

Tommy Lane, Linthwaite

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal



HABITAT WORKS

May 2026



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Report Title: Tommy Lane, Linthwaite
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Report to: Rushby Town Planning
20 High Crest,
Linthwaite,
Huddersfield,
HD7 5RW

Version: V1.0

Issue Date: May 2026

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Date: 26.05.2026

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Version History	Author	Description	Date
V1.0	Ashleigh Brentnall	Final Version for Issue	26.05.2026

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Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	IV
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 BACKGROUND	1
2. METHODOLOGY	2
2.1 DATA CONSULTATION	2
2.2 ECOLOGICAL WALKOVER SURVEY	2
2.3 PROTECTED AND KEY SPECIES	3
2.4 INVASIVE SPECIES	4
2.5 ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS	4
3. FINDINGS AND EVALUATION	6
3.1 SITE DESCRIPTION	6
3.2 DESIGNATED SITES	6
3.3 HABITATS	7
3.4 SPECIES	8
3.5 INVASIVE SPECIES	11
4. IMPACT ASSESSMENT, MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENTS	12
4.1 PROPOSALS	12
4.2 HABITATS	12
4.3 PROTECTED SPECIES	12
5. REFERENCES	15
FIGURE 1. UK HABITAT CLASSIFICATION MAP	16
FIGURE 2. WATERBODIES WITHIN 500 M OF THE SITE	18
FIGURE 3. DESIGNATED SITES WITHIN 2 KM OF THE SITE	20
APPENDIX 1. PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT (NOT TO SCALE)	22
APPENDIX 2. SITE PHOTOGRAPHS	24
APPENDIX 3. BIRD SPECIES RECORDS SUMMARY	25

Executive Summary

Habitat Works Limited (Habitat Works) was commissioned by Rushby Town Planning to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the land off Tommy Lane, Linthwaite, Huddersfield, HD7 5SQ (central Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OS NGR) SE 10132 14434), hereafter referred to as 'the Site' and as displayed in Figure 1.

The PEA was required to inform proposals for the construction of a residential building with associated landscaping and parking. These proposals are detailed within the Rushby Town Planning '*Proposed Site Plan Layout*', as shown in Appendix 1.

Recommendations are made regarding impacts of the proposed development through habitat losses/potential gains on the Site post-development and the retention and protection of key ecological features. These include:

- Implementation of pollution prevention measures throughout the works;
- Implementation of Best Practice Measures (BPM) for:
 - Common amphibians,
 - Badgers,
 - Reptiles,
- Consideration of enhancement opportunities for local species, including:
 - Installation of bat and bird boxes,
 - Installation of bee bricks

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Habitat Works Limited (Habitat Works) was commissioned by Rushby Town Planning to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the land off Tommy Lane, Linthwaite, Huddersfield, HD7 5SQ (central Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OS NGR) SE 10132 14434), hereafter referred to as 'the Site' and as displayed in Figure 1.
- 1.1.2 The PEA was required to inform proposals for the construction of a residential building with associated landscaping and parking. These proposals are detailed within the Rushby Town Planning '*Proposed Site Plan Layout*', as shown in Appendix 1.
- 1.1.3 This report details the findings of a PEA, including a data consultation and UK Habitat Classification survey undertaken in April 2026. Methodologies employed during the surveys are described along with the survey findings, evaluation, assessment and recommendations for any further survey work and/or mitigation/enhancement as required.
- 1.1.4 Recommendations are made regarding impacts of the proposed development through habitat losses/potential gains on the Site post-development including the retention and protection of key ecological features. The provision of species-specific enhancements are outlined where appropriate.

2. Methodology

2.1 Data Consultation

2.1.1 Data consultation was undertaken by Habitat Works with the local records centre; West Yorkshire Ecological Service (WYES) in May 2026 as part of the ecological appraisal process, to determine whether any ecological features of note had previously been recorded within 2 km of the Site. Data requested included:

- Records of protected species;
- Records of national or local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species;
- Details of any statutory sites of ecological interest e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA) etc.; and,
- Details of any non-statutory sites of ecological interest e.g. Local Wildlife Site (LWS).

2.1.2 The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website (<http://www.magic.defra.gov.uk>) was consulted in May 2026 for information on statutory and non-statutory designated sites of conservation interest, and for the presence of European Protected Species (EPS) mitigation licences for great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* (GCN) and bats within 2 km of the Site. MAGIC was also used to search for information relating to GCN Class Survey Licence Returns and Great Crested Newt Pond Surveys 2017- 2019 within 500 m of the Site.

2.1.3 Information returned from MAGIC and WYES with relevant assessments will be incorporated into the report as appropriate. All records will be reviewed, however particular interest will be placed on records within the past 10 years, with records prior to these considered historic.

2.2 Ecological Walkover Survey

2.2.1 An ecological walkover survey was undertaken 15th April 2026 by Consultant Ecologist Ashleigh Brentnall BSc (Hons) following best practice guidelines (UK Habitat Classification System (UKHab) (UKHab Working Group (UKHCWG) 2018)). This survey method aims to define habitats and vegetation types present and provide an indication of their relative abundance. This survey method aims to characterise habitats and communities present and is not intended to provide a complete list of all species occurring across the Site.

2.2.2 The UKHab survey covered land within the Site (as illustrated by the red line site boundary in Figure 1).

2.2.3 Habitats and vegetation types present inside the Site were recorded onto a field map and notable, rare or scarce plant species, including other features of ecological interest, were highlighted using Target Notes (TN). The current management of habitats and associated features were noted and assigned UKHab secondary codes where relevant.

2.2.4 Evidence of protected species or species of nature conservation importance were recorded where present at the time of survey. Habitats or species present that are listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 or the Local BAP were also noted.

2.2.5 Survey findings are detailed in Section 3 and annotated on Figure 1, while site photographs are provided in Appendix 2.

2.2.6 Plant species recorded were classified according to the subjective method of DAFOR abundance ratings. The standardised terms are as follows:

- D Dominant
- A Abundant
- F Frequent
- O Occasional
- R Rare

2.3 Protected and Key Species

- 2.3.1 Any evidence of protected species or groups encountered during the survey was recorded. This included observations of field signs and an assessment of the suitability of the habitats present to support protected species. For full details of legislation relating to all habitats and species discussed within this report visit <http://www.legislation.gov.uk>.

Amphibians

- 2.3.2 The Site was assessed for its potential to support amphibians, including a detailed GCN assessment. A desk-based search for ponds within 500 m of the Site, which are not separated by a significant barrier to amphibian dispersal, was made using 1:10,000 OS mapping. Habitats within the Site were assessed for their suitability to support amphibians during their terrestrial and aquatic stages where applicable.

Badgers

- 2.3.3 Signs of badger *Meles meles* activity were sought within the Site and within 30m of the Site boundary, where possible.
- 2.3.4 The survey followed standard methodology detailed in 'Surveying Badgers' (Harris *et al.*, 1989) and the approach as described in 'The history, distribution, status and habitat requirements of the badger in Britain' (JNCC, 1990).
- 2.3.5 The survey focused on areas with topography and/or vegetation typically utilised for sett building, in addition to key habitats typically favoured for foraging such as woodland, hedgerows, ditches and banks.
- 2.3.6 The survey involved identifying any badger field signs including setts, latrine/dung pits, foraging marks, feeding signs (e.g. snuffle holes), footprints, badger hairs and worn pathways, specifically along linear features and boundaries in the Site.
- 2.3.7 In the event of identifying badger sett(s), these were examined with key details recorded, including the number of entrances and their status (e.g. active, partially used, and disused). Where present setts identified were categorised using nationally recognised sett classification (main sett, annexe sett, subsidiary sett, outlier sett) where possible (Harris *et al.*, 1989).

Bats

- 2.3.8 Trees within the Site were subject to a ground-based assessment for their suitability to support roosting bats during the survey.
- 2.3.9 An individual structure may have several features of potential interest to roosting bats associated with it and it is not always possible to confirm usage of a feature by bats due to their transient nature. Consequently, it is customary when undertaking such surveys to assign each feature to a defined category of roosting potential as follows: negligible, low, moderate, high or confirmed (Collins, 2023).
- 2.3.10 Similar to structures, an individual tree may have several features of potential interest to roosting bats associated with it and it is not always possible to confirm usage of a feature by bats during a single daytime

visit, given their highly transient natures. Consequently, it is customary when undertaking such surveys to assign each feature to a defined category of None, Further Assessment Required (FAR), Potential Roosting Feature – Individual (PRF – I) and Potential Roosting Feature – Multiple (PRF – M) (Collins, 2023).

- 2.3.11 The Site was also assessed for its suitability for foraging and commuting bats in accordance with good practice guidelines (Collins, 2023).

Birds

- 2.3.12 In 2021, a re-assessment of Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) was published by Stanbury et al. (2021), which defined rare and threatened bird species on two lists (Red and Amber) describing the level of threat to each species of concern. “Red” is the highest conservation priority, with species needing urgent action through to “Green”, indicating that the species are relatively unthreatened.
- 2.3.13 Data consultation data was filtered for WCA 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 bird species and those species protected under Annex 1 of the EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds, also known as the Birds Directive. Priority species (NERC Act 2006, LBAP) were likewise highlighted and the UK Red List for birds, also known as the BoCC as described above, was also referred to.
- 2.3.14 During the Site survey any species of birds encountered were recorded. Habitats were assessed for their potential value to nesting, wintering and foraging birds.

Invertebrates

- 2.3.15 The habitats present on the Site were assessed for their suitability to support invertebrates and incidental observations of invertebrates at and adjacent to the Site were noted.

Reptiles

- 2.3.16 The habitats present on Site were assessed for their suitability to support reptiles, particularly with reference to their connectivity with other areas of suitable habitat within the wider landscape.

Riparian Mammals and White-clawed Crayfish

- 2.3.17 A desk-based search for watercourses on or within 30 m of the Site, which are not separated by a significant barrier to dispersal, was undertaken using OS 1:10,000 mapping.
- 2.3.18 Where access was possible, watercourses were subsequently assessed for their suitability to support otter *Lutra lutra*, water vole *Arvicola amphibius* and white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*.

Other Key and Notable Species

- 2.3.19 Whilst on Site habitats were assessed for their potential to support any other nationally, locally scarce or notable species, with particular reference to LBAP species.

2.4 Invasive Species

- 2.4.1 Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) and/or The Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (2019) were recorded and mapped as seen during the survey.

2.5 Assumptions and Limitations

- 2.5.1 In line with CIEEM guidance, this report is valid for a period of 24 months. In the event that works have not commenced by April 2028, an update assessment should be undertaken.
- 2.5.2 A UKHab survey is intended to provide a rapid assessment of habitats present within a site and is not

intended to replace detailed vegetation or targeted protected species surveys, where deemed necessary.

- 2.5.3 The survey was undertaken outside of the peak botanical season, meaning some species may not have been visibly present during the visit. However, due to the habitats present on the Site as well as the land use, it is considered unlikely that any significant species were missed.

3. Findings and Evaluation

3.1 Site Description

- 3.1.1 The Site is located off Tommy Lane, Linthwaite, Huddersfield and the Site is dominated by modified grassland, as detailed in Figure 1.
- 3.1.2 The Site is located within the village of Linthwaite, with much of the immediate surrounding land comprising residential properties and associated gardens and hardstanding. An area of unmanaged, tussocky grassland is present immediately north and west of the Site, providing connectivity within the local landscape.
- 3.1.3 In the wider landscape, particularly to the south, is dominated by pastoral land with pockets of small deciduous woodland to the north and southeast. Much of the field boundaries are dry-stone walls, however some mature hedgerows are present in the local landscape which provide connectivity across the landscape, including to Blackmoorfoot reservoir located to the south of the Site.

3.2 Designated Sites

- 3.2.1 No statutory designated sites were identified for locations within 2 km of the Site through a search of MAGIC.
- 3.2.2 WYES returned five designated sites for locations within 2 km of the Site, four of which are Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), and a single Local Geological Site (LGS).
- 3.2.3 Table 1 below details the designated sites within 2 km of the Site, with Figure 2 displaying their locations.

Table 1 - Designated Sites within 2 km of the Site

Designated Site	Description from Citation	Approx. Distance & Direction from Site
Non-Statutory		
Low Westwood Pond LWS	Low Westwood Pond is a disused Mill Pond in Linthwaite, with the Huddersfield Narrow Canal to the north west and the River Colne to the south east. Surrounding land is dense scrub and tall ruderal vegetation to the north and Acer pseudoplatanus woodland to the south, with Low Westwood Lane to the east. There are steep concrete sides to the pond on three sides, with a sloping muddy edge to the north of the pond.	460 m northwest
Huddersfield Narrow Canal LWS	Huddersfield Narrow Canal hosts a range of species, including <i>Typha latifolia</i> , <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> , <i>Equisetum fluviatile</i> , <i>Juncus effusus</i> , <i>Potamogeton</i> , <i>Carex</i> , <i>Callitriche</i> , <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> , <i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i> , <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> , <i>Equisetum fluviatile</i> , <i>Equisetum palustre</i> , <i>Glyceria maxima</i> , <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> , <i>Mentha aquatic</i> , <i>Rorippa nasturtium aquaticum</i> and <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> .	725 m west
Johnsons Wellfield Quarries LGS	One face of Wellfield Quarry has been left exposed as part of the quarry restoration plan. The rock is Upper Carboniferous (Namurian) Rough Rock and	1 km east

	the face is about 250m long by 8-10m high. At the south end of the face there is a cutting, showing some interesting features, crossed by a footbridge. The rock is a medium-grained sandstone with much cross-lamination in small beds, sometimes flaggy in nature. Some beds wedge out or are replaced with micaceous siltstones with disseminated carbon. There are some plant fossils. The jointing is very irregular, although there are some vertical joints around which the rock is fragmented and altered, called 'ruttles' by the quarrymen. Iron has moved through the rock and there are some very iron-rich orange sections, including Liesegang rings in places.	
Delves Wood LWS	Delves Wood is located the north west of Netherton. Surrounding land use includes grassland to the south and west (improved or semi-improved neutral, some horse grazed) and houses and gardens to the north and east. Most of the woodland is very steep and hummocky, consistent with an old quarry site. An area with buildings, including kennels, is present to the east of the site. There is a dry ditch running east-west and stone walls on the boundaries. Dean Wood is located to the south.	1.8 km east
Dean Wood LWS	Dean Wood is to the west of Netherton, on a steep sided valley sloping down to Dean Clough. The surrounding land is mainly improved grassland, with houses and gardens to the south east. Stone walls are present on some of the boundaries and there are footpaths through most of the wood, although some areas are less accessible due to steep slopes.	1.9 km southeast

- 3.2.4 The Site lies within the SSSI Impact Risk Zones for Peak District Dark Peak SSSI. The Impact Risk Zone for Dark Peak SSSI indicates that at the Site's location, the proposed development is unlikely to have a harmful effect on the SSSI, and therefore, will not be mentioned further within this report.
- 3.2.5 A single Special Area of Conservation (SAC) was identified using MAGIC within 10 km of the Site. This was South Pennine Moors (SAC) located approximately 4.2 km south of the Site. Given that the proposals are confined to the Site and the distance between the Site and the designated sites, it is not considered that the proposals will have an impact upon the designated sites, and as such will not be discussed further within this report.

3.3 Habitats

- 3.3.1 No priority habitat are present within 30 m of the Site through a search of MAGIC.
- 3.3.2 Habitats recorded on the Site, their distribution and composition are discussed in order of dominance below. Habitat locations are annotated on Figure 1.

g4 Modified grassland (Secondary Codes (SC): 103)

- 3.3.3 The Site is mostly comprised of modified grassland, which is short-sward. Species recorded within the grassland included lawn species such as Broad leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, Buttercup *Ranunculus sp.*,

Clover *Trifolium sp.*, Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*, Mouse ear chickweed *Cerastium fontanum*, Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*, and Ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*.

- 3.3.4 Overall, this habitat is comprised of short-sward, and is regularly horse grazed (SC:103).
- 3.3.5 Modified grassland is not a NERC Act 2006 Section 41 priority habitat nor is it listed within the LBAP. Given that the habitat is common both locally and nationally, the habitat is considered to be of no greater than site level importance to nature conservation.

u1c Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface

- 3.3.6 A small area of Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface is present within southwest of the Site. The habitat is comprised of a driveway, and consists of crushed stone, which was absent of vegetation and overall, presents no botanical interest.
- 3.3.7 Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface is not a NERC Act 2006 Section 41 priority habitat nor is it listed within the LBAP. This habitat is considered to be of no greater than site level importance to nature conservation.

u1b5 Buildings (SC: 833)

- 3.3.8 A building is present within the northwest of the Site, comprised of a stable/barn (SC:833). This habitat is comprised of brick, wood, and corrugated metal. The building is an open structure, and is currently in use as a horses stable. Overall, this habitat presents no botanical interest.
- 3.3.9 Buildings are not a NERC Act 2006 Section 41 priority habitat nor is it listed within the LBAP. This habitat is considered to be of no greater than site level importance to nature conservation.

3.4 Species

Amphibians

- 3.4.1 WYES returned a total of 10 records of amphibians, all of which are historic (outwith the last 10 years), for locations within 2 km of the Site, comprising of six records of common frog *Rana temporaria*, three records of common toad *Bufo bufo*, and a single record of smooth newt *Lissotriton vulgaris*. The closest and most recent record pertains to a common frog, located approximately 140 m north of the Site in 2015.
- 3.4.2 No EPS licences relating to GCN were identified using MAGIC within 2 km of the Site.
- 3.4.3 The Site location is not eligible in the Natural England GCN District Level Licensing (DLL) scheme.
- 3.4.4 Two waterbodies are present within 500 m of the Site, but both are outwith of 250 m of the Site boundary from a search of OS Maps.
- 3.4.5 The closest waterbody to the Site (WB1) is located approximately 400 m southeast of the Site while WB2 is Low Westwood Pond LWS, which is located approximately 450 m northwest of the Site. Both waterbodies are surrounded by higher quality terrestrial habitat in comparison to the habitats on the Site in the form of woodland and scrub, and additionally they are separated from the Site by residential areas and multiple roads which would act as a barrier to dispersal for amphibians breeding within these ponds onto the Site. As such, it is considered extremely unlikely that any present GCN would commute from here to the Site.
- 3.4.6 Overall, terrestrial habitats on the Site offer extremely limited suitability for amphibians, offering limited foraging and sheltering opportunities for GCN, with much of the Site consisting of short-sward modified grassland. The habitats available within the Site are limited in extent and inferior quality when compared to other habitats in the wider area.

- 3.4.7 Given the limited suitability of terrestrial habitats present on the Site, albeit of inferior quality to adjacent habitats, and the absence of waterbodies within 250 m of the Site, it is considered extremely unlikely that GCN will be a receptor to the proposals, and as such will not be discussed further within this report.
- 3.4.8 It should be noted that unidentified ponds/water features may exist within local gardens. In general, such water features are usually relatively small and are more likely to be used by common amphibians i.e. smooth newt, and/or common frog (albeit GCN and common toad may use them in certain circumstances; for example, if there is a larger waterbody close by that supports either of these species).
- 3.4.9 As such, the presence of common amphibian species cannot be ruled out from the Site. Overall, the Site habitats are of no greater than site level value for common amphibians in their terrestrial stage. This is based on the availability of similar and higher quality habitat (including potentially more suitable aquatic habitat) in the wider area.

Badger

- 3.4.10 WYES returned a record of a badger *Meles meles* sett within 2 km of the Site. The nearest sett is located approximately 1.3 km from the Site, and the Site falls within an area of increased badger activity.
- 3.4.11 No evidence of badger was recorded throughout the survey, and the Site offers limited sett building potential, such as denser areas of vegetation. The Site also lacks significant suitable foraging/commuting habitat comprising solely of modified grassland. Given the absence of commuting and foraging habitat present, it is considered that any local badgers would not be reliant on the habitats present on the Site.
- 3.4.12 Badgers are not considered to be resident on the Site, however badgers are highly mobile and as such the habitats on the Site may form part of their wider territories.
- 3.4.13 Given the lack of field signs from walkover survey and the limited suitable habitats present on the Site, it is considered that the Site is of conservation value to badger at no greater than the site level.

Bats

- 3.4.14 WYES returned a total of 99 records of bats within 2 km, of which 217 are historic. Of these records, 38 pertain to roosts, 36 of which are historic. The roost records comprise of a total of 19 records of common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* roosts, and two records of brown-long eared bat *Plecotus auritus* roosts, in addition to five unidentified *Pipistrelle sp.* and 12 unidentified bat roosts. The closest and most recent roost record pertains to a single brown long eared bat located approximately 400 m west of the Site, recorded in 2022.
- 3.4.15 The remaining records pertain to bat detectors, droppings, observations, foraging, and unidentified bat activity. This includes brown long-eared bats, common pipistrelle, noctule *Nyctalus noctula*, Natterer's bat *Myotis nattereri*, whiskered bat *Myotis mystacinus* and Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii*, as well as unidentified myotis species *Myotis spp.*, unidentified bat species. The closest of these records pertains to a field record of a common pipistrelle located approximately 300 m east of the Site in 2014. The most recent record also pertains to a common pipistrelle field record, located approximately 1.3 km north of the Site in 2024.
- 3.4.16 Two EPS licences relating to bats were identified using MAGIC within 2 km of the Site. The first relates to the destruction of a common pipistrelle resting place. This licence was active between 2013 and 2018, located approximately 800 m south of the Site (EPSM2009-1348). The second relates to the destruction of a common pipistrelle resting place. This licence was active between 2017 and 2025.

Roosting Bats

- 3.4.17 A single building is present within the northwest extent of the Site. This is a stable/ barn and is constructed with brick with single-layer corrugated metal roofing, with open-face stable doors.
- 3.4.18 Gaps are present underneath the metal roofing and the brick walls, however, these lead straight through the building, and do not present any suitable potential roost features (PRF's) for bat species. In addition to this, the brickwork is in good condition and intact, with an absence of suitable crevices for roosting bats. Furthermore, the structure is currently in-use as a stable, creating a level of human disturbance bats generally avoid, further reducing the suitability. Photos are provided in Appendix 2.
- 3.4.19 Overall, this building presents an absence of PRF's, and is considered to be of negligible potential.

Foraging and Commuting Bats

- 3.4.20 The Site offers limited potential for foraging and commuting bats due to the limited scale of the habitats present on the Site in conjunction with the lack of mature vegetation that bats typically utilise for foraging and commuting. The wider local landscape contains habitats of superior quality for commuting and roosting bats, in particular the River Colne to the northwest of the Site, in addition to small areas of woodland in the local landscape.
- 3.4.21 Overall, the Site is considered to be of negligible suitability for commuting and foraging bats (Collins, 2023), and therefore will not be discussed further within this report.

Birds

- 3.4.22 WBRC and BBRC returned a combined total of 522 records comprising 144 bird species for locations within 2 km of the Site. Species returned include 40 Schedule 1 species as listed within the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA 1981), in addition to 37 Red, 53 Amber and nine Green listed BoCC species. Bird species recorded within 2 km of the Site are summarised in Appendix 3.
- 3.4.23 The Site offers limited opportunity for nesting birds, as the majority of the Site is comprised of short-sward modified grassland. Furthermore, the habitats available on the Site are limited in size and scale in comparison to the common and widespread availability of nesting habitat in the wider local area, particularly the scrub immediately to the north, and the patches of woodland throughout the local landscape.
- 3.4.24 A single building is present within the northwest of the Site, which has the potential to offer some suitability for nesting bird species. However, no evidence of nesting birds was identified at the time of survey.
- 3.4.25 Overall, due to the nature of habitats present on the Site, it is considered that the Site is of importance to nesting birds at no greater than the site level.

Invertebrates

- 3.4.26 WYES returned a total of 28 records for invertebrates comprising of 18 species of beetle, one species of butterfly, one species of moth and two species of spider, 11 of which are historic, and 16 of which are dated as unknown. The closest record and most recent record pertains to white ermine *Spilosoma lubricipeda*, located approximately 600 m northwest of the Site in 2016.
- 3.4.27 The habitats on the Site are unlikely to offer a range of opportunities for invertebrates, with the Site comprising mostly short-sward modified grassland, therefore they are not considered to offer the variety in plant species, structural diversity and habitat interfaces that would be necessary to support diverse communities of terrestrial invertebrates. The variety of plant species and habitat structures present are of

limited diversity and generally sub-optimal for invertebrates and considered unlikely to support notable species or large invertebrate populations but may contribute to foraging opportunities for common species.

- 3.4.28 Given the limited suitable habitat present on the Site, and the presence of more suitable habitat at a larger scale in the wider area, the Site is considered of importance to invertebrate species at no greater than the site level.

Reptiles

- 3.4.29 WYES returned a single historic record of reptiles within 2km of the Site, which was in 1914. This pertains to common lizard *Zootoca vivipara*, located approximately 900 m southeast of the Site.
- 3.4.30 Overall habitats on the Site are not considered to offer any significant suitability for reptiles, with the dominant habitat on the Site being modified grassland which is short-sward, offering limited sheltering and foraging opportunities for reptile species. Furthermore, the Site is currently being used to keep a horse, with a stable present within the western extent. This is likely to reduce suitability of the Site, as reptiles generally prefer to avoid such human activities due to the noise and vibrations caused by such as such activity. In addition to this, more suitable habitat is available within the wider local area, in particular the grassland immediately to the north and west of the Site.
- 3.4.31 Given the limited suitable habitat present on the Site, and the presence of habitats of greater quality and at a larger scale in the wider area, the Site is considered of importance to reptile species at no greater than the site level.

Riparian Mammals and White-clawed Crayfish

- 3.4.32 WYES returned a single record of European otter *Lutra lutra* within 2 km of the Site. This was located approximately 500 m north of the Site in 2025.
- 3.4.33 WYES returned a single record of European water vole *Arvicola amphibius* for locations within 2 km of the Site, which is historic. The closest and most recent record was located approximately 1.9 km south of the Site in 2004.
- 3.4.34 WYES no records of white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* for locations with 2 km of the Site.
- 3.4.35 No evidence of these species was recorded during the walkover survey. No watercourses are located within 30 m of the Site and as such, it is not considered that riparian mammals or white-clawed crayfish are a receptor to the proposals, and as such will not be discussed further within this report.

3.5 Invasive Species

- 3.5.1 WYES returned 106 records of invasive plant species, 83 of which are historic, for locations within 2 km of the Site. Invasive plants included Canadian waterweed *Elodea canadensis*, Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*, giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzia*, and rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*. The closest record pertains to Japanese knotweed located approximately 400 m southwest of the Site in 2019. The most recent record pertains to giant hogweed, located approximately 1.8 km northwest of the Site in 2024.
- 3.5.2 No Schedule 9 listed species were observed within the Site during the survey, and as such will not be considered further within this report.

4. Impact Assessment, Mitigation and Enhancements

4.1 Proposals

- 4.1.1 Proposals for the Site comprise the loss of the habitats on the Site to allow for the construction of a residential building. These proposals are detailed within the Rushby Town Planning 'Proposed Site Plan Layout'

4.2 Habitats

- 4.2.1 Given that the habitats present on the Site are common and widespread in the local landscape, it is anticipated that the loss of habitat at the Site is of importance to nature conservation at no greater than the Site level.
- 4.2.2 A Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment (BNGA) is not required for the proposals as it is considered that the proposals will be exempt from BNG under the self-build exemption.

4.3 Protected Species

Amphibians

- 4.3.1 Common amphibians are protected under the WCA 1981 (as amended) against sale, barter or exchange of captive animals.
- 4.3.2 The presence of GCN is considered unlikely due to the absence of ponds within 500m of the site.
- 4.3.3 As the presence of common amphibians on the Site cannot be ruled out, it is recommended that Best Practice Measures (BPM) are implemented during the proposed development works, with contractors operating with vigilance for potentially present common amphibians to minimise the potential for harm to common amphibians. If common amphibians i.e. smooth newt or palmate newt, common frog or common toad are encountered on Site during the works they should be allowed to move away of their own volition. If in immediate danger of injury, they should be carefully moved in gloved hands to an area of safe shelter away from the footprint of works.

Badger

- 4.3.4 Badgers and their setts are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. It is an offence under the act to kill, injure or take a badger. It is also an offence to destroy, damage or obstruct a currently active badger sett, or to disturb animals within the sett.
- 4.3.5 Badgers are not considered to be resident on the Site, however they are highly mobile species and have the potential to disperse on to areas of the Site and into working areas. As such it is recommended that, BPM be implemented throughout the works to protect badgers, should they subsequently pass through these areas of the Site. The BPM should include:
- Any excavations deeper than 1 m required during the works should be covered overnight. Shallow excavations less than 1 m should have a roughened scaffold board or equivalent placed in them overnight to allow any animals which may become trapped to exit. Trenches will also be inspected each morning to ensure that no animals have become trapped overnight;
 - Food/litter will not be left on Site;

- If in the unlikely event that badgers are encountered during works, then works will cease temporarily and the animal allowed to move away of its own volition. The ecologist will be contacted for advice; and,
- If badgers are suspected to be associated with the Site once works have commenced, including a suspected badger sett found on or within 30 m of the Site during the works by a contractor, works should cease and an appropriately experienced ecologist should be contacted for advice before continuing.

4.3.6 Additionally, any lighting implemented during the construction stage and upon completion of the development should be directed away from retained vegetated habitats, particularly off-site habitats to allow badgers to continue to use such habitats for foraging and commuting where present locally.

Bats

- 4.3.7 All species of bat occurring within the UK are included in Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. Under regulation 41 bats are protected from deliberate capture, injury or killing, from deliberate disturbance and from deliberate damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place (roost).
- 4.3.8 All UK bats are also included on Schedule 5 of the WCA 1981 (as amended). However, their protection is limited to certain offences. Under the 1981 Act (as amended) it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb bats while they are occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection, or to obstruct access to any such place.
- 4.3.9 *Barbastella barbastellus*, Bechstein's *Myotis bechsteinii*, brown long-eared bat, greater horseshoe *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, lesser horseshoe *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, noctule and soprano pipistrelle bats are included as priority species under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006.

Roosting Bats

- 4.3.10 The Site is not considered to offer any suitability for roosting bats.
- 4.3.11 As an enhancement for local bats, it is recommended that as compensation for the loss of PRFs across the Site, a minimum of a single bat box should be incorporated into the new house as part of the development proposals. The model of boxes used should be suitable for crevice dwelling bat species, such as the Schwegler 1FR Bat Tube. The bat boxes should be placed at a minimum of 4 m above the ground on the houses, facing southern aspects to maximise chances of occupation.

Birds

- 4.3.12 All wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected under the WCA 1981 (as amended) while a nest is in use or occupied. The nesting bird season is typically considered to fall between March and August (inclusive). Species listed under Schedule 1 of the Act receive additional protection against disturbance whilst occupying a nest site.
- 4.3.13 The habitats on Site were considered to be of no more than site level importance to local bird populations given the quality of habitat recorded on the Site and the extensive availability of similar to higher quality habitat for nesting birds in the wider area.
- 4.3.14 It is recommended that a minimum of a single integrated bird nest box should be incorporated into the proposed building as a positive enhancement for nature conservation. Schwegler Brick Box Type 25 boxes are recommended as they have been shown to achieve good uptake by a range of species and not just

swifts. The bird boxes should be placed at a minimum height of 3 m (near eaves level when placed on buildings) facing different aspects to maximise chances of occupation. Full south aspects present a risk of overheating and should therefore be avoided.

Invertebrates

- 4.3.15 Many invertebrate species are listed under Section 41 of NERC act (2006) designating them as Species of Principal Importance in England.
- 4.3.16 Several species of invertebrate and their habitat are afforded full protection under Schedule 5 (Section 9) of the WCA 1981 (as amended). Several species are also EPS. These are afforded strict protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (Amendment) (EU Exit) 2019 under Schedule 2.
- 4.3.17 The loss of the vegetated habitats on the Site is not considered likely to impact any notable populations of invertebrates. Habitats on Site are considered of no more than site level importance for invertebrates and impacts from proposals are therefore likely to be insignificant to invertebrates' resident in the local area. Common invertebrate species that may be resident in the wider area would benefit through the provision of seasonal nectar resources and consideration should be given to inclusion of native woody and flowering species in and planting schemes.
- 4.3.18 Further enhancements for the Site with regards to invertebrates would be to incorporate bee bricks into the new building. Bee bricks provide sheltering opportunities for solitary bees, which are pollinator species and are vital to local ecosystems. Solitary bees do not have queens or honey to protect, meaning they are non-aggressive and extremely unlikely sting.

Reptiles

- 4.3.19 Common reptile species including grass snake, common lizard and slow worm are protected under Schedule 5 of the WCA 1981 (as amended) against intentional killing or injury.
- 4.3.20 Due to the limited suitable habitats present the Site is considered unlikely to support reptiles, and the loss of habitats present is considered unlikely to impact reptiles at greater than the Site level.
- 4.3.21 The following BPM are recommended with regards to reptiles (these will also help to protect common amphibians):
- All Site personnel to keep a high level of vigilance for reptiles (and amphibians) during works;
 - Good general housekeeping of the Site will be employed. All materials (construction materials/arising) on Site will be stored in a suitable location at least 5 m away from suitable reptile habitat, e.g woodland edge habitats, ideally risen off the ground (e.g. on pallets) or on hard stand/bare ground away from vegetation. Materials arising from the works should be removed from the Site as quickly as possible or placed in a skip or other sealed container immediately if stored on Site. This will avoid colonisation by reptiles and other wildlife and will ensure there is no build-up of debris or other waste which may create suitable habitats for protected species that then has to be removed at a later date; and,
 - Should reptiles be encountered works in the area will cease and an ecologist contacted immediately for advice.

5. References

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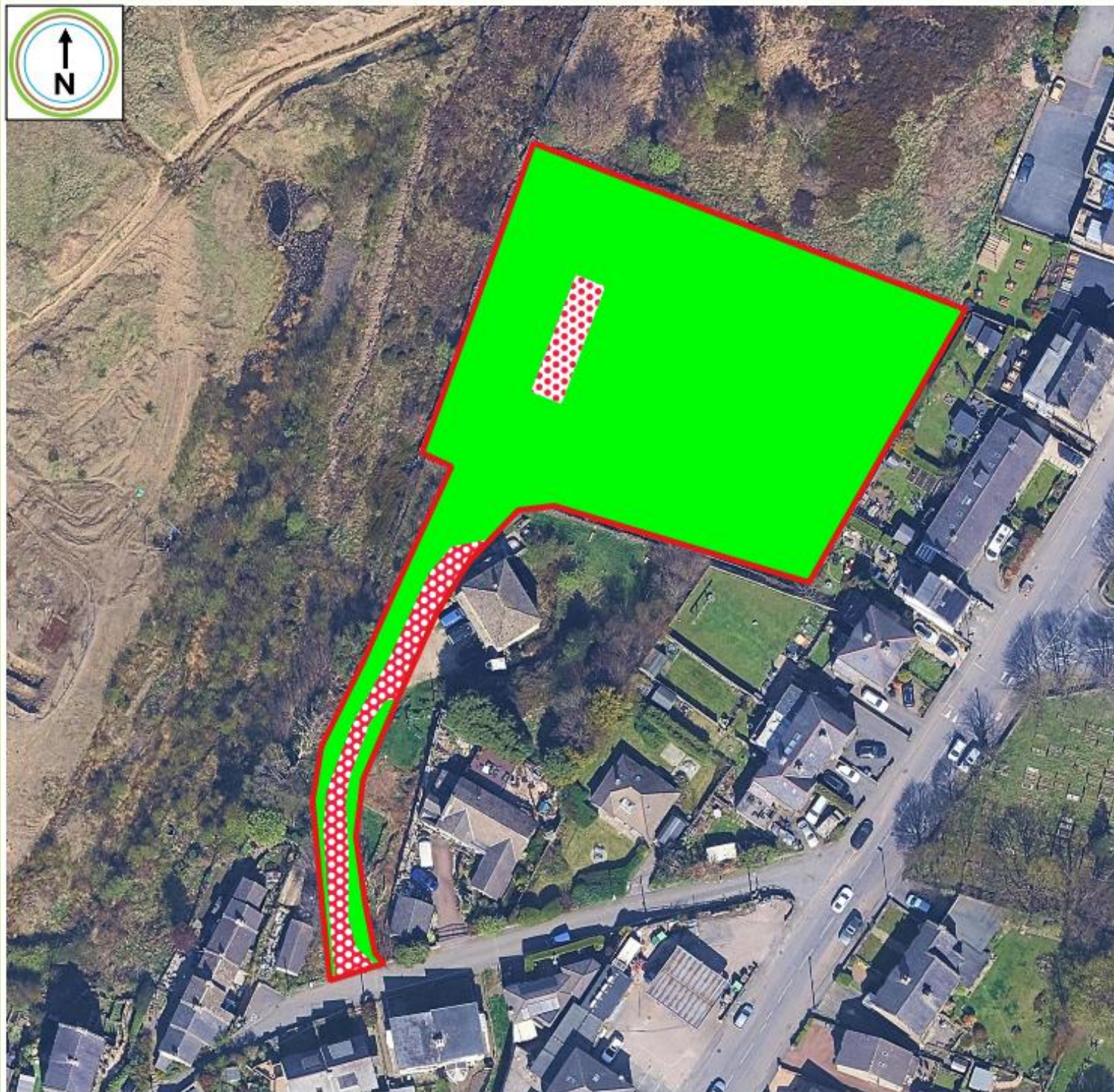
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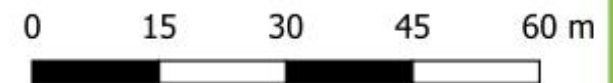
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Figure 1. UK Habitat Classification Map



Legend

-  Site Boundary
-  g4 - Modified grassland
-  u1c - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
-  u1b5 - Buildings



HABITAT WORKS

Rusby Town Planning

Tommy Lane

Figure 1
Baseline Habitats Map

Figure 2. Waterbodies within 500 m of the Site



Legend

-  Site Boundary
-  500m buffer
-  250m buffer
-  waterbodies

0 100 200 300 400 m



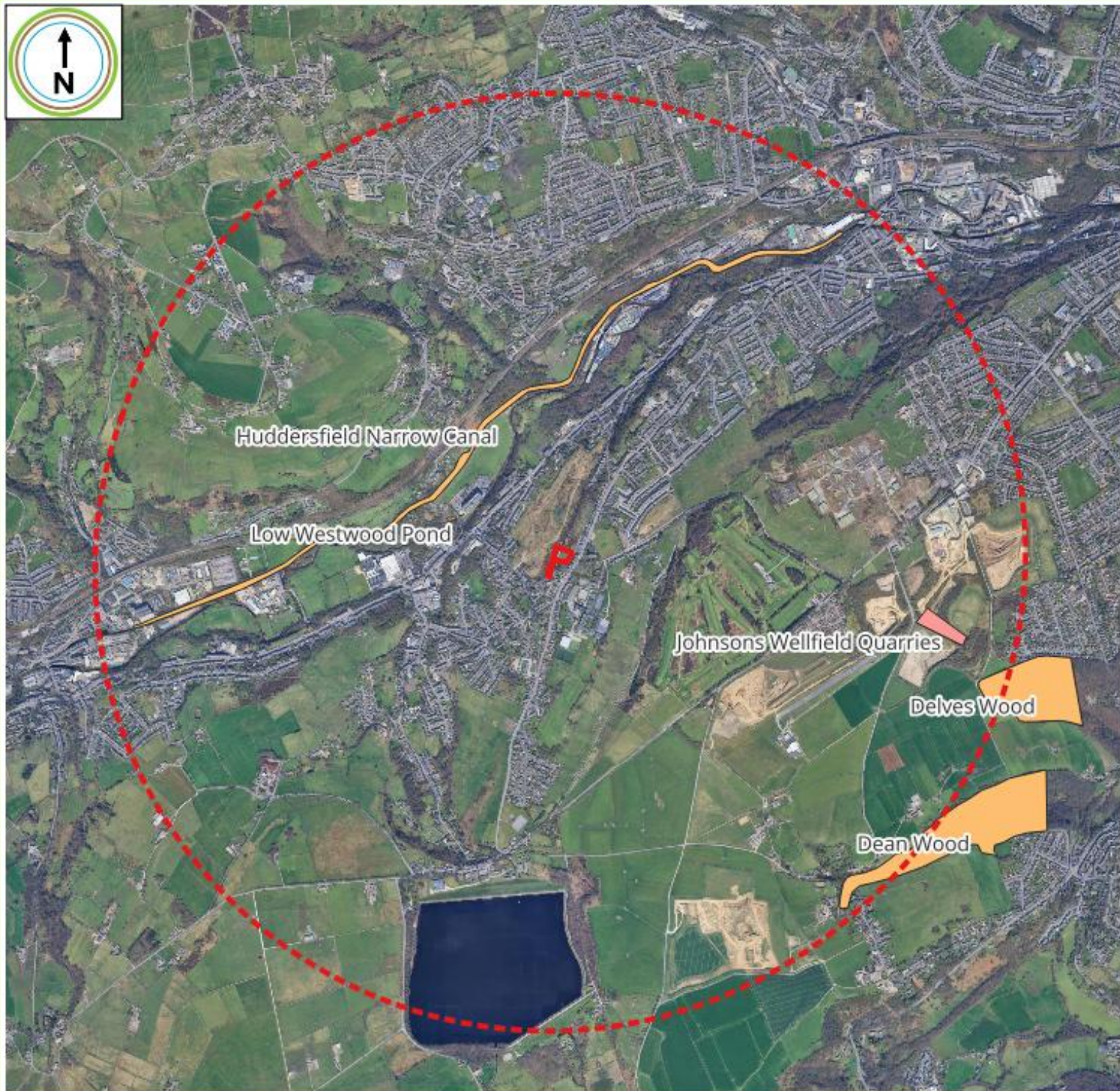
HABITAT WORKS

Rusby Town Planning

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Figure 2
Waterbodies within 500 m of the Site

Figure 3. Designated sites within 2 km of the Site



Legend

- Site Boundary
- 2km buffer
- Local Geological Sites
- Local Wildlife Sites

0 400 800 1,200 1,600 m



HABITAT WORKS

Rusby Town Planning

Tommy Lane

Figure 3
Designated sites within 2 km of the Site

Appendix 1. Proposed Site Layout (Not to Scale)

BIN STORAGE AND COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH KIRKLEES PLANNING POLICY:

BIN STORAGE AREA TO BE WITHIN 30M OF THE HOUSE ENTRANCE

ENSURE THE BIN STORAGE AREA TO THE PRESENTATION POINT ROUTE IS ≤ 25 M TRAVEL FOR THE HOUSEHOLDER.

BIN PRESENTATION POINT SHOULD BE LOCATED APPROPRIATELY SO THE REFUSE CREW NEED TO MOVE THE BIN ≤ 8 M TO REACH THE REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLE. (CLIENT TO CONFIRM BIN PRESENTATION POINT)

FIRE ENGINE REQUIREMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH KIRKLEES PLANNING POLICY:

FIRE VEHICLE APPLIANCE ACCESS REQUIRES THE SITE TO HAVE A DRIVEWAY FOR PUMP APPLIANCES TO REACH WITHIN 45 METERS OF ALL POINTS OF THE BUILDING

ACCESS ROAD MUST BE AT LEAST 3.7 METERS WIDE WITH 3.7 METERS OF CLEAR HEADROOM AND BE ABLE TO CARRY AT LEAST A 12.5-TONNE VEHICLE.

IF THE ACCESS ROAD IS A DEAD END LONGER THAN 20 METERS, A TURNING HEAD MUST BE PROVIDED FOR THE FIRE APPLIANCE.

A FIRE HYDRANT MUST BE LOCATED WITHIN 90 METERS OF AN ENTRY POINT OF THE NEW DWELLING. (EXISTING FIRE HYDRANT POSITION TO BE CONFIRMED)

DETACHED DWELLING BASIS OF DESIGN:

REMOVAL OF EXISTING STABLE BLOCK: 90M²

PROPOSED DETACHED 2 STOREY DWELLING (2 STOREY AT THE REAR, 1 STOREY AT THE FRONT) 97.5M²

DETACHED DOUBLE GARAGE: 36M²

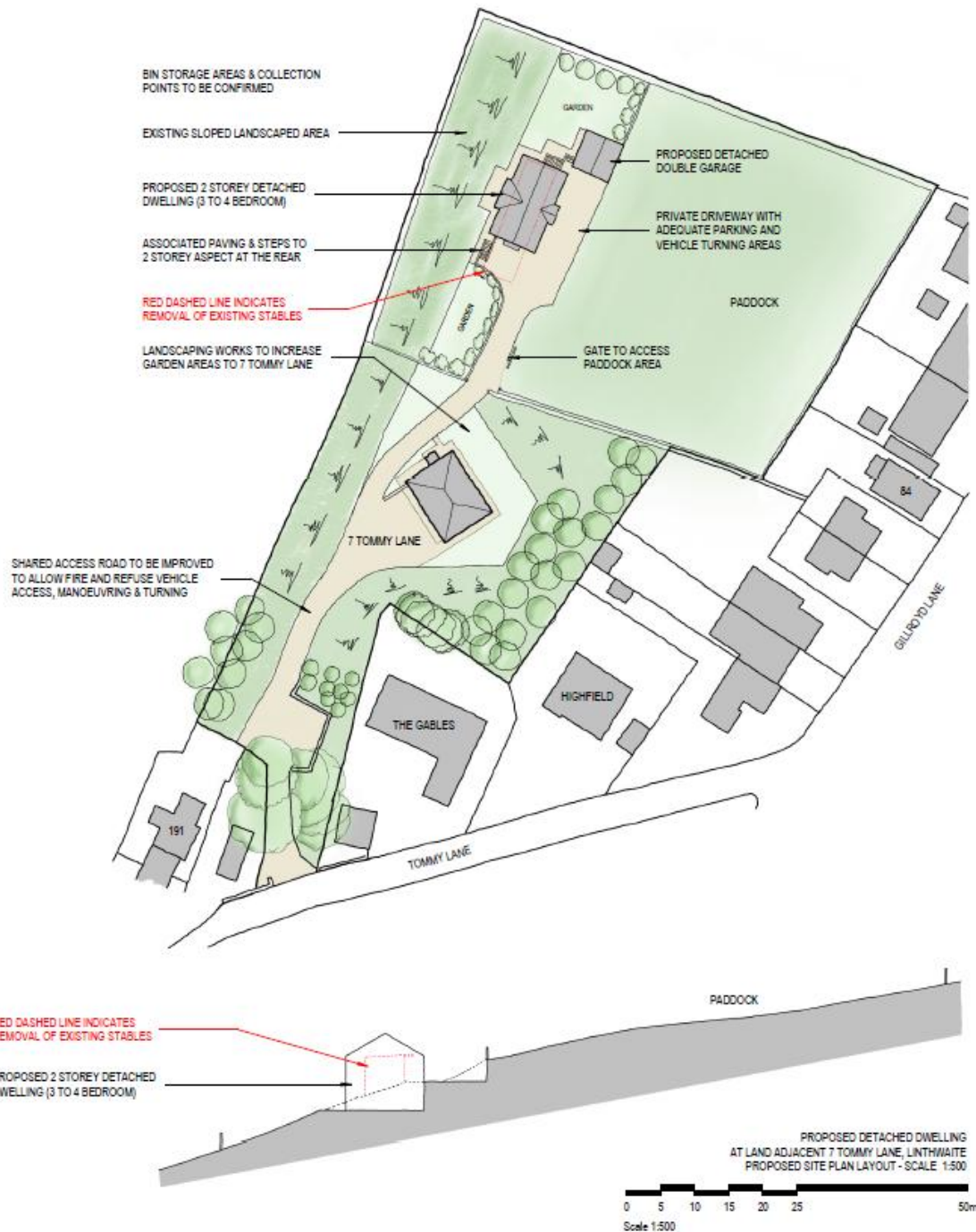
MATERIALS TO BE IN KEEPING WITH ADJACENT DWELLING AND SURROUNDING BUILDINGS

LAND IS UNALLOCATED WITHIN THE KIRKLEES LOCAL PLAN

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN - CONSIDER CUSTOM / SELF BUILD SCHEME WITH SITE AREA TO BE UNDER 0.5HA.

DRAINAGE - CONNECT TO EXISTING DRAINAGE NETWORK OR CONSIDER SEPTIC TANK SYSTEM

ACCESS ROAD AND SITE ENTRANCE TO BE IMPROVED IN TERMS OF SURFACING AND WIDTH FOR FIRE AND REFUSE VEHICLE ACCESS, TURNING AND MANOEUVRING



Appendix 2. Site Photographs



Photograph 1. Modified grassland.



Photograph 2. Modified grassland and stable.



Photograph 3. Close up of modified grassland.



Photograph 4. Driveway.



Photograph 5. View of stable from behind.



Photograph 6. Stables.

Appendix 3. Bird Species Records Summary

Common Name	Scientific Name	BoCC Status
Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>	Schedule 1, Red
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Schedule 1, Red
Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Schedule 1, Red
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Schedule 1, Red
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Schedule 1, Red
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Schedule 1, Red
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Schedule 1, Red
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Schedule 1, Red
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Schedule 1, Red
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	Schedule 1, Red
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Schedule 1, Amber
Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	Schedule 1, Amber
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>	Schedule 1, Amber
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Schedule 1, Amber
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Schedule 1, Amber
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Schedule 1, Amber
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	Schedule 1, Amber
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Schedule 1, Amber
Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Schedule 1, Amber
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	Schedule 1, Amber
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Schedule 1, Amber
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Schedule 1, Amber
Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	Schedule 1, Amber
Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>	Schedule 1, Amber
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Schedule 1, Amber
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Schedule 1, Amber
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Schedule 1, Green
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Schedule 1, Green
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Schedule 1, Green
Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Schedule 1, Green
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	Schedule 1, Green
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Schedule 1, Green
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Schedule 1, Green
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	Schedule 1, Green
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Schedule 1, Green
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Schedule 1, Green
Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Schedule 1, Green
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Red
Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	Red
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Red

Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	Red
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Red
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Red
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Red
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	Red
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	Red
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Red
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Red
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Red
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Red
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Red
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	Red
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	Red
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Red
Shag	<i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>	Red
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red
Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	Red
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Red
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Red
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Red
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Red
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Red
Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>	Red
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Red
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Red
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>	Red
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Red
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Red
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Red
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Red
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Amber
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Amber
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Amber
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Amber
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Amber
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber
Common Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>	Amber
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Amber
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Amber
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Amber
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Amber

Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	Amber
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber
Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Amber
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	Amber
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Amber
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Amber
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Amber
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Amber
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Amber
Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	Amber
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber
Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Amber
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Amber
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>	Amber
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Amber
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Amber
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	Amber
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Amber
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Amber
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Amber
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Amber
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	Amber
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Amber
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Amber
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Amber
Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	Amber
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Amber
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Amber
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Amber
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	Amber
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Amber
Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Amber
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Amber
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	Amber
Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	Amber
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Amber
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Green
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Green

Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Green
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Green
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Green
Red Grouse	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	Green
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Green
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	Green
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Not Assessed
Redpoll (Common\Lesser)	<i>Acanthis flammea/cabaret</i>	Not Assessed