Newsome Mill, Huddersfield

Nocturnal Bat Survey Report

HABITAT WORKS

September 2026

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Report Title: Newsome Mill, Huddesfield
Nocturnal Bat Survey Report

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Executive Summary

Habitat Works Limited (Habitat Works) was commissioned by GK Construction to undertake a nocturnal bat survey of the former Newsome Mill buildings, located off Ruth Street, Newsome, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire (central Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OS NGR) SE 14369 14859), hereafter referred to as 'the Site'.

The Site is the former Newsome Mill complex comprising a range of stone built former mill buildings and outbuildings in various states of disrepair. The central clock tower (B1) is a prominent feature in the local landscape, while a further four buildings are associated with the Site, as displayed within Figure 1.

The recommendation for further bat surveys was made by JCA Ltd following a Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) of the Site, detailed within the report '*Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report at: Newsome Mills, 4 Ruth Street, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD4 6JF'* dated February 2026. The PEA found that the clocktower (B1) was of 'High' suitability to support roosting bats in line with good practice guidelines, whereas Buildings 2-5 were all considered to be '*Moderate*' suitability (Collins, 2023; JCA Ltd, 2026).

As the buildings are considered to be of either '*High*' or '*Moderate*' suitability for roosting bats, a total of three and two nocturnal surveys have been undertaken respectively to confirm presence/likely absence of roosting bats, in line with good practice guidelines (Collins, 2023). The surveys did not find any evidence of roosting bats within any of the buildings on the Site and as such, it is considered that the buildings are likely absent of roosting bats.

Bats are highly transient, and as such, there is potential for individuals to utilise the PRFs on the Site in the future, despite the surveys concluding likely absence of bats in the buildings in line with good practice guidance (Collins, 2023). In the event that bats are found or suspected to be resident within the building during works, works should cease immediately, and an ecologist should be contacted for further advice.

It is it is recommended that a minimum of a two integrated bat boxes should be incorporated into each of the new proposed blocks (eight total) 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.

1. Introduction

1.1 *Background*

1.1.1 Habitat Works Limited (Habitat Works) was commissioned by GK Construction to undertake a nocturnal bat survey of the former Newsome Mill buildings, located off Ruth Street, Newsome, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire (central Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OS NGR) SE 14369 14859), hereafter referred to as 'the Site' and as displayed in Figure 1.

1.1.2 The Site is the former Newsome Mill complex comprising a range of stone built former mill buildings and outbuildings in various states of disrepair. The central clock tower (B1) is a prominent feature in the local landscape, while a further four buildings are associated with the Site, as displayed within Figure 1.

1.1.3 The recommendation for further bat surveys was made by JCA Ltd following a Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) of the Site, detailed within the report '*Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report at: Newsome Mills, 4 Ruth Street, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD4 6JF'* dated February 2026. The PEA found that the clocktower (B1) was of 'High' suitability to support roosting bats in line with good practice guidelines, whereas Buildings 2-5 were all considered to be '*Moderate*' suitability (Collins, 2023; JCA Ltd, 2026).

1.1.4 This report details the findings of the bat surveys, the suite of emergence surveys undertaken in the 2026 bat activity season to confirm presence/likely absence of roosting bats from the buildings. 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.

1.1.5 Recommendations are made in terms of impacts of the proposed development through habitat losses/potential gains on the Site post-development and the retention and protection of key ecological features.

2. Methodology

2.1 *Nocturnal Bat Surveys*

2.1.1 As the buildings are considered to be either '*High*' or '*Moderate*' suitability for roosting bats, a total of three and two emergence surveys respectively are required to confirm the presence/likely absence of roosting bats from the buildings in line with good practice guidance (Collins, 2023). The surveys were led by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist and assisted by experienced bat surveyors positioned to ensure coverage of all aspects of the building which displayed suitability for roosting bats.

2.1.2 Surveyors used a combination of visual assessment and detection using industry-standard recordable ultrasonic bat detectors and night vision aids (NVAs), comprising a combination of Pixfra Arc A613 thermal cameras and NightFox inbuilt infra-red cameras. Surveyors recorded the species and number of bats using any roost features within the buildings (where present) and recorded incidental bat activity observed in the locality during the survey period. The dusk emergence surveys commenced 15 minutes prior to sunset and finished 1.5 hours after sunset. The surveys were conducted during a period where the weather conditions were predominantly dry, with relatively low winds and temperatures in excess of 10°C.

2.1.3 The nocturnal surveys were digitally recorded to allow bat echolocation calls to be analysed using Kaleidoscope sound analysis software, with species identification confirmed with reference to bat call parameters presented in '*British Bat Calls: A Guide to Species Identification*' (Russ, 2021) as required. Video recordings were also taken to give greater confidence in the results of the surveys, allowing the option to view the footage post survey to review key moments or any events flagged by the surveyor during the survey. Darkest point photographs of the NVAs are provided within Appendix 1 as per good practice guidance.

2.1.4 Details for the emergence surveys are shown below in Table 1, with surveyor locations and bat activity findings illustrated in Figures 2a-2h.

Table 1 – Nocturnal Bat Survey Details

Survey	Date/Time	Surveyors	Air Temp (°C)	General Conditions	Detector Type
Building (B) 1 (Visit (V) 1)	14/07/2026 21:16 – 23:04 hrs Sunset: 21:31 hrs	**JT,** CW	Start: 19 End: 17	100 % cloud cover; Beaufort Scale: 12; dry	Echo Meter Touch 2 Pro
B3 (V1)	20/07/2026 21:09 – 22:54: hrs Sunset: 21:24 hrs	**JT,** CW	Start: 19 End: 17	0 % cloud cover; Beaufort Scale: 1; dry	Echo Meter Touch 2 Pro
B2 (V1) & B5 (V1)	29/07/2026 20:54 – 22:39: hrs Sunset: 21:09 hrs	**JT,** AB, CB, WK	Start: 21 End: 19	20 % cloud cover; Beaufort Scale: 1; dry	Echo Meter Touch 2 Pro
B1 (V2)	06/08/2026 20:39 – 22:24 hrs	**JT,** MP	Start: 14 End: 13	10 % cloud cover; Beaufort Scale: 0; dry	Echo Meter Touch 2 Pro

	Sunset: 20:54 hrs				
B4 (V1)	10/08/2026 20:30 – 22:15 hrs Sunset: 20:45 hrs	AB, WK, AS, MP	Start: 17 End: 16	10 % cloud cover; Beaufort Scale: 1; dry	Echo Meter Touch 2 Pro
B5 (V2)	24/08/2026 20:01 – 21:46 hrs Sunset: 20:16 hrs	WK, MP	Start: 16 End: 14	0 % cloud cover; Beaufort Scale: 2; dry	Echo Meter Touch 2 Pro
B2 (V2) & B3 (V2)	25/08/2026 20:00 – 21:45 hrs Sunset: 20:15 hrs	**StS,** AB, CB SoS	Start: 17 End: 16	10 % cloud cover; Beaufort Scale: 3; dry	Echo Meter Touch 2 Pro
B1 (V3) B4 (V2)	02/09/2026 19:39 – 21:24 hrs Sunset: 19:54 hrs	NB, CB, CW, WK, MP, CL	Start: 19 End: 16	100 % cloud cover; Beaufort Scale: 3; dry	Echo Meter Touch 2 Pro

*Surveyors (Licenced bat surveyors in bold): **StS – Stuart Silver MCIEEM (Bat Licence Ref. 2015-14674-CLS-CLS)**, **JT – Joe Travis ACIEEM (Bat Licence Ref. 2024-11983-CL18-BAT)**, AB - Ashleigh Brentnall, AS – Alice Shaw, CW – Charlotte West, SoS – Sophie Silver, WJ – Wojciech Kaim, MP – Madisyn Pett, Christopher Birkinshaw, NB – Nicholas Birkinshaw, CL – Cameron Lane

2.2 *Assumptions and Limitations*

2.2.1 In line with CIEEM guidance, this report is valid for a period of 12 months. In the event that works have not been commenced by September 2027, an update assessment should be undertaken.

2.2.2 During a small number of the surveys, infra-red night vision aids failed to appropriately illuminate the building as the conditions became darker. This is however not considered to be a significant limitation to the survey due to the presence of other surveyors and additional NVAs present across the Site, which would provide adequate coverage throughout the survey.

3. Findings and Evaluation

3.1 *Site Description*

3.1.1 The Site is located approximately 1.4 km south of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. The Site is currently a disused former mill which includes large areas of other neutral grassland located to the centre of the Site boundary, surrounded by mixed scrub and woodlands. To the north of the Site, there is a tarmac public path which leads to residential properties.

3.1.2 Much of the Site is surrounded by residential properties and associated gardens. The River Holme is located approximately 600 m northwest of the Site.

3.2 *Nocturnal Bat Surveys*

3.2.1 The suite of bat surveys undertaken throughout the 2026 bat activity season to confirm presence/likely absence of roosting bats are detailed below, with survey findings detailed within figures 2a-2h and Darkest Point NVA photos detailed within Appendix 1.

14th July 2026 - Building 1 (V1)

3.2.2 No roosting bats were recorded roosting in Building 1 during the survey (Figure 2a).

3.2.3 The first bat was recorded at 21:57 hrs (26 minutes after sunset) and pertained to a common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* recorded foraging over vegetation the southwest corner of the Site on the woodland edge. Throughout the survey, common pipistrelle was recorded regularly on the habitats on the Site, including on the vegetation present within the former Building 4 (which is currently remnant external walls only). Additionally to common pipistrelle, noctule *Nyctalus noctula* were recorded during the survey, however these were not seen in flight by the surveyors.

3.2.4 The final bat was recorded at 22:54 hrs (83 minutes after sunset) pertaining to a common pipistrelle not seen in flight by any of the surveyors.

20th July 2026 – Building 3 (V1)

3.2.5 No roosting bats were recorded roosting in Building 3 during the survey (Figure 2b).

3.2.6 The first bat was recorded at 21:47 hrs (25 minutes after sunset) and pertained to a common pipistrelle recorded flying northwards between Building 3 and Building 4. Throughout the survey, common pipistrelle was recorded regularly on the habitats on the Site, and along the street off-site. Activity was most commonly recorded over the habitats on the Site, however not associated with the buildings. Only common pipistrelle were recorded during the survey.

3.2.7 The final bat was recorded at 22:37 hrs (75 minutes after sunset) pertaining to a common pipistrelle not seen in flight by any of the surveyors.

29th July 2026 – Building 2 (V1) & Building 5 (V1)

3.2.8 No roosting bats were recorded roosting in either Building 2 or Building 5 during the survey (Figure 2c).

3.2.9 The first bat was recorded at 21:35 hrs (26 minutes after sunset) and pertained to a common pipistrelle recorded entering the Site from the off-site woodland to the southwest of the Site before foraging over habitats to the north of the buildings. Common pipistrelle activity was throughout the survey, however this was mainly recorded over the habitats to the north of the buildings and not associated with the buildings themselves. The final bat was recorded at 22:37 hrs (88 minutes after sunset) pertaining to a common

pipistrelle foraging over habitats to the north of the buildings.

6th August 2026 – Building 1 (V2)

3.2.10 No roosting bats were recorded roosting in Building 1 during the survey (Figure 2d).

3.2.11 The first bat was recorded at 21:14 hrs (20 minutes after sunset) and pertained to a common pipistrelle travelling southwards between B1 and B5, entering the Site from the off-site woodland to the southwest of the Site. Common pipistrelle activity was throughout the survey, repeatedly observed foraging over the woodland edge habitats to the southwest of the Site. The final bat was recorded at 22:24 hrs (90 minutes after sunset) pertaining to a common pipistrelle foraging along the woodland edge.

10th August 2026 – Building 4 (V1)

3.2.12 No roosting bats were recorded roosting in Building 4 during the survey (Figure 2e).

3.2.13 The first bat was recorded at 21:05 hrs (20 minutes after sunset) and pertained to a common pipistrelle which was not seen in flight by the surveyors. The first bat observed in flight relates to a common pipistrelle recorded at 21:06 hrs (21 minutes after sunset) observed flying eastwards across the Site from the off-site woodland, before foraging over habitats to the north of B4. Common pipistrelle were recorded throughout the survey, while the occasional noctule passes were also recorded, however none of the noctule recordings were observed in flight by any of the surveyors.

3.2.14 The final bat recorded during the survey was at 22:14 hrs (89 minutes after sunset) pertaining to a common pipistrelle which was not observed in flight by any of the surveyors.

24th August – Building 5 (V2)

3.2.15 No roosting bats were recorded roosting in Building 5 during the survey (Figure 2f).

3.2.16 The first bat was recorded at 20:36 hrs (21 minutes after sunset) and pertained to a common pipistrelle travelling southwards between B1 and B5, entering the Site from the off-site woodland to the southwest of the Site. Common pipistrelle activity was throughout the survey, repeatedly observed foraging over the woodland edge habitats to the southwest of the Site. The final bat was recorded at 21:31 hrs (76 minutes after sunset) pertaining to a common pipistrelle foraging along the woodland edge.

25th August 2026 – Building 2 (V2) & Building 3 (V2)

3.2.17 No roosting bats were recorded roosting in either Building 2 or Building 3 during the survey (Figure 2g).

3.2.18 The first bat was recorded at 20:27 hrs (12 minutes after sunset) and pertained to a common pipistrelle which was not seen in flight by the surveyors. The first bat observed in flight relates to a common pipistrelle recorded at 21:35 hrs (20 minutes after sunset) observed foraging over habitats to the east of B2. Common pipistrelle were recorded throughout the survey, while the occasional noctule passes were also recorded, however none of the noctule recordings were observed in flight by any of the surveyors.

3.2.19 The final bat recorded during the survey was at 21:20 hrs (65 minutes after sunset) pertaining to a common pipistrelle which was not observed in flight by any of the surveyors.

2nd September 2026 – Building 1 (V3) & Building 4 (V2)

3.2.20 No roosting bats were recorded roosting in either Building 1 or Building 4 during the survey (Figure 2h).

3.2.21 The first bat was recorded at 20:07 hrs (13 minutes after sunset) and pertained to a common pipistrelle recorded over the road travelling westwards, not associated with the Site. Common pipistrelle activity was throughout the survey, however this was mainly recorded over the habitats to the north of the buildings and not associated with the buildings themselves.

3.2.22 The final bat was recorded at 21:02 hrs (68 minutes after sunset) pertaining to a common pipistrelle not seen in flight by any of the surveyors.

4. Impact Assessment and Enhancements

4.1 *Proposals*

4.1.1 Proposals for the Site comprise the construction of a new housing development and associated landscaping and access. These proposals and drawings are detailed within the Triangle Architects drawing '*Proposed Site Plan (Shared Surface)*' (DWG ref. NSM-TRI-ZZ-ZZ-DR-A-2017, dated August 2023).

4.2 *Legislation*

4.2.1 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).

4.2.2 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.

4.2.3 Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*, Bechstein's *Myotis bechsteinii*, brown long-eared bat, greater horseshoe *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, lesser horseshoe *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, noctule and soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* bats are included as priority species under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006.

4.3 *Assessment*

4.3.1 As the buildings are considered to be of either '*High*' or '*Moderate*' suitability for roosting bats, a total of three and two nocturnal surveys have been undertaken respectively to confirm presence/likely absence of roosting bats, in line with good practice guidelines (Collins, 2023). The surveys did not find any evidence of roosting bats within any of the buildings on the Site and as such, it is considered that the buildings are likely absent of roosting bats.

4.3.2 Bats are highly transient, and as such, there is potential for individuals to utilise the PRFs on the Site in the future, despite the surveys concluding likely absence of bats in the buildings in line with good practice guidance (Collins, 2023). In the event that bats are found or suspected to be resident within the building during works, works should cease immediately, and an ecologist should be contacted for further advice.

4.3.3 It is it is recommended that a minimum of a two integrated bat boxes should be incorporated into each of the new proposed blocks (eight total) 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.

5. References

Collins, J. (2023) '*Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (4th edn)'. The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Russ, J. (2021). '*Bat Calls of Britian and Europe: A Guide to Species Identification'*. Pelagic Publishing, London. ISBN 9781784272258.

Figure 1. Nocturnal Bat Survey Results



Legend

Building

0 5 10 15 20 m

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Figure 1
Building Reference Map

Figures 2a-2h – Survey Results Map



Legend

- Building
- Surveyor Positions

Night Vision Aids

- Thermal

Bat Flight Paths

- Common pipistrelle

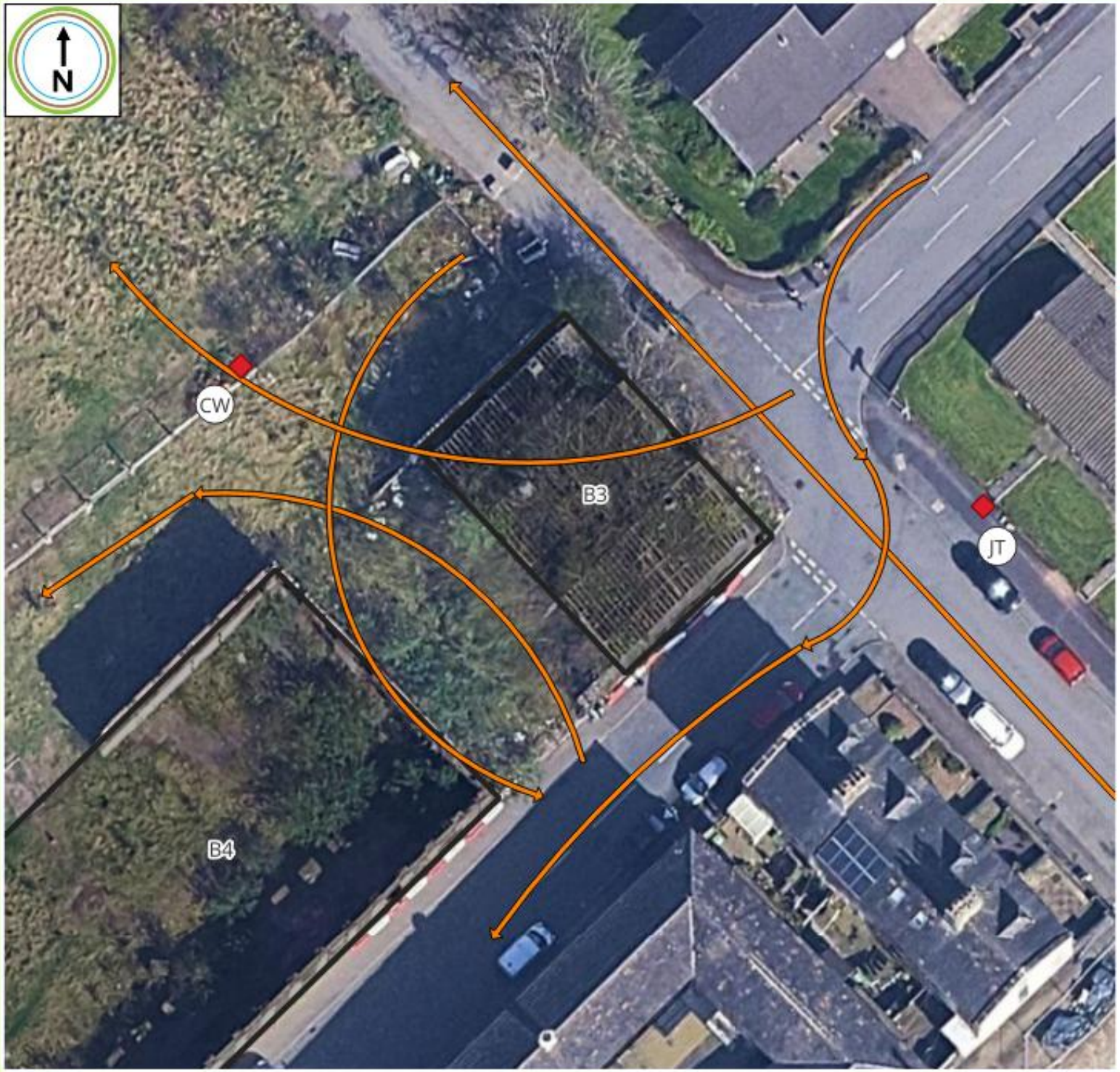
0 5 10 15 20 m

HABITAT WORKS

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Newsome Mill, Huddersfield

Figure 2a
Survey Results - B1 (V1) - 14.07.2026



Legend

- Building
- Surveyor Positions

Night Vision Aids

- Infra-red

Bat Flight Paths

- Common pipistrelle

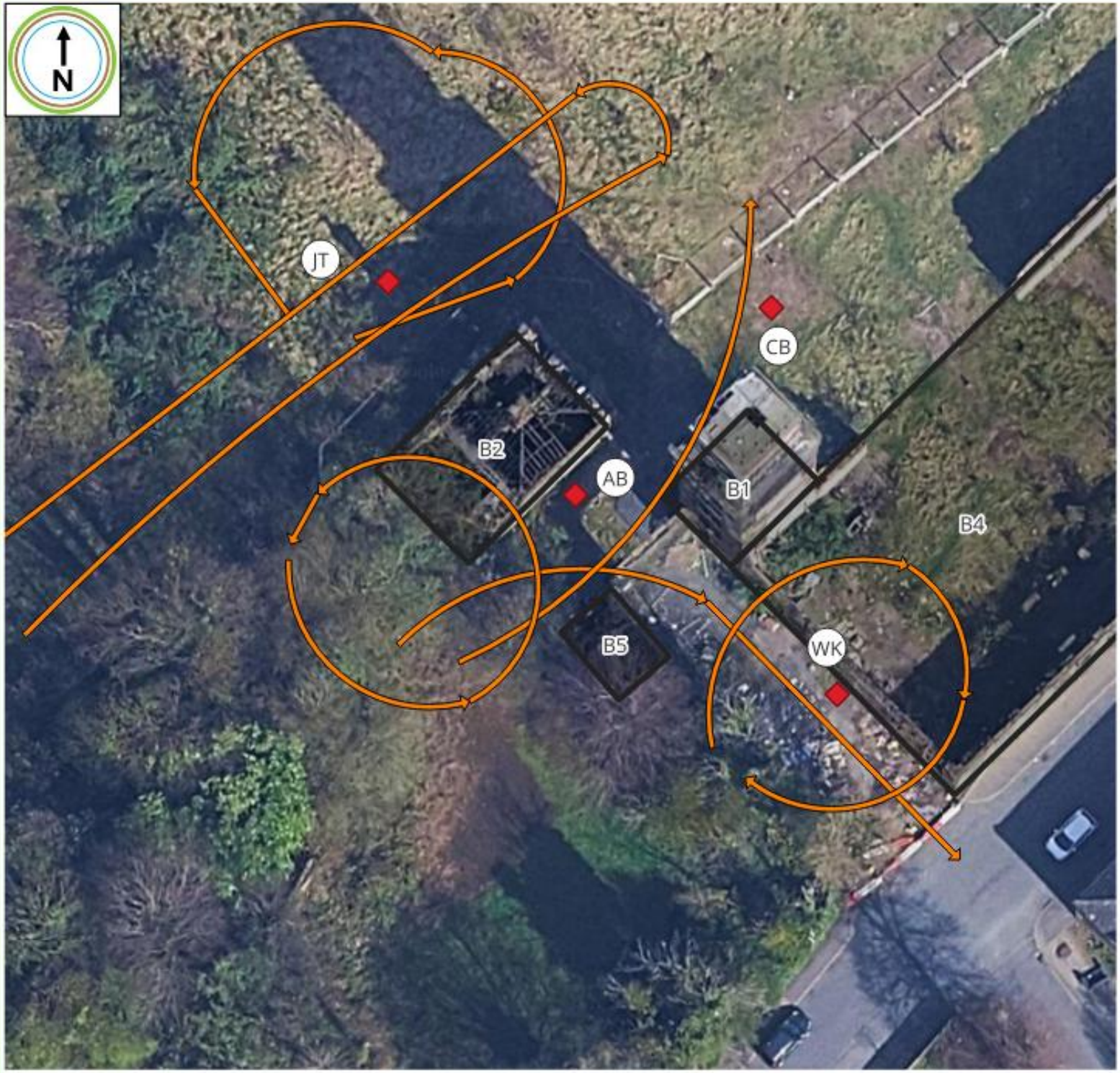
0 5 10 15 20 m

HABITAT WORKS

GK Construction

Newsome Mill, Huddersfield

Figure 2b
Survey Results - B3 (V1) - 20.07.2026



Legend

- Building
- Surveyor Positions

Night Vision Aids

- Infra-red
- Thermal

Bat Flight Paths

- Common pipistrelle

0 5 10 15 20 m

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Newsome Mill, Huddersfield

Figure 2c
Survey Results - B2(V1) & B5(V1) - 29.07.2026



Legend

- Building
- Surveyor Positions

Night Vision Aids

- Thermal

Bat Flight Paths

- Common pipistrelle

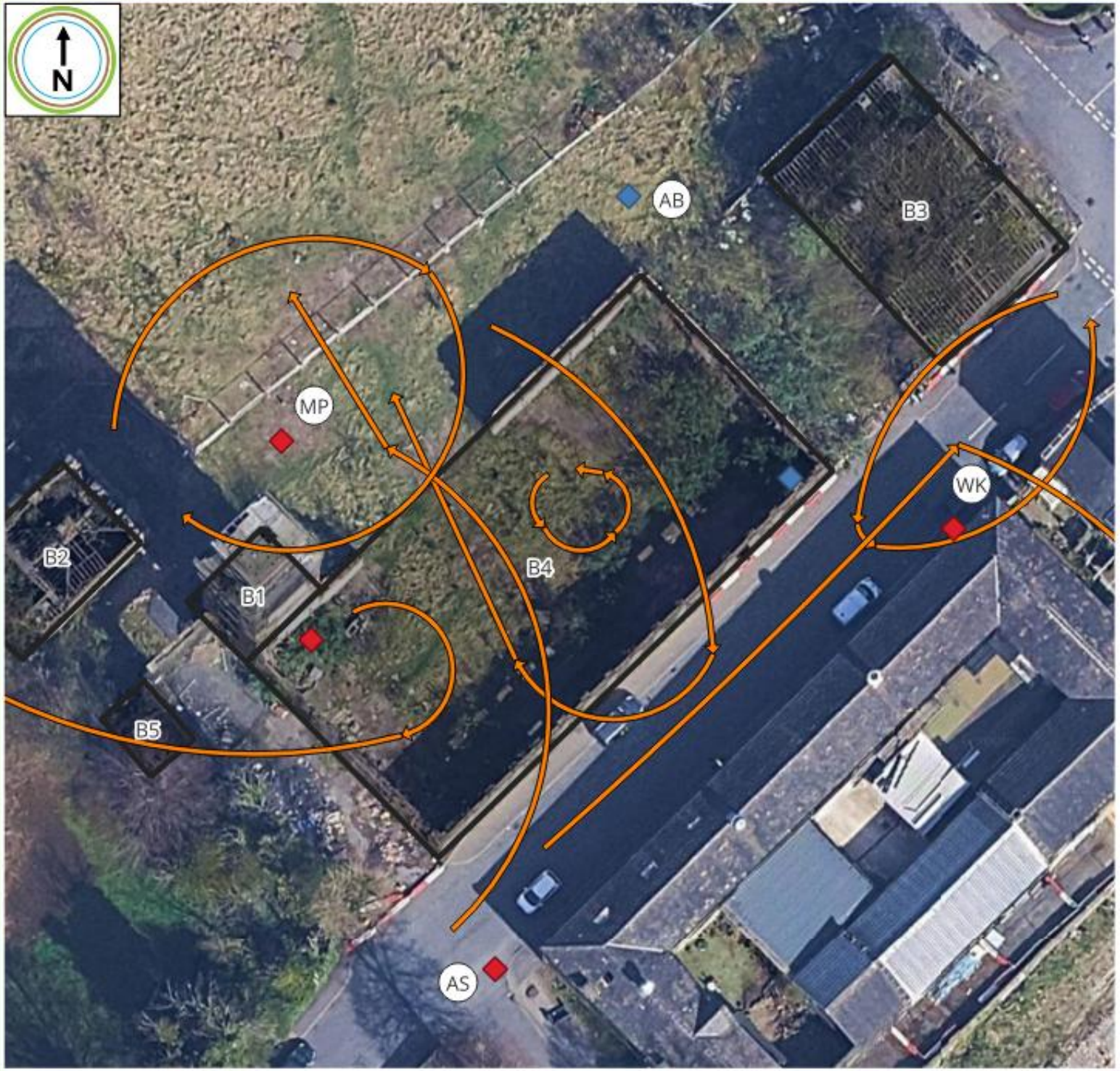
0 5 10 15 20 m

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Newsome Mill, Huddersfield

Figure 2d
Survey Results - B1 (V2) - 06.08.2026



Legend

- Building
- Surveyor Positions

Night Vision Aids

- Infra-red
- Thermal

Bat Flight Paths

- Common pipistrelle

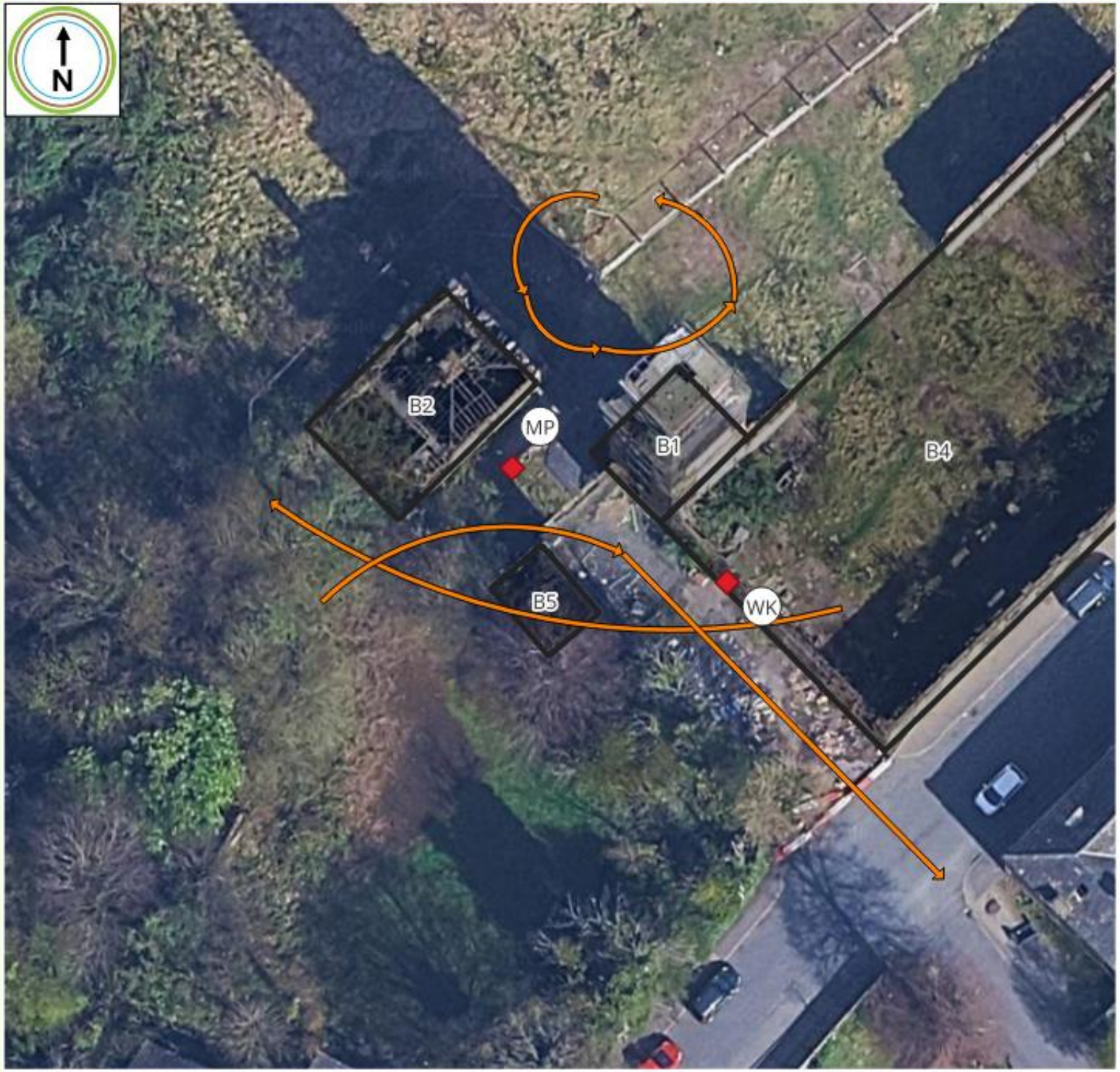
0 5 10 15 20 m

HABITAT WORKS

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Newsome Mill, Huddersfield

Figure 2e
Survey Results - B4 (V1) - 10.08.2026



Legend

- Building
- Surveyor Positions

Night Vision Aids

- Infra-red

Bat Flight Paths

- Common pipistrelle

0 5 10 15 20 m

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Newsome Mill, Huddersfield

Figure 2f
Survey Results - B5 (V2) - 24.08.2026



Legend

- Building
- Surveyor Positions

Night Vision Aids

- Infra-red
- Thermal

Bat Flight Paths

- Common pipistrelle

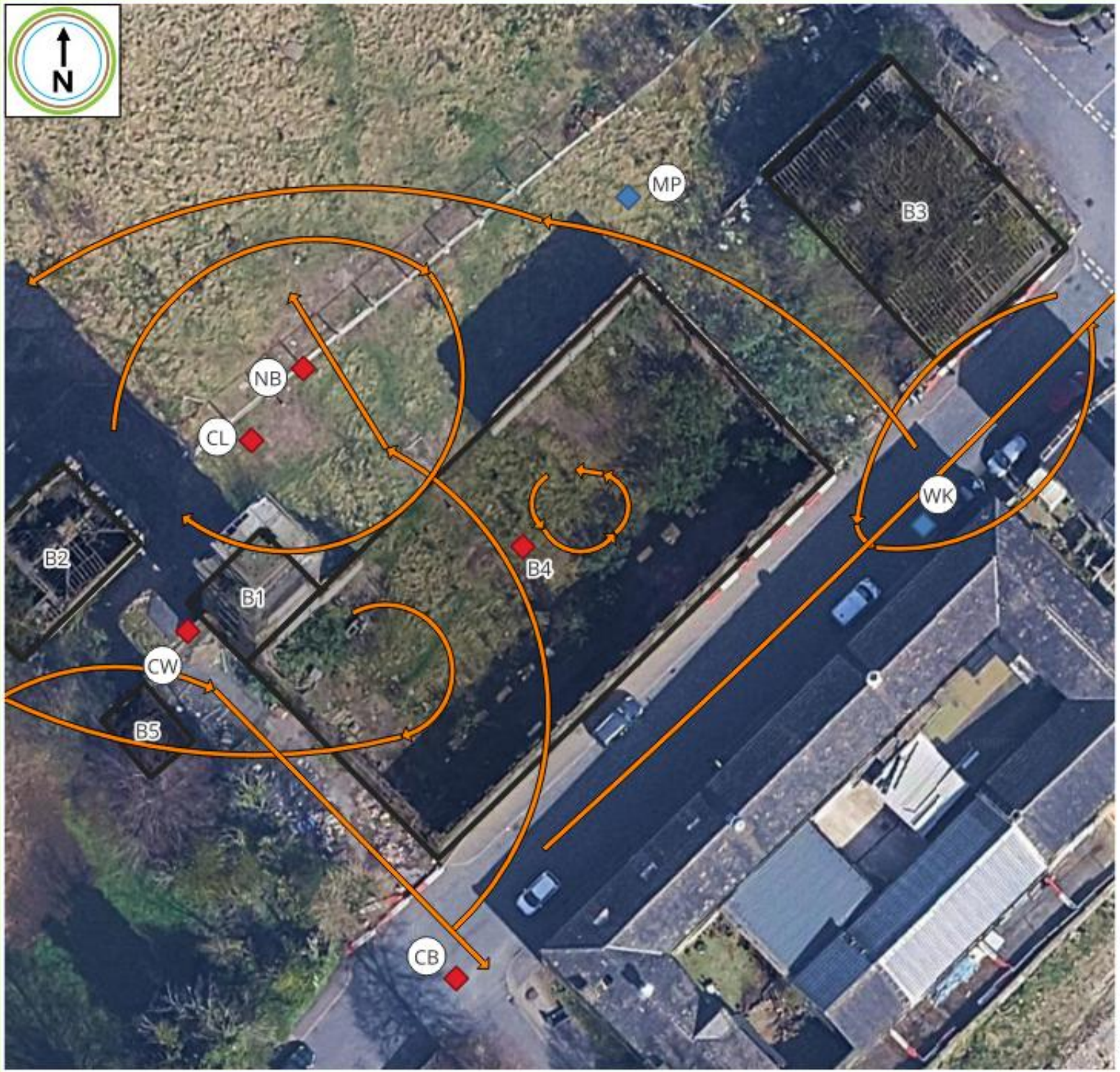
0 5 10 15 20 m

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Figure 2g
Survey Results - B2(V2) & B3(V2) - 25.08.2026



Legend

- Building
- Surveyor Positions

Night Vision Aids

- Infra-red
- Thermal

Bat Flight Paths

- Common pipistrelle

0 5 10 15 20 m

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Figure 2h
Survey Results - B1 (V3) & B4(V2) - 02.09.2026

Basemap: Copyright Google 2026

September 2026 | Scale - 1:700 @ A4 | Drawing Reference: 260915/F2h/JT

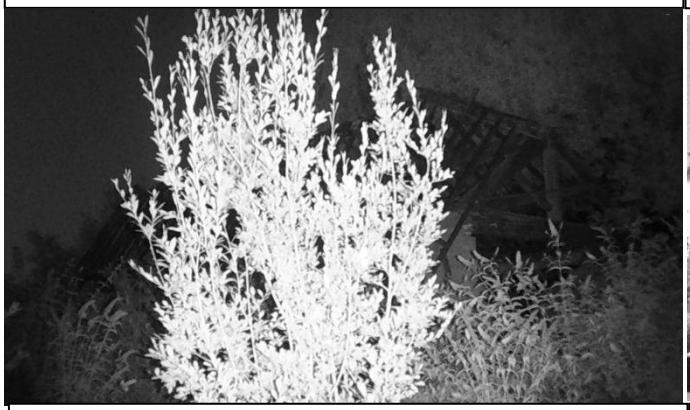
Appendix 1. Darkest Point Photographs of Night Vision Aids (NVAs)



14.07.2026 – CW Location



14.07.2026 – JT Location



20.07.2026 – CW Location



20.07.2026 – JT Location



29.07.2026 – AB Location



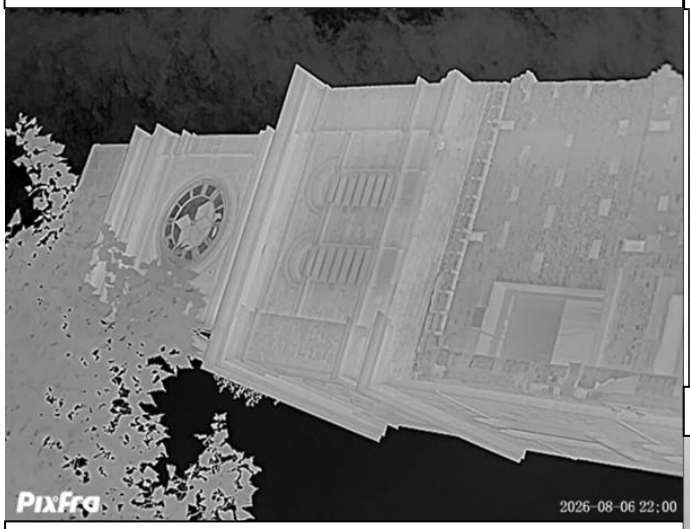
29.07.2026 – JT Location



29.07.2026 – WK Location



29.07.2026 – CB Location



06.08.2026 – JT Location



06.08.2026 – MP Location



10.08.2026 – AS Location



10.08.2026 – AB Location



10.08.2026 – MP Location



10.08.2026 – WK Location



10.08.2026 – Additional IR Camera



10.08.2026 – Additional Thermal Camera



24.08.26 – WK Location



24.08.26 – MP Location



25.08.26 – StS Location



25.08.26 – CB Location



24.08.26 – AB Location



24.08.26 – SoS Location



02.09.26 – CW Location



02.09.26 – CL Location



02.09.26 – CB Location



02.09.26 – NB Location