing features of nature conservation value within the site.
- 6.2 The section above identified ecological enhancements that should be incorporated into the development proposal. Outlined below are further additional measures for consideration:
- New habitat creation proposals should aim to increase the diversity of habitats present and provide structural diversity, such as species rich grassland, native scrub and hedgerow planting.
 - New landscape planting including trees and shrubs to use native species which bear fruit and nectar.
 - Any formal lawn areas should where possible be seeded with a species rich flowering lawn mix such as EL1 – Flowering Lawn Mix, Emorsgate Seeds.
 - Installation of a variety of bird and bat boxes upon mature trees and new dwellings.
 - Installation of invertebrate boxes within new dwellings e.g., bee houses.
 - Small gaps should be left under or in the corner or all fences to permit access for wildlife, such as hedgehogs and fox.
 - Dead wood piles could be created in areas of retained open space / landscaping to provide suitable habitats for amphibians and small mammals, as well as invertebrates.

⁵³ Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (December 2024). National Planning Policy Framework. London.

⁵⁴ [Kirklees Local Plan Strategy and Policies](#)




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- Protected and Notable Species
- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Common pipistrelle bat | Common bullfinch |
| Soprano pipistrelle bat | Common redpoll |
| Pipistrelle bat species | Dunnock |
| Noctule bat | Grey wagtail |
| Daubenton's bat | Kestrel |
| Myotis bat species | Lesser black-backed gull |
| Brown long-eared bat | Meadow pipit |
| Unidentified bat species | Pink-footed goose |
| European water vole | Redwing |
| Common gull | Tawny owl |
| Common cuckoo | Willow warbler |
| Fieldfare | Song thrush |
| Greenfinch | Woodpigeon |
| House martin | Sparrowhawk |
| Yellowhammer | Rook |
| House sparrow | Common whitethroat |
| Tree sparrow | Wren |
| Lesser redpoll | Common crossbill |
| Lesser spotted woodpecker | Hobby |
| Linnet | Swallow |
| Mistle thrush | |
| Skylark | |
| Willow tit | |
| Yellow wagtail | |
| Swift | |

Client: Britology Ltd
Project: Abbey Road, Shepley, Huddersfield
Title: Figure 1 - Site Location & Desk Study Results Plan

Plan Reference: FE667_01
Project Reference: FE667
Report Reference: FE667/PEAR01

Author: HJ
Date: 8/4/2026
Scale: NTS @ A3

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Key

Site Boundary

Habitats

- Hardstanding
- Cultivated/disturbed land - ephemeral/short perennial
- Poor semi-improved grassland
- Scrub - dense/continuous (bramble scrub)
- Scrub - dense/continuous (blackthorn scrub)
- Broadleaved tree (NONE)
- Target note - Bird nest





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Key

- Site boundary
- 250m buffer
- 500m buffer

Waterbodies and Watercourses

- Waterbody
- Watercourse
- Ditch



Client:	Britology Ltd	Plan Reference:	FE667_03	Author:	HJ
Project:	Abbey Road, Shepley, Huddersfield	Project Reference:	FE667	Date:	2/4/2026
Title:	Figure 3 - Waterbody Location Plan	Report Reference:	FE667/PEAR01	Scale:	NTS@A3

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