

Reinwood Road, Huddersfield

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal



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Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

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Huddersfield
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Executive Summary

Habitat Works Limited (Habitat Works) was commissioned in July 2025 by HRB Investments to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) for an area of land adjacent to Reinwood Road, Huddersfield, Kirklees, West Yorkshire, HD3 4DS (central Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OS NGR) SE 11809 16804), hereafter referred to as 'the Site' and as displayed in Figure 1.

The Site boundary is detailed within the Paul Matthews Architectural drawing '*Schematic Site layout*' (Dwg 26/1317/03A, dated 03/2026). The PEA was required to inform the proposals of five new residential dwellings with associated gardens, shrubs and hardstanding.

Given that the proposals are confined to the Site boundary, and that 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.

A Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment (BNGA) has already been undertaken by Habitat Works Ltd. to formally assess the impacts the proposals have on habitats on the Site. The findings of the BNGA are detailed within the Habitat Works (2026) report '*Reinwood Road, Huddersfield – Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment*'. This identifies opportunities to increase the habitat value on the Site post-development and recommend measures necessary to achieve a 10% gain in-line with government policy.

The following is recommended with regards to protected or notable species:

- Pollution Prevention Measures due to the proximity of the Site to an unidentified stream; and
- Works will follow Best Practice Measures (BPM) should be followed with regards to amphibians, badgers, reptiles and invasive species.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Habitat Works Limited (Habitat Works) was commissioned in July 2025 by HRB Investments to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) for an area of land adjacent to Reinwood Road, Huddersfield, Kirklees, West Yorkshire, HD3 4DS (central Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OS NGR) SE 11809 16804), hereafter referred to as 'the Site'.
- 1.1.2 The Site boundary, taken from Paul Matthews Architectural drawing '*Schematic Site Layout*' (Dwg 26/1317/03A, dated 03/2026), is shown in Figure 1. The PEA was required to inform proposals for the construction of five dwellings with associated gardens, hardstanding and Public Open Space (POS).
- 1.1.3 This report details the findings of a PEA, comprising a data consultation and UK Habitat Classification survey undertaken in July 2025. 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 and the retention and protection of key ecological features. The provision of species-specific enhancements is 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 Ecology Service (WYES) in July 2025 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 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 The Kirklees Biodiversity Action Plan (KBAP) was also consulted for habitats and species afforded particular interest within the local area.
- 2.1.4 Information returned from MAGIC, WYES and the KBAP 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 on the 25th July 2025 by Ecology Team Manager Joe Travis BSc (Hons) MSc ACIEEM and Graduate Ecologist Eleanor Collier 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 KBAP were also noted.
- 2.2.5 Survey findings are detailed in Section 3 and annotated on Figure 1, Target Notes are described in Appendix 2 and 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 and structures within and immediately adjacent 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 nature. 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) were recorded and mapped as seen during the survey.

2.5 Assumptions and Limitations

- 2.5.1 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.
- 2.5.2 In line with CIEEM guidance, this report is valid for a period of 24 months from the date of survey. In the

event that works have not been commenced by July 2027, an update assessment should be undertaken.

3. Findings and Evaluation

3.1 Site Description

- 3.1.1 The Site is located adjacent to Reinwood Road, Huddersfield, Kirklees, West Yorkshire HD3 4DS (central Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OS NGR) SE 11809 16804) and comprises an enclosed natural/semi-natural greenspace which has begun to succeed over with some typical grassland species. The Site location is detailed within Figure 1.
- 3.1.2 The surrounding land use is a combination of recreational and residential areas along with four waterbodies within 500 m of the Site boundary. Several woodlands exist within 2 km of the Site boundary alongside some mixed scrub and arable land.

3.2 Designated Sites

- 3.2.1 A single statutory designated site was identified using MAGIC within 2 km of the Site, relating to Gledholt Wood Local Nature Reserve (LNR).
- 3.2.2 WYES returned a single non-statutory designated site for locations within 2 km of the Site, relating to Huddersfield Narrow Canal Local Wildlife Site (LWS).
- 3.2.3 Table 1 below details the designated sites within 2 km of the Site, while their locations are shown within Figure 2.

Table 1 - Designated Sites within 2 km of the Site

Designated Site	Description from Citation	Approx. Distance & Direction from Site
Statutory		
Gledholt Woods (LNR)	A local nature reserve which contains mature woodland and rough meadow.	600 m east
Non-Statutory		
Huddersfield Narrow Canal (LWS)	Runs for 20 miles between Huddersfield in West Yorkshire and Ashton under Lyne in Greater Manchester, UK. The summit of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal is the highest navigable waterway in Britain. The canal has 74 locks in total and connects end on with the Ashton Canal and the Huddersfield Broad Canal.	1.3 km southwest

- 3.2.4 The designated sites are considered to be of importance to nature conservation at between the local and national level.
- 3.2.5 The Site lies within the SSSI Impact Risk Zones for South Pennine Moors SSSI and Dark Peak (SSSI). The Impact Risk Zones for South Pennine Moors SSSI and Dark Peak SSSI indicate that at the location selected, the proposed development is unlikely to have a harmful effect on the SSSI, and therefore, will not be mentioned further within this report.
- 3.2.6 Two Special Protection Areas (SPA) are present within 10 km of the Site which relate to South Pennine Moors phase 2 located approximately 7.8 km southwest of the Site and Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) located approximately 7.7 km southwest of the Site. A single Special Areas of Conservation

(SAC) is present within 10 km of the Site which relates to South Pennine Moors, located approximately 9 km south of the Site.

- 3.2.7 Given the distance from the Site to the designated sites and SPAs, in conjunction with the fact that the proposals are confined to the Site boundary, it is not considered that any of the designated sites will be impacted by the proposals, and as such, designated sites will not be discussed further within this report.

3.3 Habitats

- 3.3.1 No priority habitats are present within 30 m of the Site from 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. Site photographs are displayed in Appendix 2.

g3c Other neutral grassland

- 3.3.3 The majority of the sward consists of key grassland indicator species such as cocks foot *Dactylis glomerata*, false oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*. A range of other grassland plant species were present including broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, crested dogs-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis* and ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*.
- 3.3.4 Other neutral grassland is not a NERC Act 2006 Section 41 priority habitat nor is it listed within the KBAP. The habitat was considered to be of no greater than site level importance to nature conservation.

g4 Modified grassland

- 3.3.5 A section of poor-quality modified grassland lies on the west side of the Site which has faced more disturbance than the remainder of the Site, often associated with the flytipping of materials from adjacent back yards including rubble piles and trampolines (see Figure 1 - TN1 – TN3).
- 3.3.6 This section of the Site contains species such as bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, cleavers *Galium aparine*, cocks foot *Dactylis glomerata*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, hoary willowherb *Epilobium parviflorum*, hollyhock *Alcea rosea* and spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*.
- 3.3.7 Modified grassland is not a NERC Act 2006 Section 41 priority habitat nor are they listed within the KBAP. The habitat was 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 46 records of amphibians for locations within 2 km of the Site, all of which are historic (outwith the last 10 years), comprising 28 records of common toads *Bufo bufo*, 16 records of common frog *Rana temporaria* and two records of palmate newt *Lissotriton helveticus*. The closest record pertains to a common frog located approximately 800 m north of the Site in 2003.
- 3.4.2 No GCN EPS licence or GCN Class Survey Licence Returns were identified within 2 km of the Site. No GCN Pond Surveys 2017 – 2019 were undertaken 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 Four waterbodies are present within 500 m of the Site from a search of Ordnance Survey, all of which are located outwith 250 m of the Site (Figure 3).

- 3.4.5 No ponds or other water features were identified on the Site. Four small ponds are located to the east and northeast of the Site within 500 m but their distance from the Site and the surrounding habitat types make GCN presence on the Site unlikely. However, it should be noted that unidentified ponds/water features may exist within the wider area (within 250 m of the Site). 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 palmate 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).
- 3.4.6 The terrestrial habitats on the Site are of limited suitability for GCN and common amphibians, with the habitats present on the Site limited in size and offering little sheltering or foraging potential. There are several rubble piles present on the Site (Figure 1 – TN1, TN2) along with two trampolines (Figure 1 - TN1, TN3) which offer some sheltering opportunities for amphibian species. This area is however small in scale, and located in the southwestern section of the Site, closest to human disturbance from the adjacent residential properties.
- 3.4.7 Given the limited suitability of terrestrial habitats present on the Site, and the absence of good aquatic habitats present on the Site or within 250 m of the Site and limited records within 2 km of the Site provided by WYES, it is considered that GCN are likely absent from the Site and will not be discussed further within this report.
- 3.4.8 The presence of common amphibian species, albeit unlikely, 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 aquatic habitat) in the wider area.

Badger

- 3.4.9 Due to the persecution of badgers, specific, confidential records have not been provided. However, WYES have confirmed that there are no known badger records within 200 m of the Site. Additionally, WYES confirmed that the nearest sett record is 1.2 km from the Site. WYES considered the Site location to falls within the area of '*increased probability of badger activity*'.
- 3.4.10 No evidence of badger was recorded on the Site during the survey. The Site offers limited sett building potential, such as denser areas of vegetation. The Site habitats are mostly flat further reducing the likelihood of badger establishing a sett on the Site. The Site is securely fenced off creating an access barrier for badgers looking to commute or establish a sett on the Site. The Site offers limited opportunities in comparison to other habitats within 2 km which include woodland which is more typically favoured by badgers when establishing a sett.
- 3.4.11 Badger foraging habitat is limited on Site with areas of fenced off grassland. Badgers are unlikely to cross the Site due to its fenced off nature and given the lack of suitable sett building areas and poor-quality foraging habitat, the Site is considered to be of limited value to badgers and no impacts are anticipated to result from the development as proposed.
- 3.4.12 Given the lack of field signs from walkover survey and the limited scale of the 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

- 3.4.13 WYES returned a total of 82 bats records, 58 of which are historic, for locations within 2 km of the Site. Of these records, five of which are historic, 26 relate to roosts, which include 14 common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus*

pipistrellus roosts, five unidentified pipistrelle *Pipistrellus* sp. roosts, and seven unidentified bat species. The closest record pertains to an unidentified pipistrelle roost located approximately 250 m northeast of the Site in 2019.

- 3.4.14 The remaining records relate to 11 foraging records which include two Leisler's bat *Nyctalus leisleri*, a single Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii*, a single soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, a single myotis bat species *Myotis* Sp. and six unidentified pipistrelle. A further two records pertain to flying which relates to noctule bat *Nyctalus noctula* and an unidentified pipistrelle. Approximately 37 records pertain to unidentified bat activities. The closest record relates to an unidentified pipistrelle located approximately 250 m northeast of the Site in 2009. The closest recent record pertains to an unidentified pipistrelle located approximately 850 m northeast of the Site in 2021.
- 3.4.15 West Yorkshire Bat Group (WYBG) returned 38 bat records, 26 of which are historic, for locations within 2 km of the Site. 20 of these records, all of which are historic, relate to roosts, which include four common pipistrelle roosts, ten vesper bat species *Vespertilionidae* and six unidentified bat species. The closest record pertains to a vesper bat species located approximately 600 m northeast of the Site in 2004.
- 3.4.16 The remaining records pertain to unidentified bat species. The closest record relates to an unidentified pipistrelle located approximately 300 m north of the Site in 2006. The closest recent record pertains to a brown long eared bat *Plecotus auritus* located approximately 900 m south of the Site in 2018.
- 3.4.17 A total of three EPS licences relating to bats were identified using MAGIC with 2 km of the Site. The first of these relates to the destruction of a common pipistrelle resting place. This licence was active between 2009 – 2011 which was located approximately 750 m north of the Site (EPSM2009-1162). The second EPS licence relates to the destruction of a common pipistrelle resting place. This licence was active between 2013 – 2014 which was located approximately 750 m north of the Site (EPSM2012-5292). The final EPS licence relates to the damage and destruction of common pipistrelle resting place. The licence was active between 2014-2015 and was located approximately 1.4 km southeast of the Site (2014-1010-EPS-MIT).
- 3.4.18 There are no suitable structures or features present on the Site that have potential to support roosting bats and as such, roosting bats are considered absent from the Site.
- 3.4.19 The Site offers limited potential for foraging and commuting bats, due to the limited extent and low quality of the habitats present which are dominated by grassland. The boundary features to the north of the Site and the residential properties to the west provide some foraging and commuting suitability, however the wider local landscape has habitats of greater quality for commuting and foraging bats, such as woodland edges, areas of scrub, and as such local bats are considered unlikely to be reliant on the limited habitats present on the Site.
- 3.4.20 Overall, the Site is considered to be of negligible suitability for commuting and foraging bats (Collins, 2023), and the habitats on the Site are considered to be of no more than site level importance for foraging and commuting bats.

Birds

- 3.4.21 WYES returned a total of 34 records comprising 17 bird species for locations within 2 km of the Site. Species returned include two Schedule 1 bird species, as listed within the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA 1981), seven Red, nine Amber and a single Green listed BoCC species. Bird species recorded within 2 km of the Site are summarised in Appendix 3.
- 3.4.22 The Site is unlikely to support ground nesting birds due to its limited size and overlooked nature, being

surrounded by residential buildings which provide vantage points to predatory birds such as corvids. Additionally, pets, such as cats and dogs, may also pose a threat to ground nesting birds as the Site is in a residential area with recreational land and footpaths bordering its boundary. No ground nesting species were observed on the day of the survey and ground nesting birds are not considered to be a likely receptor in relation to the development as proposed.

- 3.4.23 There is a line of conifers located along the southern boundary of the Site with some limited potential to support nesting birds, however these are anticipated to be retained as per the proposals. The habitats on the Site suitable for nesting birds are limited in scale and quality in comparison to habitats in the wider local area which contains large areas of more optimal habitat to nesting birds including areas of woodland and scrub, the Site is considered to be of importance to breeding birds at site level.

Invertebrates

- 3.4.24 WYES returned a total of five records, all of which have unknown dates, comprising of five invertebrate species including aphodius conspurcatus *Chilothorax conspurcatus*, aphodius merdarius *Esymus merdarius*, elodes minuta *Elodes minutus*, poplar borer *Saperda carcharias*, and cinnabar *Tyria jacobaeae*. The closest record pertains to aphodius merdarius and poplar borer located approximately 700 m southeast of the Site.
- 3.4.25 The habitats on the Site are unlikely to have offered opportunities for invertebrates, as the flora present was not considered to offer the variety in species, structural diversity and habitat interfaces that would be necessary to support diverse communities of terrestrial invertebrates, especially given the habitat is common and widespread in the local area. The variety of plant species and structures present are sub-optimal overall and unlikely to support notable species or large invertebrate populations but may contribute to foraging opportunities for common species.
- 3.4.26 As the wider area surrounding the Site contains extensive areas of habitat of equal or greater value and due to the limited landtake of habitats required to facilitate the development, the favourable conservation status of the local invertebrate population is unlikely to be impacted by the works.

Reptiles

- 3.4.27 WYES returned one record of reptiles for locations within 2 km of the Site, which is dated 1889. This record comprised one grass snake *Natrix helvetica* which was located approximately 1188 m east of the Site. Due to the age of this record and the absence of recent records, it is unlikely that reptiles are present on Site.
- 3.4.28 However, habitats on the Site currently offer some suitability for sheltering reptiles with the Site including several rubble piles and mounds of grass clippings (Figure 1 – TN1, TN2, TN4). These features are located in the southwestern section of the Site, closest to human disturbance from the adjacent residential properties. Grass snakes typically prefer grassland, garden and wetland habitats but the grassland habitats present on the Site are considered sub-optimal for this species due to presence of nearby human disturbance, although this disturbance is restricted due to the Site being fenced off.
- 3.4.29 Given the absence of recent records, the limited suitability and extent of habitats on the Site, and the overall land use of the surrounding area, it is considered that the Site is of no greater than site level importance for reptiles.

Riparian Mammals and White-clawed Crayfish

- 3.4.30 WYES returned no records of riparian mammals for locations within 2 km of the Site.
- 3.4.31 WYES returned six records of white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* for locations within 2 km of

the Site. Of these records, all are historic (1990-1995) and relate to the same location 1469 m east of the Site.

- 3.4.32 Given the absence of watercourses within 30 m of the Site boundary, it is considered that riparian mammals and white-clawed crayfish are not a receptor to the proposals, and as such will not be discussed further within this report.

Other Notable and Key Species

Hedgehog

- 3.4.20 WYES returned no records of European hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* for locations within 2 km of the Site.
- 3.4.21 The Site has some suitability for hedgehog, with sections of modified grassland offering some foraging opportunities that may be part of a wider foraging resource with habitats of greater size and quality present in the local area. Hedgehogs are highly mobile species it is possible that they could also occasionally commute across the Site to more suitable neighbouring habitats.
- 3.4.22 Based on the relatively limited value of habitats on Site together with the availability of more suitable habitat associated in the wider area, Site habitats are considered unlikely to be of more than site level importance to hedgehogs.

3.5 Invasive Species

- 3.5.1 WYES returned 50 records of invasive species, 26 of which are historic. Species include curly waterweed *Lagarosiphon major*, eastern grey squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*, Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*, Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*, Rhododendron ponticum *Rhododendron ponticum*, signal crayfish *Pacifastacus leniusculus*, and wall cotoneaster *Cotoneaster horizontalis*. The closest record relates to eastern grey squirrel located approximately 600 m east of the Site in 2021.

4. Impact Assessment, Mitigation and Enhancements

4.1 Proposals

- 4.1.1 Proposals for the Site comprise the partial removal of 'Other neutral grassland' to be replaced by five new residential dwellings and associated gardens, shrubs and hardstanding. These proposals are detailed within the Paul Matthews drawing 'Schematic Site Layout' (Dwg 26/1317/03A, dated 03/2026).

4.2 Habitats

- 4.2.1 Given that the proposals are confined to the Site boundary, and that 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) has already been undertaken by Habitat Works Ltd. to formally assess the impacts the proposals have on habitats on the Site. The findings of the BNGA are detailed within the Habitat Works (2025) report 'Reinwood Road, Huddersfield – Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment'. This identifies opportunities to increase the habitat value on the Site post-development and recommend measures necessary to achieve a 10% gain in-line with government policy.

4.3 Protected Species

Amphibians

- 4.3.1 GCN are protected under the WCA 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (Amendment) (EU Exit) 2019 and are a European Protected Species ("EPS").
- 4.3.2 Common amphibians are protected under the WCA 1981 (as amended) against sale, barter or exchange of captive animals.
- 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. Any debris present on the Site (TN1) should be dismantled by hand or using hand tools to minimise the potential for harm to common amphibians should they be sheltering within such features. 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.
- 4.3.4 In the extremely unlikely event of discovering a GCN on the Site during works, works should cease immediately, and an ecologist should be contacted for further advice.

Badger

- 4.3.5 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.
- 4.3.6 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 the following Best Practice Measures be implemented throughout the works to protect badgers, should they subsequently pass through these areas of the Site. The BPM measures to be followed 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 act as an escape ramp, allowing 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 off its own volition. The ecologist will be contacted for advice; and,
- If badgers are suspected to be associated with the Site once construction has 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.

4.3.7 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 treelines or scrub lines to allow badgers to continue to use such habitats for foraging and commuting where present locally.

Bats

- 4.3.8 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).
- 4.3.9 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.
- 4.3.10 Barbastelle *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.
- 4.3.11 The connectivity of the Site to the wider area through vegetated habitat is not considered to be negatively impacted due to the limited scale of the proposals, in addition to the presence of higher quality foraging and commuting habitat in the wider landscape. Additionally, the proposals include the sowing of a flowering grass mix in the proposed areas of Public Open Space (POS), in addition to the planting of individual trees and scrub which will increase the value of the Site with respects to foraging bats. As such, further survey in this instance is not considered to be necessary with respect to foraging and commuting bats.
- 4.3.12 Bat species in the UK are known to be impacted by artificial lighting. In order to avoid impacts associated with artificial light spill on bat flight-lines or foraging habitat, mitigation measures should be implemented whereby the lighting of the proposed development (as well as any temporary lighting to be used during the construction phase) should be designed to avoid light-spill onto suitable surrounding habitats (in particular the site boundary habitats) to safeguard these as foraging and commuting opportunities. It is not anticipated that any additional lighting will be installed on the Site as part of the proposals.

- 4.3.13 As an enhancement for local bats, it is recommended that a minimum of five integrated bat boxes should be incorporated into newly constructed buildings. The model of boxes used should be an integrated bat box 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, facing southern aspects to maximise chances of occupation.

Birds

- 4.3.14 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.
- 4.3.15 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 higher quality habitat for nesting birds in the wider area.
- 4.3.16 To minimise the risk of committing an offence in relation to nesting birds, clearance of any dense vegetation or trees should be programmed to be between September and February inclusive, i.e. to avoid the bird breeding season. If this is not possible, then a nesting bird check (to be undertaken by a suitably experienced ecologist) will be required within 48 hours of habitat removal. If an active nest is found during a nesting bird check, there will be a requirement to establish an exclusion zone around the nest (in consultation with the ecologist) which should be maintained until it has been demonstrated that all fledglings have left the nest and the nest is no longer active. This may require monitoring for periods of at least up to a month dependent on nesting stage. Repeat visits will be required if vegetation removal is not completed within the 48 hour timeframe after the initial nesting bird check.
- 4.3.17 It is recommended that integrated bird nest boxes should be incorporated into each of the proposed houses as a positive enhancement for nature conservation (five total). 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

- 4.3.18 Many invertebrate species are listed under Section 41 of NERC act (2006) designating them as Species of Principal Importance in England.
- 4.3.19 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.
- 4.3.20 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.
- 4.3.21 Further enhancements for the Site with regards to invertebrates would be to incorporate bee bricks into the new properties. 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

- 4.3.22 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.
- 4.3.23 The site is considered unlikely to support reptile species due to the poor suitability of the grassland habitat present on site and the lack of habitat structures and features across the site. The loss of habitat required to accommodate the proposed stable block is minimal and considered unlikely to impact upon reptiles at greater than the site level.
- 4.3.24 In the unlikely event that reptiles are present on site, the BMP measured outlined within this report for amphibians will also help to protect any reptiles present on the Site and should be followed as a precaution.
- 4.3.25 The following BPM should be with regards to reptiles:
- 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. scrub habitats/off-site woodland edge, 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.

Other Notable and Priority Species

Hedgehog

- 4.3.26 Hedgehog are included as a species of principal importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006. Whilst not afforded a high level of protection, hedgehogs have experienced significant declines in the UK population. Taking a best practice approach, avoiding harm to hedgehogs should be taken into consideration during works.
- 4.3.27 The proposals on the Site is not considered to significantly impact upon hedgehog of more than site level importance.
- 4.3.28 Hedgehogs are a highly mobile species and have the potential to disperse on to the Site from suitable habitats. BPM should be followed:
- Maintaining vigilance for hedgehogs at all times during the works;
 - Allow any hedgehogs to move away from the Site of their own volition. Should a hedgehog be in immediate danger, they should be picked up by gloved hand and placed in an area of suitable shelter and safety away from the proposed works;

- If any excavations are to be left uncovered overnight, a suitable escape ramp (e.g. a long scaffolding board) should be placed within the excavation to allow a hedgehog to escape in event an individual should fall in;
- If hedgehog is encountered between November and March or juveniles are encountered the ecologist should be contact for advice immediately as there are periods when individuals are at most risk to disturbance; and,
- Safeguards outlined for amphibians, reptiles and badgers will further help to safeguard small mammals, including hedgehogs in the event that they are present during Site clearance works.

4.3.29 To maintain avoid fragmentation of habitat for hedgehogs by the proposals, it is recommended that hedgehog highways are installed within the garden fencing to all accessibility for individual hedgehogs across the Site and throughout the wider landscape. These holes should be 13 x 13 cm in the fence line, and should be situated around suitable habitat and not leading directly onto roads. The locations of these holes should be agreed upon in consultation with an ecologist.

5. References

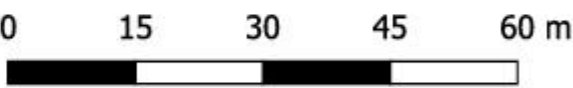
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Figure 1. UK Habitat Baseline Habitats Map



Legend

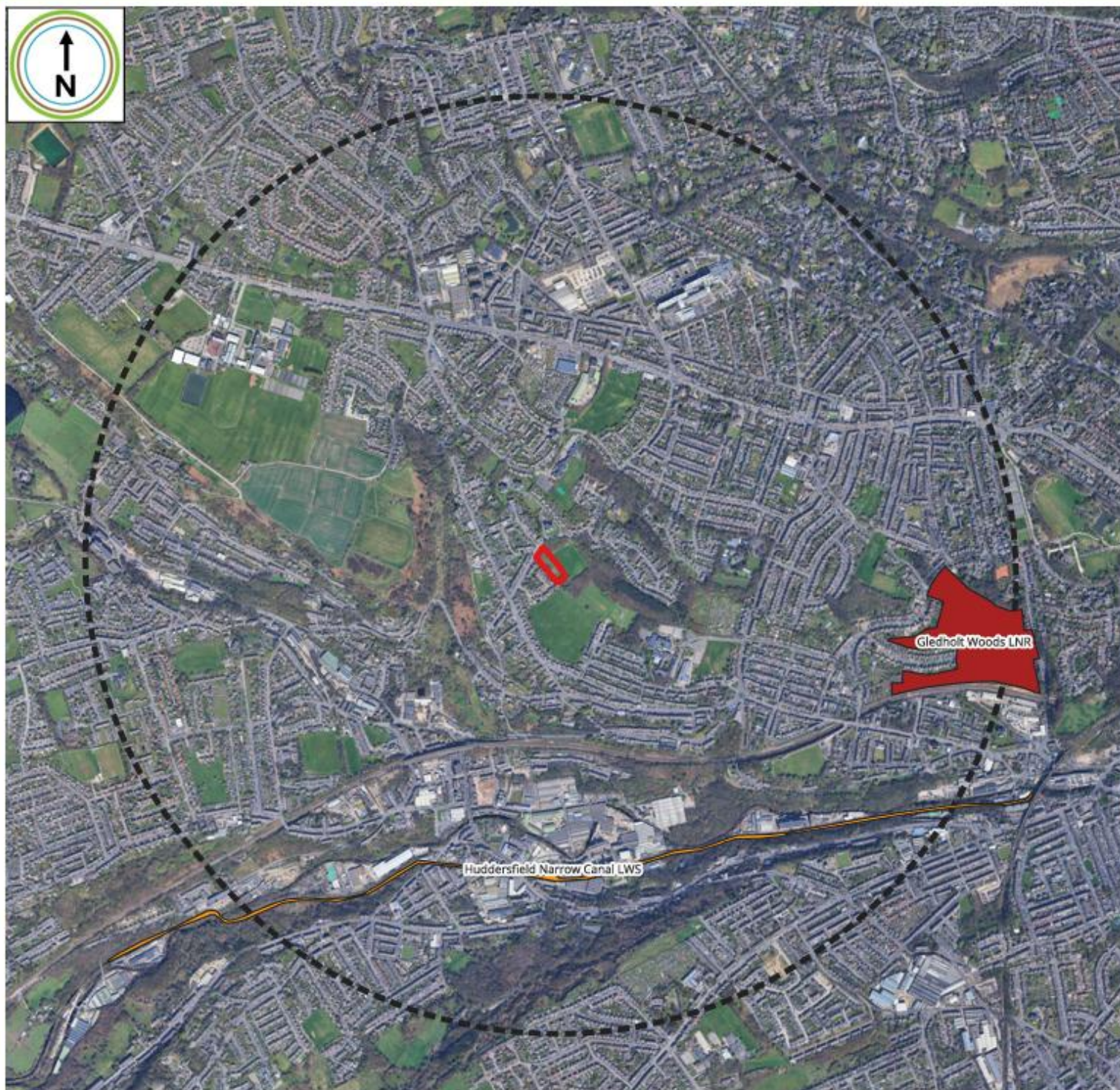
-  Site Boundary
-  Fence
- Ukhab Habitats
 -  Grassland - Other neutral grassland
 -  Grassland - Modified grassland



HRB Investments
Reinwood Road, Huddersfield

Figure 1
UkHab Habitats Map

Figure 2. Designated Sites Map



Legend

 Site Boundary

 2 km Buffer

Designated Sites

 Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

 Local Wildlife Site (LWS)

0 300 600 900 1,200 m



HABITAT WORKS

HRB Investments

Reinwood Road, Huddersfield

Figure 2
Designated Sites within 2 km of the Site

Figure 3 – Waterbodies within 500 m of the Site



Legend

-  Site Boundary
-  250 m Buffer
-  500 m Buffer
-  Waterbodies

0 100 200 300 400 m



HABITAT WORKS

HRB Investments

Reinwood Road, Huddersfield

Figure 3
Waterbodies within 500 m of the Site

Appendix 1. Target notes

TN1 – Trampoline and Rubble Pile

TN2 – Rubble Pile and Wooden Planks

TN3 – Trampoline

TN4 – Fenced-off Area Containing Fence Reels and Grass Cuttings

Appendix 2. Site Photographs



Photograph 1 – Trampoline and Rubble Piles (TN1)



Photograph 2 – Rubble Pile (TN2)



Photograph 3 – Trampoline (TN3)



Photograph 4 – Fenced-off Area Containing Fence Reels and Grass Cuttings (TN4)

Appendix 3. Bird Species Records Summary

Common Name	Scientific Name	BoCC Status
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Schedule 1, Amber
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Schedule 1, Red
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Red
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Red
Tree Creeper	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Red
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Amber
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Amber
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Amber
Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Green