

Newsome Mills, Huddersfield

Update Preliminary Ecological Appraisal



HABITAT WORKS

September 2026



HABITAT WORKS

Report Title: Newsome Mills, Huddersfield
Update Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Report to: TrueNorth Partnerships
Suite S2
Fairclough House, Church Street
Adlington
PR7 4EX

Version: V2.0

Issue Date: September 2026

Prepared by:

Alice Shaw BSc (Hons), BSc

Graduate Ecologist

Date: 21.08.2026

**Reviewed and
Approved by:**

Joe Travis BSc (Hons), MSc, ACIEEM

Ecology Team Manager

Date: 21.08.2026

Prepared by:

Habitat Works, Suite 12, Westleigh House, Denby Dale, Huddersfield HD8 8QJ

Version History	Author	Description	Date
V1.0	Joe Travis	Final Version for Issue	21.08.2026
V2.0	Joe Travis	Amendments to include nocturnal bat survey results	

Works carried out by Habitat Works on behalf of the client in accordance with the agreed terms of contract and/or written agreement establish the agreed Services. The Services were performed by Habitat Works with the skill and care ordinarily exercised by a reasonably qualified Consultant at the time the Services were performed. Further, the Services were performed by Habitat Works taking into account the limits of the scope of works required by the client, the time scale involved and the resources agreed between Habitat Works and the client.

Other than that expressly contained in the paragraph above, Habitat Works provides no other representation or warranty whether express or implied, in relation to the Services.

This report is produced exclusively for the purposes of the client. Habitat Works is not aware of any interest of or reliance by any party other than the client in or on the Services. Unless expressly provided in writing, Habitat Works does not authorise, consent or condone any party other than the client relying upon the services provided. Any reliance on the services or any part of the services by any party other than the client is made wholly at that party's own risk and Habitat Works disclaims any liability to such parties.

This report is based on Site conditions, regulatory or other legal provisions, technology or economic conditions at the time of the Service provision. These conditions can change with time and reliance on the findings of the Services under changing conditions should be reviewed. The recommended lifetime of the report is detailed within the report text.

Habitat Works accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any third-party data used in this report.

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	6
3.4 SPECIES	8
3.5 INVASIVE SPECIES	10
4. IMPACT ASSESSMENT, MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENTS	11
4.1 PROPOSALS	11
4.2 HABITATS	11
4.3 PROTECTED SPECIES	11
5. REFERENCES	15
FIGURE 1. UK HABITAT CLASSIFICATION MAP	16
APPENDIX 1. TARGET NOTES	18
APPENDIX 2. SITE PHOTOGRAPHS	19

Executive Summary

Habitat Works Limited (Habitat Works) was commissioned in August 2026 by TrueNorth Partnerships to update a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) for an area of land known as Newsome Mills, off Ruth Street, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD4 6JF (central Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OS NGR) SE 14339 14910), hereafter referred to as 'the Site'.

An initial PEA was undertaken by JCA Limited titled '*Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report at: Newsome Mills, 4 Ruth Street, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD4 6JF*' (Report ref: 22240b/GB, dated 19/02/2026). The requirement for the updated PEA was to collect further information on the botanical value of the Site, as the original survey was undertaken outside of the botanical survey season, and to validate the findings of the report with regards to protected species.

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 Best Practice Measures (BPM) for:
 - Common amphibians,
 - Badgers,
 - Hedgehogs;
- 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 in August 2026 by TrueNorth Partnerships to update a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) for an area of land known as Newsome Mills, off Ruth Street, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD4 6JF (central Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OS NGR) SE 14339 14910), hereafter referred to as 'the Site'.
- 1.1.2 An initial PEA was undertaken by JCA Limited titled '*Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report at: Newsome Mills, 4 Ruth Street, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD4 6JF*' (Report ref: 22240b/GB, dated 19/02/2026). The requirement for the updated PEA was to collect further information on the botanical value of the Site, as the original survey was undertaken outside of the botanical survey season, and to validate the findings of the report with regards to protected species.
- 1.1.3 The PEA was required to inform proposals for the construction of a new housing development and associated landscaping and access. The plan drawing '*NSM-TRI-ZZ-ZZ-DR-A-2017-P10*' can be found in the JCA Limited PEA report.
- 1.1.4 This report details the findings of an updated PEA, including a UK Habitat Classification survey undertaken on the 10th August 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.
- 1.1.5 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 has already been undertaken by JCA Limited with the local records centre; West Yorkshire Ecology Services (WYES) 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 within the JCA Limited report 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 initial updated ecological walkover survey was undertaken on the 10th August 2026 by Consultant Ecologist Ashleigh Brentnall BSc (Hons) and Graduate Ecologist Alice Shaw BSc (Hons), followed by a detailed botanical walkover by Botanical Surveyor Fiona Denham and Graduate Ecologist Alice Shaw on the 14th August 2026 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 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 and structures within and immediately adjacent to 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 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. In the event that works have not been commenced by August 2028, an update assessment should be undertaken.

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 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 Designated Sites

- 3.2.1 Detailed information regarding designated sites can be found within the JC Limited (2026) report. The report found a total of nine designated sites within 2 km of the Site boundary comprising Local Geological Sites (LGS) and Local Wildlife Sites (LWS).
- 3.2.2 All designated sites are located outwith 1 km of the Site, and as the proposals are confined to the Site, it is not considered that any designated sites will be subject to the proposals and as such would not be discussed further within this report.

3.3 Habitats

g3c Other neutral grassland (Secondary code:10)

- 3.3.1 The majority of the Site contains other neutral grassland, which is mainly situated to the centre of the Site and has scattered scrub throughout the grassland (SC:10, Figure 1). Species present here include creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, cock's foot *Dactylis glomerata*, dandelions *Taraxacum officinale*, white clover *Trifolium repens*, creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, butterfly bush *buddlejas*, coltsfoot *Tussilago farfara*, willow herb *Epilobium spp*, red clover *Trifolium pratense*, perforate St John's wort *Hypericum perforatum*, common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, false oatgrass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, smooth meadow-grass *Poa pratensis*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, couch grass *Elymus repens*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, common teasel *Dipsacus fullonum*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, goat willow *Salix caprea*, silver birch *Betula pendula*, Italian alder *Alnus cordata*, common ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*, hedge woundwort *Stachys sylvatica*, common vetch *Vicia sativa* and hard rush *Juncus inflexus*.
- 3.3.2 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.

h3h Mixed scrub (SC: 33)

- 3.3.3 To the west, the north and southeast of the Site, there are large areas of mixed scrubs. Species include buddleia, which is heavily dominated, silver birch, *Salix sp.*, *Quercus sp.*, ash, and *Rosa sp.* To the north of the Site, there is a line of young trees which consists of ash.
- 3.3.4 Mixed scrub is not a NERC Act 2006 Section 41 priority habitat. Scrub is mentioned within the Kirklees BAP, however it is not considered that the mixed scrub present on the Site meets any of these definitions which include open mosaics on previously developed land, valley slopes and Pennine foothills. Mixed scrub is a habitat that is common nationally, and likely to be common in the wider local landscape. As such, in combination with the small scale of the habitats present on the Site, mixed scrub present on the Site is

considered to be of no greater than site level importance to nature conservation.

h3d Bramble scrub

- 3.3.5 To the northeast of the Site, there is a small section of bramble scrub which is located between scattered scrub (SC:10). The bramble is dominant in this section, with no other species recorded within this section of habitat.
- 3.3.6 Bramble scrub is not a NERC Act 2006 Section 41 priority habitat. Scrub is mentioned within the Kirklees BAP, however it is not considered that the mixed scrub present on the Site meets any of these definitions which include open mosaics on previously developed land, valley slopes and Pennine foothills. Bramble scrub is a habitat that is common nationally, and extremely likely to be common in the wider local landscape. As such, the habitat is considered to be of no greater than site level importance to nature conservation.

u1b Developed land; sealed surface

- 3.3.7 An area of developed land, sealed surface is present to the front and rear of the clock tower comprising of hardstanding, as well as an area adjacent to the stone wall along the southeastern boundary of the Site. Additionally, there is a public path comprising of tarmac hardstanding adjacent to a line of trees on the northeastern boundary of the Site. Species include ash, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and wild cherry *Prunus avium* (SC: 33). The developed land; sealed surface offers no botanical interest.
- 3.3.8 Developed land; sealed surface is not a NERC Act 2006 Section 41 priority habitat nor is it listed within the LBAP. The habitat was considered to be of negligible botanical value, and will not be discussed further within this report.

w1g Other broadleaved woodland

- 3.3.9 To the west, southwest and the east of the Site, there are broadleaved woodlands. Species to the west, which is shown as a small triangle within the Site boundary (Figure 1), includes sycamore, elm *Ulmus glabra*, elder *Sambucus nigra*, bramble, common stinging nettle *Urtica dioica* and ash. To the southwest of the Site, the woodlands consist of ash, buddleia and large-leaved lime *Tilia platyphyllo*. However, there was limited access to this woodland therefore, not all species were recorded. The woodland to the east of the Site is dominated by *Salix sp.*, with patches of ash. Access to this area was restricted due to dense vegetation, however, JCA Limited recorded other species previously such as bramble, buddleia, cherry sp., silver birch, sycamore, and greater willowherb.
- 3.3.10 Other broadleaved woodland is not a NERC Act 2006 Section 41 priority habitat, it is however listed within the LBAP as 'Woodland Habitats'. Although the habitat is listed on the LBAP, the habitat is common and widespread in the local area, with many blocks of woodlands surrounding of the Site in much greater scale and likely of similar or greater quality. Given the limited scale of the Other broadleaved woodland present on the Site, in conjunction with the presence of larger and likely similar or higher quality woodlands in the local area, it is considered that Other broadleaved woodland is of no greater than site level importance to nature conservation.

u1f Sparsely vegetated urban land

- 3.3.11 To the southeast of the Site, there is an area of sparsely vegetated urban land which includes areas of gravel and rubble which have been disturbed by human activities.
- 3.3.12 Other broadleaved woodland is not a NERC Act 2006 Section 41 priority habitat nor is it listed within the

LBAP. The habitat was considered to be of negligible botanical value, however, will be discussed further in relation to protected species.

u1b5 Buildings

- 3.3.13 The Site contains the stone-built clock tower which is attached to the stone-built mill wall to the southeastern boundary of the Site and the disused building behind the clock tower.
- 3.3.14 Buildings is not a NERC Act 2006 Section 41 priority habitat nor is it listed within the LBAP. The habitat was considered to be of negligible botanical value, however, will be discussed further in relation to protected species.

3.4 Species

Amphibians

- 3.4.1 Following a review of Ordnance Survey maps, no waterbodies have been identified within 500 m of the Site.
- 3.4.2 The terrestrial habitats on the Site are of limited suitability for GCN and common amphibians, with the vegetation offering little sheltering or foraging potential. The presence of a brash pile to the north of the Site containing different types of debris such as disused small pieces of wood and plastic rubbish bags (TN1), could offer some sheltering opportunities. However, given the immediate surrounding area being highly disturbed by human activities from public paths and residential properties, as well as no waterbodies located within 500 m of the Site, it is considered extremely unlikely that amphibians will utilise this sheltering opportunity.
- 3.4.3 Overall, given the limited suitability of terrestrial habitats present on the Site, and the absence of good aquatic habitats present on or near the Site, it is considered that GCN are likely absent from the Site and will not be discussed further within the report.
- 3.4.4 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).
- 3.4.5 As such, the presence of common amphibians 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

- 3.4.6 No evidence of badger was recorded throughout the survey. The woodlands on the west of the Site could provide suitable sett habitats for badgers, as well as the dense mixed scrub to the north of the Site. However, the Site is heavily disturbed by human activities which further reduces the likelihood of badger establishing a sett on the Site. Secure wired fencing and construction barriers are installed on the southern and southeastern boundary of the Site, as well as metal fencing to the north of the Site. However, adjacent to this fencing there are three large disused stones which are used to block potential vehicles accessing the Site. However, there are gaps between the stones which could provide access for badgers onto the Site.
- 3.4.7 The Site offers sett building potential, within the areas of woodland across the Site. However, there habitats are common and widespread in the local area, meaning that badgers are not considered likely to be reliant on the habitats present on the Site.

- 3.4.8 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

- 3.4.9 The buildings on the Site were subject to Preliminary Roost Assessments (PRA) by JCA Limited, which found ranging suitability for both roosting and hibernating bats across the Site.
- 3.4.10 Habitat Works have undertaken a suite of nocturnal surveys across the five buildings on the Site and found no evidence of roosting bats in the buildings, and as such, likely absence of roosting bats from the Site has been concluded. Details of the methodologies and findings can be found within the Habitat Works (2026) report '*Newsome Mill, Huddersfield – Nocturnal Bat Surveys*'.
- 3.4.11 Habitat Works are to undertake hibernation surveys throughout the 2026/27 hibernation season in line with industry good practice guidance (Collins 2023). A report detailing the findings of these surveys will be submitted following the completion of these additional surveys.

Foraging and Commuting Bats

- 3.4.12 JCA Limited (2026) consider the Site to offer some foraging and commuting opportunities for bats. To the southwest of the Site, a broadleaved woodland is present which is a suitable habitat for foraging and commuting bats as well as the line of trees along the northern boundary of the Site.
- 3.4.13 The wider local landscape has habitats of superior quality for commuting and roosting bats, such as New Laith Hill Wood located approximately 350 m east of the Site, as well as the River Holme located approximately 600 m northwest of the Site.
- 3.4.14 Given the limited size and scale of the habitats on the Site, especially in comparison to larger areas of greenspace in the local area, it is considered that the Site is of no greater than negligible suitability for roosting bats.

Birds

- 3.4.15 The Site offers some opportunities for nesting birds, such as the line of trees along the northern boundary of the Site as well as the line of trees along the northwestern boundary of the Site. The broadleaved woodlands to the southwest of the Site as well as scattered scrub adjacent to the grassland in the centre. These are limited in size and scale in comparison to the common and widespread availability of nesting habitat in the wider local area, particularly in the woodlands adjacent to the Site on the southwestern boundary as well as the woodlands to the east of the Site.
- 3.4.16 Given the limited scale of suitable habitats present on the Site, in conjunction with the presence of greater quality and size of suitable nesting habitats in the local area, it is considered that the Site is of importance to nesting birds at no greater than the site level.

Invertebrates

- 3.4.17 The habitats on the Site are unlikely to offer 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. However, the Site includes numerous buddleia bushes which were being utilised by several butterfly species such as small tortoiseshells *Aglais urticae* and large whites *Pieris brassicae*.
- 3.4.18 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

- 3.4.19 The Site provides some opportunities for reptiles. To the north of the Site, there are large stones (TN2) which are used as an entrance block. These stones could provide basking opportunities as well as the disused pieces of wood for reptiles. On the Site visit, the grassland had been left uncut which could provide sheltering and foraging opportunities for reptiles.
- 3.4.20 Reptiles are generally timid, and prefer to avoid heavily trafficked locations, and as such the land use of the Site is likely to reduce the suitability of the Site for reptiles significantly.
- 3.4.21 Given the lack of suitable habitats present on the Site and the level of human activity associated around the Site, it is considered that reptiles are likely absent from the Site and as such are not a receptor to the proposals and as such will not be discussed further within this report.

Riparian Mammals and White-clawed Crayfish

- 3.4.22 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.

Other Notable and Key Species

Hedgehog

- 3.4.23 The Site has some suitability for hedgehogs, with some foraging or sheltering opportunities present such as using the brash piles (TN1) for shelter and foraging through the tall grassland. The steel fencing along the northwestern boundary of the Site could provide access for hedgehogs to commute through and onto the Site. However, to the south of the Site where the rest of the Site is securely fenced by construction barriers and metal fencing, making it difficult for hedgehogs to travel through the Site. Hedgehogs are highly mobile species so it is possible that they could occasionally commute across the Site to more suitable neighbouring habitats as part of their wider territories.
- 3.4.24 Based on the relatively limited value of habitats on the Site together with the availability of more suitable habitat associated in the wider area, habitats present on the Site are considered to be of no greater than site level importance to hedgehogs.

3.5 Invasive Species

No Schedule 9 listed species were observed within the Site during the survey.

4. Impact Assessment, Mitigation 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 JCA Limited report (2026).

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.

4.3 *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 and rubble/brush piles and construction materials present (TN1 and TN2) 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. In the event that 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, 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 off 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.

4.3.7 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 habitats 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 barbastellus*, *Bechstein's Myotis bechsteinii*, brown long-eared bat, greater horseshoe, lesser horseshoe, noctule and soprano pipistrelle bats are included as priority species under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006.

Roosting Bats

- 4.3.11 Buildings on the Site are considered to support a range of roosting features for roosting bats, following JCA Limited's Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) of the Site.
- 4.3.12 Nocturnal surveys undertaken by Habitat Works throughout the 2026 bat activity season found no evidence of roosting bats, and as such, concluded that bats are likely absent from the buildings on the Site.
- 4.3.13 To compensate for the loss of features on the Site, 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.

Foraging and Commuting Bats

- 4.3.14 The habitats on the Site were considered negligible for foraging/commuting bats when compared to habitats in the wider surrounding area.
- 4.3.15 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. As such, further survey in this instance is not necessary with respect to foraging and commuting bats.
- 4.3.16 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 to safeguard these as foraging and commuting resources.

Birds

- 4.3.17 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.
- 4.3.18 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.
- 4.3.19 Nesting birds could be present at the Site due to the presence woodlands to the southwest and northeast of the Site. To minimise the risk of committing an offence in relation to nesting birds, clearance of these habitats (if required) 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 vegetation removal or building demolition. 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.
- 4.3.20 It is recommended that a minimum of a two integrated bird nest box should be incorporated into the each of the proposed blocks (eight total) 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.
- 4.3.21 It is recommended that native fruit bearing tree species and/or shrubs are planted in the newly created gardens. This will offer local bird species both foraging and sheltering opportunities in the post-development landscape.

Invertebrates

- 4.3.22 Many invertebrate species are listed under Section 41 of NERC act (2006) designating them as Species of Principal Importance in England.
- 4.3.23 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.
- 4.3.24 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.

- 4.3.25 Further enhancements for the Site with regards to invertebrates would be to incorporate a minimum of two bee bricks into each block (eight total) as part of the development proposals. 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.

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 the 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 these 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.

5. References

- BRIG (2011). UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat Descriptions. Available: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/PDF/UKBAP_PriorityHabitatDesc-Rev2011.pdf
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) (2018) '*Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater Coastal and Marine*'. CIEEM, Winchester.
- Cresswell, P, Harris, S & Jefferies, DJ (1990) '*The history, distribution, status and habitat requirements of the badger in Britain*'. Nature Conservancy Council.
- Collins, J. (2023) '*Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (4th edn)'. The Bat Conservation Trust, London.
- Habitat Works (2026). '*Newsome Mill, Huddersfield – Nocturnal Bat Surveys*'.
- Harris, S., Cresswell, P. and Jefferies, D. (1989) '*Surveying Badgers*'. Mammal Society (Occasional Publication No 9).
- JCA Limited (2026). '*Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report at: Newsome Mills, 4 Ruth Street, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD4 6JF*'
- Natural England (2010) '*List of habitats and species of principal importance in England under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006*'.
- Stanbury A, Eaton M, Aebischer N, Balmer D, Brown A, Douse, A, Lindley, P, McCulloch N, Noble D and Win I (2015) '*The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Island and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain*'. British Birds 114: 723-747.
- UK Habitat Classification Working Group (2020). UK Habitat Classification – Habitat Definitions V1.1 at <https://ecountability.co.uk/ukhabworkinggroup-ukhab>

Figure 1. UK Habitat Classification Map



Secondary Codes:

10 - Scattered scrub
33 - Line of Trees

Legend

UKHab

Site Boundary

Target Notes

Baseline Areas

g3c - Other neutral grassland

w1g - Other broadleaved woodland

u1b5 - Buildings

u1b - Developed land; sealed surface

u1f - Sparsely vegetated urban land

h3h - Mixed scrub

h3d - Bramble scrub

Line of trees

0 20 40 60 80 m



HABITAT WORKS

TrueNorth Partnerships

Newsome Mills, Huddersfield

Figure 1
UKHabs Habitat Map

Appendix 1. Target Notes

TN1 – Brash piles

TN2 - Large stones

Appendix 2. Site Photographs



Photograph 1. The clock tower



Photograph 2. Other neutral grassland to the centre



Photograph 3. The entrance of the Site



Photograph 4. Brash Pile to the north of the Site (TN1)



Photograph 5. Stones to the north



Photograph 6. The surface to the southeast of the Site