

For:	Techwill Ltd
Site:	198 Barnsley Road, Denby Dale, Huddersfield, HD8 8TS
Report Date:	20 th August 2026
Report Reference:	SQ-4412

Surveying Ecologists:

Aimee McManus BSc (Hons)

Client:	Techwill Ltd
Site Name:	198 Barnsley Road, Denby Dale, Huddersfield, HD8 8TS
Grid Reference:	SE 23024 08073
Report:	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
Date of Survey:	13 July 2026
Surveying Ecologists:	Aimee McManus BSc (Hons)

Issue:	Revision:	Stage:	Date:	Prepared by:	Approved by:
0	Draft	Submission for Review	24 th July 2026	Aimee McManus BSc (Hons) – Estrada Ecology Ltd	Jack Towler BSc (hons) – Estrada Ecology Ltd
1	V1	Final	20 th August 2026	Aimee McManus BSc (Hons) – Estrada Ecology Ltd	Natasha Estrada MRes, MCIEEM- Estrada Ecology Ltd

This report has been prepared for exclusive use of the client, Techwill Ltd. No part of this report may be reproduced or relied upon without written agreement from Estrada Ecology Ltd.

The contents of this report have been produced with consideration of the current best practice guidance, and in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's (CIEEM) Code of Professional Conduct.

This report should not be submitted as part of a planning application without any accompanying species-specific reports which may have been recommended herein.

Data within this report is valid for a maximum of eighteen months from the date of the survey. After this period, an updated site visit will be required to determine a new ecological baseline.

Site Summary

The survey site is located at 198 Barnsley Road, Denby Dale, Huddersfield, HD8 8TS. The site comprises a small parcel of land supporting developed land, sealed surface, ruderal and ephemeral vegetation, tall forbs, bare ground, scattered trees, a line of trees and dry-stone walls. It is understood that the proposed development comprises the construction of three dwellings, subject to the necessary planning consents and approvals.

The surrounding landscape is semi-rural in character, comprising residential development associated with Denby Dale, agricultural land, scattered woodland, field boundaries and local road infrastructure. The wider landscape includes grassland, hedgerows, scattered trees, woodland blocks and other areas of vegetation which provide ecological connectivity.

Findings

The site provides suitability for breeding birds, with scattered trees and a line of trees providing potential nesting opportunities. Bird activity was heard in the vicinity during the survey, although no active nest was confirmed.

The trees within the site were assessed for their potential to support roosting bats. No Potential Roost Features (PRFs) suitable for roosting bats were identified. Occasional knots, gaps and cavities were generally shallow, closed or did not lead into suitable internal features. Some trees within the northern line of trees supported ivy; however, the trees were generally of insufficient size or structure to provide suitable roosting opportunities. The trees are therefore considered to have negligible suitability for roosting bats, and no further bat survey is considered necessary in relation to the trees provided they remain unaffected.

The site provides low suitability for hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*), with ruderal vegetation, tall forbs, bare ground and dry-stone walls providing some opportunities for foraging and sheltering. Four hedgehog records were returned during the desk study, although no evidence of hedgehog was recorded during the field survey. Use of the site is considered likely to be occasional.

No evidence of Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*) was recorded during the survey. The site provides some limited opportunities for foraging and commuting; however, significant use of the site by badgers is considered unlikely.

The site provides low suitability for amphibians and reptiles. No ponds or other aquatic habitats suitable for breeding amphibians were identified within the application boundary. A small number of waterbodies are identified within 500 m, although these could not be assessed due to being located on private land and/or not being readily accessible. One waterbody identified

No suitable aquatic habitat for otter (*Lutra lutra*) or water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) was identified within the site, and no evidence of either species was recorded. No further species-specific survey is considered necessary.

No species listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) were recorded within the application boundary. No non-native invasive species listed on Schedule 9 (I or II) of the Act were identified during the survey.

The site was recorded to lack significant floral diversity. As such, it is unlikely to support notable assemblages of invertebrates.

The site contains four individually protected trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders, while the line of trees along the northern boundary falls within a designated TPO Area. These trees are understood to be retained as part of the proposed development. One larger TPO tree has naturally degraded and partially failed; any proposed removal or significant pruning would require consideration through the relevant TPO process and consultation with Kirklees.

Although the desk study identified an area of deciduous woodland priority habitat within the red-line boundary, the habitats present within the site were not considered to meet the criteria for classification as woodland due to their limited extent, structure and overall characteristics. The area was therefore not classified as woodland for the purposes of the habitat survey or BNG assessment. Nearby woodland habitats should nevertheless be protected from accidental encroachment, damage, pollution and other construction-related impacts, with appropriate measures detailed within a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

Contents:

- 1. Introduction and Background to the Site**
- 2. Protected Species Legislation**
- 3. Survey Methodology**
- 4. Ecological Constraints**
- 5. Survey Results**
- 6. Conclusions**
- 7. Biodiversity Enhancements**

Appendices and References



Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this report and its contents in view of potential ecological constraints to development or the likely presence or absence of species it must only be viewed as a snapshot in time and not be viewed as definitive. Due to external factors, such as seasonality, weather etc having the potential to affect survey results, no liability can be assumed for omissions or changes that may or may not occur after the date this report was produced.

1 Introduction and Background to the Site

1.1 Estrada Ecology Ltd was commissioned to conduct a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the land at 198 Barnsley Road, Denby Dale, Huddersfield, HD8 8TS.

1.2 The site habitats consist of:

- Developed land; sealed surface
- Ruderal and ephemeral vegetation
- Bare ground
- Line of trees
- Scattered trees
- Dry-stone wall

1.3 It is understood that the proposed development comprises the construction of three dwellings, subject to the necessary planning consents and approvals.

1.4 This report therefore provides an initial assessment of the ecological value of the site, identifies the potential for protected or notable species and habitats to be present, and sets out any further survey requirements, mitigation measures or recommendations necessary to inform the planning application.

1.5 Report Objectives:

- Present the findings of the ecological survey.
- Assess the potential of existing on-site habitats to support protected or notable species.
- Evaluate any likely ecological impacts on protected and notable species or habitats because of the proposed development.
- Provide recommendations for any further species-specific survey and mitigation measures that may be required; and
- Provide habitat enhancement recommendations in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2026).

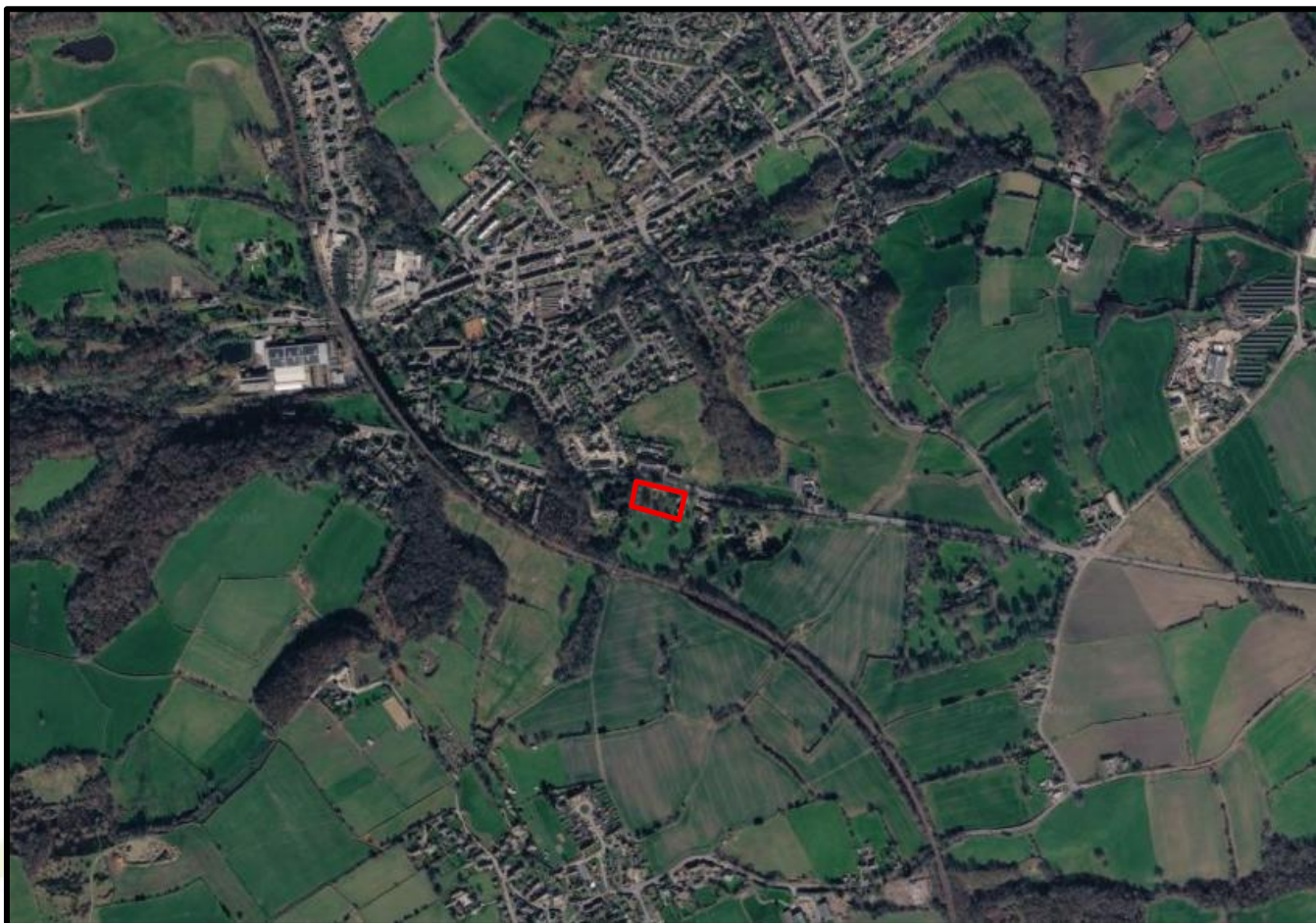
1.6 Site Location and Wider Area

1.6.1 The site is located at 198 Barnsley Road, Denby Dale, Huddersfield, HD8 8TS. The surrounding landscape is semi-rural in character, comprising residential development associated with Denby Dale, agricultural land, scattered woodland, field boundaries and local road infrastructure.

1.6.2 The survey site's central OS grid reference is SE 23024 08073.

1.6.3 The wider landscape comprises a mixture of residential properties, gardens, agricultural fields, grassland, scattered trees, hedgerows and woodland blocks. These features provide local ecological connectivity across the wider area, particularly along field boundaries, garden vegetation, roadside verges and nearby wooded habitats.

Figure 1: The survey site within its wider setting.



(Google Earth, 2026)

2 Protected Species Legislation

2.1 Relevant legislation includes the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as amended, including subsequent amendments following the UK's exit from the European Union.

2.2 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act came into force on 1 October 2006. Section 41 (S41) of the Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The list has been drawn up in consultation with Natural England, as required by the Act. The S41 list is used to guide decision makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when conducting their normal functions.

2.3 The UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework was developed in response to the Convention on Biological Diversity's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 - 2020. Its five strategic goals and twenty biodiversity targets supersede the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

2.4 Environment and Biodiversity

2.4.1 Under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2026), local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance the natural environment when determining planning applications. Local planning authorities also have an obligation to seek opportunities to enhance the conservation status of Species and Principal Habitats.

2.4.3 Development proposals made on or after 12th of February 2024, with some exceptions, will be expected to achieve a minimum of 10% net gain in site biodiversity value under The Environment Act 2021 (Commencement No. 8 and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2024.

2.5.1 European Protected Species, such as bats and great crested newt, are afforded protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as amended, and are also protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended. It is an offence to:

- 2.5.2 Disturbance of European Protected Species includes any activity which is likely to:

- impair their ability to survive, breed, reproduce, rear or nurture their young;
- impair their ability to hibernate or migrate, where relevant; or
- significantly affect the local distribution or abundance of the species concerned.

2.6.1 **Breeding birds** (all species) are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird and to take, damage or destroy the nest (whilst being built or in use) or eggs. Schedule 1 species are afforded protection from disturbance at or near nest sites, including reckless disturbance under the Countryside Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000.

2.6.2 **Bats** (all native species) and their breeding sites or resting places (roosts) are fully protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Bats are also protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) through their inclusion in Schedule 5. Under the Act, they are protected from: intentional or reckless disturbance (at any level); obstruction of access to any place of shelter, breeding, or rest; selling, bartering or exchange of these species.

2.6.3 **European hedgehogs** are afforded limited protection in the UK under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996. Under this legislation, it is an offence to kill or capture a hedgehog using certain prohibited methods and to subject a hedgehog to cruel treatment.

2.6.4 Eurasian badgers are protected by the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence: to wilfully, or attempt, to kill, capture, ill-treat or injure any badger; to obstruct, destroy or damage a badger sett or to disturb a badger whilst within its sett; to sell or offer for sale a live badger, or have possession or control of a live badger; or marking a badger or attaching any ring, tag, or other marking device to a

badger.

2.6.6 European water voles are fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and are a priority conservation species. It is against the law to: Intentionally capture, kill, or injure water voles, damage, destroy or block access to their places of shelter or protection (on purpose or by not taking enough care), disturb them in a place of shelter or protection (on purpose or by not taking enough care), and possess, sell, control or transport live or dead water voles or parts of them (not water voles bred in captivity).

2.6.8 Reptiles (all native species) receive varying levels of protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended. Common reptile species are protected against intentional killing, injury and trade, while rarer species receive additional legal protection.

3.1 Desktop Survey

3.1.2 Biological records were obtained from West Yorkshire Ecology, West Yorkshire Bat Group and Barnsley Biological Records Centre for a 2 km radius from the site's central grid reference. This search radius was considered appropriate to identify relevant ecological records and to inform an assessment of the site's ecological context, in accordance with the scope of the proposed development and current good practice.

3.1.4 Additional desk-based review was undertaken using MAGIC, 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey mapping, aerial imagery, and other publicly available online resources to identify statutory designated sites, priority habitats, waterbodies, habitat connectivity, and other features of potential ecological relevance within the wider landscape.

3.1.6 Natural England's open-source district level licensing datasets for great crested newt were reviewed, including England-wide eDNA pond survey data and great crested newt risk zone

Table 1: Key habitats and field signs of protected and priority species.

Taxon	Indicative Habitats	Field Signs
Bats	Roosts - Trees, buildings, bridges caves etc. Foraging areas - e.g., parkland, water bodies and streams, wetlands, woodland edge, hedgerow Commuting routes - linear features (e.g., hedgerows).	In or on potential roost sites: Droppings stuck to walls; urine spotting in roof spaces; oil from fur staining around roost entrances; feeding remains (e.g., moth wings).
Great Crested Newts	Ponds within 500m of suitable habitat within the site boundary. Suitable (terrestrial) habitat includes rough grassland, scrub and woodland, log and rubble piles and other debris, animal burrows.	Eggs, Individuals of all life stages. Egg rolled plants.
Reptiles	Rough grassland, log and rubble piles, compost heaps.	Sloughed skins; eggs, individuals.
Birds	Trees, scrub, hedgerow, field margins, grassland.	Nests; droppings below nest sites (especially in buildings or trees); tree holes.
Badgers	Found in most rural and many urban habitats.	Excavations and tracks: sett entrances, latrines, hairs, well-worn paths; prints; snuffle holes.
Otter	Water bodies / water courses.	Holt entrances; prints; latrine / spraint sites; anal jelly / smears.
Water Vole	Water bodies / water courses.	Burrow entrances; prints; latrine areas; faeces; feeding stations.
BAP Invertebrates	Each butterfly species has its own habitat requirements determined by the food plant of the caterpillar, the nectar source for the adult and the conditions needed for the caterpillar to survive and then pupate successfully.	Eggs, larva, Pupa, adult butterfly. Habitat type and presence of food plants.

3.3 Timing and Weather Conditions

3.3.1 The survey was conducted midday on the 13th of July 2026.

3.3.2 Weather conditions at the time of the site visit were mild and dry with temperatures around 20°C to 22°C, a gentle breeze, and mostly clear or partly cloudy skies.

3.4 Preliminary Roost Assessment

3.4.1 Where present and access could be gained, trees and buildings were subject to an external inspection to determine their suitability to support roosting bats. The external inspections were conducted in accordance with the current best practice guidance (Collins, 2023).

3.4.2 Potential bat roost features and field sign evidence of the use of the site by bats include the presence of droppings, stain, or grease marks, feeding remains, or the observations of the bats themselves.

3.4.3 Where present, trees, buildings, and the quality of on-site habitats were then categorised based on the classification criteria in 'Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists' (Collins, 2023). Classification criteria are presented below:

5.1.2 Dry-stone wall

5.1.2.1 Dry-stone walls are present along the eastern and western boundaries of the site. The walls are dilapidated in places, with areas of displaced stone, gaps and localised collapse.

5.1.2.2 The dry-stone walls are considered to be of low ecological value but may provide limited sheltering and commuting opportunities for common fauna, including reptiles, amphibians and hedgehog. The walls may also contribute to local habitat connectivity along the site boundaries.

5.1.2.3 Overall, the habitat is considered to provide low suitability for protected species, with use likely to be occasional and transient. Precautionary measures are outlined within the recommendations section of this report.

Figure 2: Dry-stone wall



5.1.3 Developed land; sealed surface

Figure 3: Developed land; sealed surface

5.1.4 Ruderal vegetation, tall forbs and bare ground

5.1.4.2 The combination of dense vegetation, areas of bare ground and scattered ground-level features provide some opportunities for common fauna, including foraging and sheltering habitat for reptiles, amphibians and hedgehog, as well as potential commuting habitat for badgers. No evidence of badger activity or established mammal paths was recorded during the survey.

5.1.4.4 The areas of dense vegetation, accumulated vegetation and exposed ground may also provide occasional refugia and foraging opportunities for common amphibian species. However, no aquatic habitats suitable for breeding amphibians were identified within the surveyed site. A small number of waterbodies are identified within 500 m of the site; however,

5.1.4.5 The River Dearne is located approximately 373 m to the north and is considered unlikely to provide suitable breeding habitat for great crested newt. A network of drainage features and field ditches is also present within the wider 500 m search area. Overall, the absence of suitable aquatic habitat within the site itself, together with the limited information available regarding nearby waterbodies, reduces the likelihood of the site supporting significant amphibian habitat, although the denser terrestrial vegetation may provide occasional opportunities for common amphibians.

The four photographs provide a detailed view of the site's vegetation and stone structures. The top-left photo shows a steep, eroded bank with a mix of green grass and brown, fallen leaves. A metal fence is visible on the right. The top-right photo shows a dense thicket of green vegetation, including tall purple flowers, growing on a slope. The bottom-left photo shows a pile of large, flat stones on a dirt path, with green vegetation growing around them. The bottom-right photo shows a dense field of tall purple flowers in the foreground, with a line of trees in the background under a clear blue sky.

5.1.5 Scattered trees and line of trees

5.1.5.1 Multiple trees are scattered throughout the site, ranging from immature specimens to larger mature trees. Species recorded include horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), field maple (*Acer campestre*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*). Four individual trees were identified as being subject to Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), while a line of trees along the northern boundary falls within a designated TPO Area according to Kirklees Council's TPO mapping.

5.1.5.2 The trees within the TPO Area and the individually protected trees are understood to be retained as part of the proposed development. The remaining trees across the site are generally immature and are not subject to the identified TPO designations. One larger tree appeared to have naturally degraded and partially failed, with the remaining standing trunk having been cut back at the upper branches. It was unclear whether this had occurred before or following the partial failure. No features considered suitable for roosting bats were identified within the remaining trunk.

5.1.5.3 One particularly large tree was recorded along the eastern boundary and is subject to a TPO. This tree was notably tall and dense, providing suitable structure for nesting birds. Bird activity was heard in the vicinity during the survey, although no active nest was confirmed at the time of assessment.

5.1.5.4 No Potential Roost Features (PRFs) suitable for use by roosting bats were identified within the trees. Occasional knots, gaps and cavities were observed, but these were generally shallow, closed or did not lead into suitable internal features. Some trees within the northern line also supported ivy; however, the trees were generally of insufficient size or structure to provide suitable roosting opportunities.

5.1.5.5 The TPO trees and trees within the TPO Area are understood to be retained and therefore no further bat survey effort is considered necessary in relation to these trees at this stage. Should the final proposals require removal or significant pruning of any trees identified as having PRFs, further assessment would be required prior to works. Any removal or pruning of trees should also consider the potential for breeding birds, with appropriate precautionary measures implemented where works are undertaken during the nesting bird season.

Figure 5: Scattered trees and line of trees





5.2 Desktop Survey Results

5.2.1 A total of 699 records were returned from West Yorkshire Ecology, West Yorkshire Bat Group and Barnsley Biological Records Centre for a 2 km radius from the site's central grid reference. The list of protected and notable species data records is available upon request. In summary, the following records were returned:

Table 3: Protected species records returned

Species	Records	Notes
Bats	69	Six records for unspecified bat species, dated between 1985 and 2011. One record for brown long-eared bat (<i>Plecotus auritus</i>) dated in 2020. One record for Leisler's bat (<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>) dated in 2025. Four records for unspecified <i>Myotis</i> bat species dated between 2013 and 2025. Eleven records for noctule bat (<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>) dated between 2009 and 2025. Thirty-six records for common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>) dated between 1990 and 2025. Eight records for soprano pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>) dated between 2013 and 2025. Five records for whiskered bat (<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>) dated between 2020 and 2022. Two records for unspecified pipistrelle species dated between 1987 and 1988. Six records for vesper bat species dated between 1988 and 2000.
Badger	~	Any records pertaining to Eurasian badger have been omitted from this report due to the sensitivity of the data. Full consideration has been given to any information returned.
Hedgehog	4	Four records for hedgehog dated between 1983 and 1987.
Otter	0	No records returned for otter.
Water vole	3	Three records for water vole dated between 2003 and 2013.
Reptiles	0	No records returned for reptiles
Amphibians	3	One record for common frog (<i>Rana temporaria</i>) dated in 2003. One record for common toad (<i>Bufo bufo</i>) dated in 1978. One record for great crested newt dated in 2000.
Other protected/notable species	7	Three records for barn owl (<i>Tyto alba</i>) dated in 2020. Three records for brown hare (<i>Lepus europaeus</i>) dated in 1985 and 2015. One record for white-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) dated in 2003.

5.2.2 Consultation with MAGIC identified one European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) licence within a 2 km radius of the site. This related to common pipistrelle, under licence 2014-5044-EPS-MIT, issued for the destruction of a resting place, with a licence period of 2015–2020.

5.2.3 No records for great crested newt presence were recorded within a 2 km radius from grid

via consultation with Natural England's eDNA pond surveys for District Level Licensing (England). The site was not identified as being within a mapped GCN risk zone.

5.3 Designated Sites

5.3.1 Consultation with MAGIC identified no statutory designated sites within the 2 km search radius of the site.

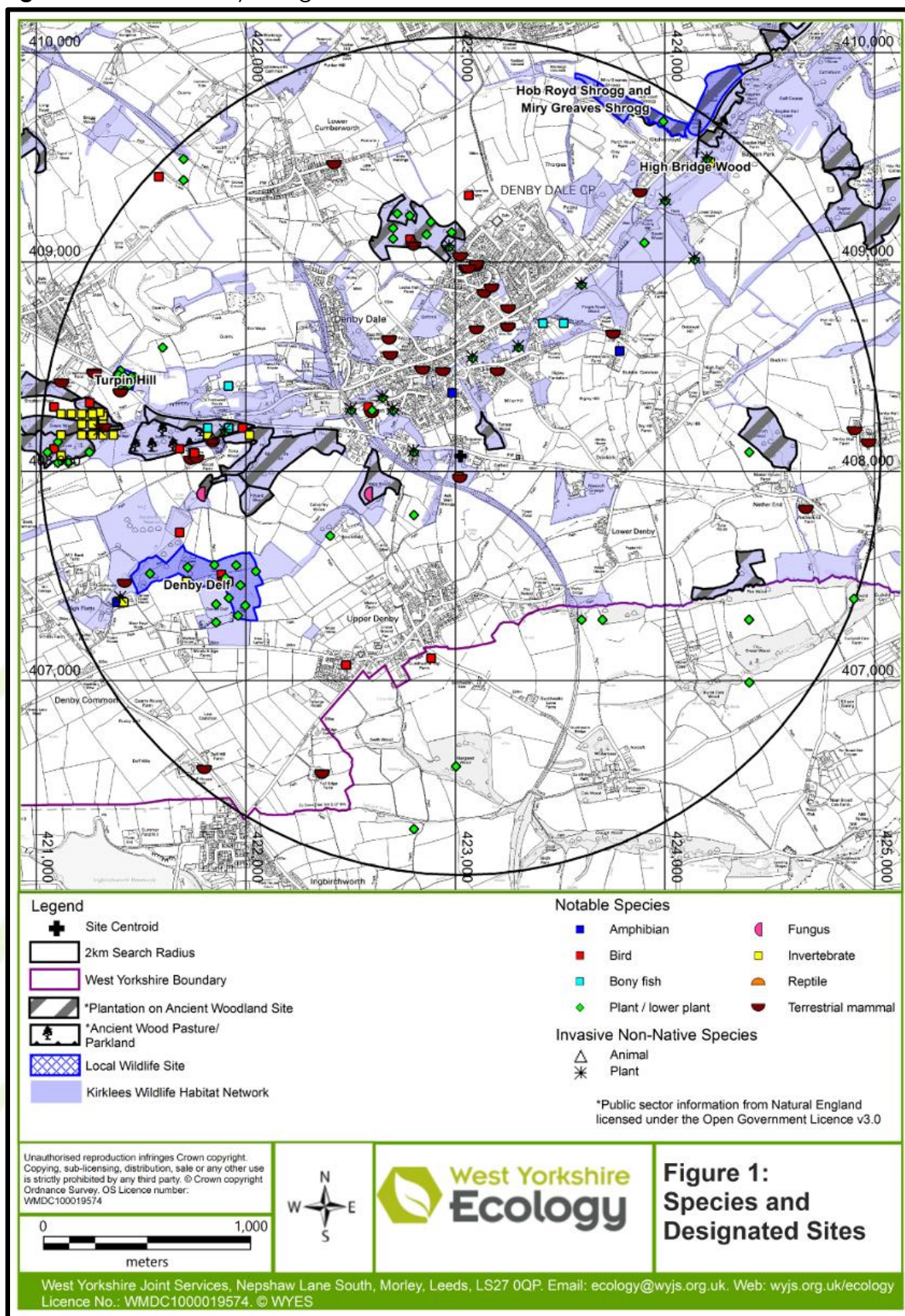
5.3.2 The site lies within the Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) of several Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), all located more than 2 km from the site boundary. A review of the MAGIC mapping tool and Natural England's IRZ guidance confirms that the proposed development does not fall within the development categories for which consultation with Natural England is required. The development is therefore not considered likely to result in adverse effects on the identified SSSIs, and consultation with Natural England is not required in relation to statutory designated sites.

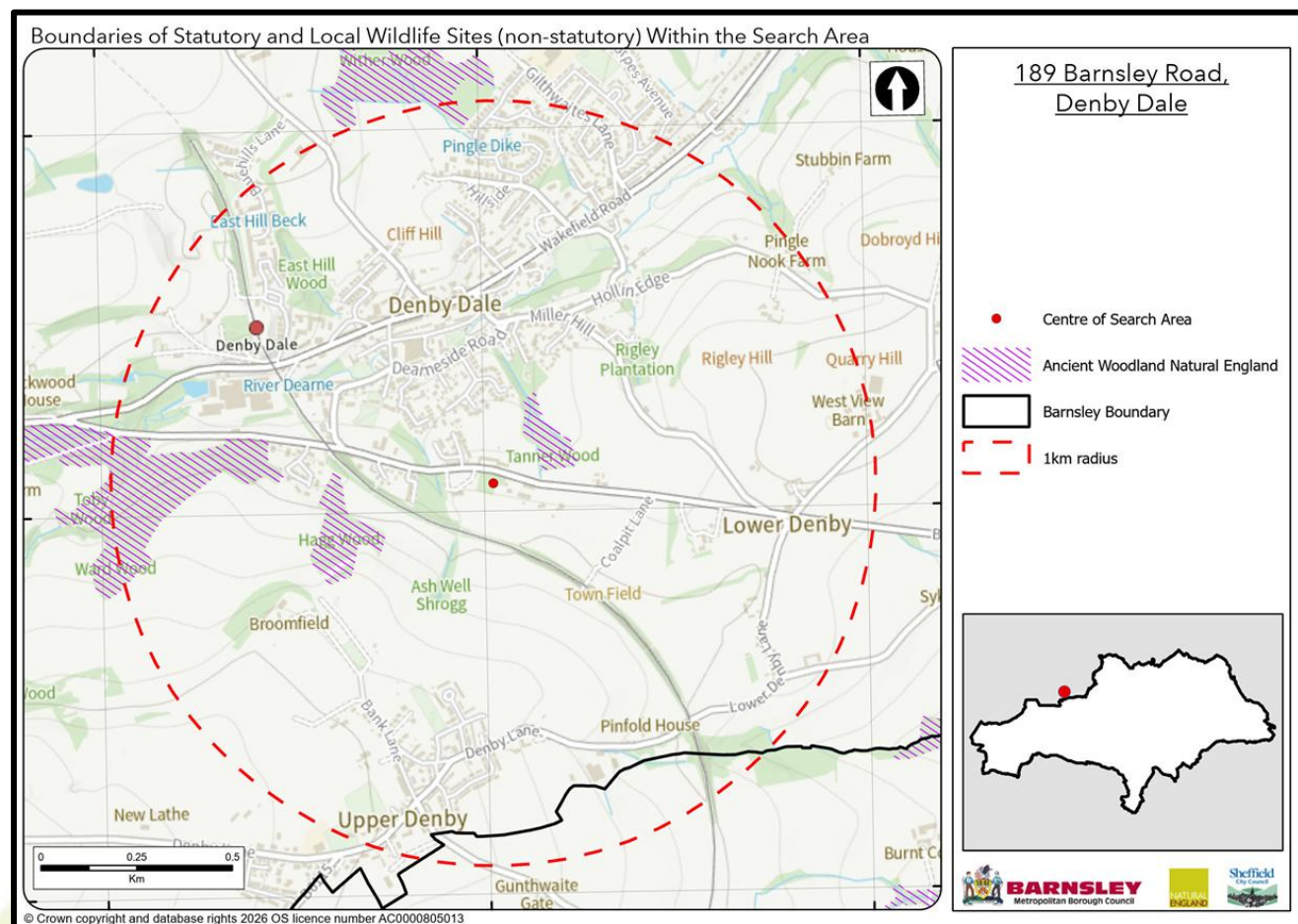
5.3.3 Consultation with West Yorkshire Ecology and Barnsley Biological Records Centre returned four non-statutory designated sites within the 2 km search radius from grid.

Table 4: Non-Statutory Designated Sites within the Search Radius

Habitat Type	Designation	Distance from site
Denby Delf	Local Wildlife Site	1068 m southwest
High Bridge Wood	LWS	1904 m northeast
Hob Royd Shrogg and Miry Greaves Shrogg	LWS	1853 m northeast
Turpin Hill	LWS	1679 m west

Figure 6: Non-Statutory Designated Sites within the Search Radius





5.4 Priority Habitats and Priority Species

5.4.1 Desk study data identified an area of deciduous woodland priority habitat within the red line boundary. However, during the field survey, the trees within the site were not considered to meet the criteria for classification as woodland due to their limited extent, structure and overall characteristics. The area was therefore not classified as woodland for the purposes of the habitat survey and BNG assessment. The desk study record has nevertheless been noted and considered when assessing the ecological value of the site and potential impacts of the proposed works.

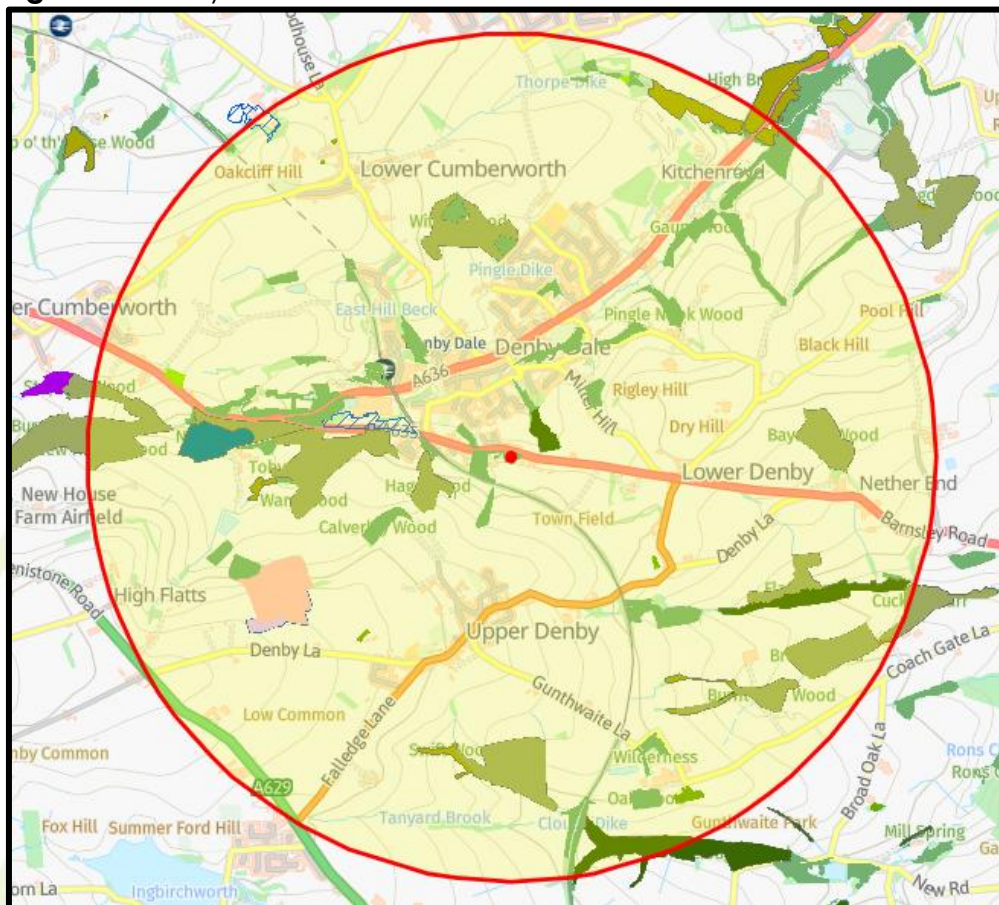
5.4.2 Other priority woodland located outside the site boundary should be appropriately protected during construction to prevent accidental encroachment, damage, pollution or other indirect impacts. Appropriate protection measures should be detailed within a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

5.4.3 Seven priority habitats were recorded outside the red line site boundary but within the search radius as displayed in table 5 below.

Table 5: Priority Habitats within the Search Radius

Habitat Type	Habitat Description
Deciduous Woodland	Multiple parcels of deciduous woodland are present off-site, with the closest located approximately 20 m west of the site boundary.
Ancient Woodland	Multiple compartments within the search radius, with the closest located approximately 108 m northeast.
Open Mosaic Habitat	One parcel located approximately 459 m west.

(Draft)	
Lowland dry acid grassland	One compartment located approximately 1,113 m southwest.
Traditional orchard	One compartment located approximately 1,763 m southeast.
Lowland heathland	One parcel located approximately 1,303 m southwest.
Lowland meadows	Two parcels, with the closest located approximately 1,605 m west.

Figure 7: Priority Habitats within the Search Radius

5.4.4 No protected species listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) were recorded within the application boundary.

5.4.5 No non-native invasive species listed on Schedule 9 (I or II) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) were recorded within the application boundary.

5.5 Protected Species

5.5.1 Bats

5.5.1.1 No evidence of bat roosting was identified during the survey. The trees present within the site were inspected for Potential Roost Features (PRFs), including suitable cavities, cracks, splits, loose bark, holes and other features that could provide suitable roosting conditions.

5.5.1.2 No Potential Roost Features suitable for use by roosting bats were identified within the trees. Occasional knots, gaps and cavities were generally shallow, closed or did not lead into suitable internal features. Some trees within the northern line of trees also supported ivy;

however, these trees were generally of insufficient size or structure to provide suitable roosting opportunities.

5.5.1.3 The trees are therefore considered to have negligible suitability for roosting bats.

5.5.1.4 The wider site provides some limited opportunities for bat foraging and commuting, particularly along the line of trees and site boundaries. However, the site is relatively small and disturbed, and more extensive suitable habitat is present within the surrounding landscape.

5.5.1.5 Given the absence of PRFs and the retention of the TPO trees and line of trees within the TPO Area, no further bat survey is considered necessary.

5.5.2 Breeding Birds

5.5.2.1 The trees and line of trees, provide opportunities for nesting birds.

5.5.2.2 One particularly large TPO tree along the eastern boundary provides suitable structure for nesting birds. Bird activity was heard in the vicinity during the survey, although no active nest was identified.

5.5.2.3 Any vegetation clearance or tree works have the potential to disturb nesting birds or damage an active nest if undertaken during the nesting period. Appropriate precautionary measures are therefore recommended.

5.5.3 Badger

5.5.3.1 No evidence of badger activity was recorded during the survey.

5.5.3.2 The ruderal vegetation, tall forbs, bare ground and boundary habitats provide some limited opportunities for occasional foraging and commuting by badgers.

5.5.3.3 Given the relatively disturbed nature of the site and the absence of field signs, significant use of the site by badgers is considered unlikely.

5.5.3.4 No further badger survey is considered necessary. Precautionary measures during construction are recommended to minimise the risk of harm to any transient individuals.

5.5.4 Hedgehog

5.5.4.1 No evidence of hedgehog was recorded during the survey.

5.5.4.2 The ruderal vegetation, tall forbs, bare ground and dry-stone walls provide some opportunities for hedgehog foraging and sheltering.

5.5.4.3 No further survey is considered necessary. Precautionary working methods are recommended during vegetation clearance and construction.

5.5.5 Otter and Water Vole

5.5.5.1 No watercourses, ponds or other aquatic habitats are present within the application boundary.

5.5.5.2 No further survey or species-specific mitigation is considered necessary in relation to otter or water vole.

5.5.6 Amphibians

5.5.6.1 No ponds or other aquatic habitats suitable for breeding amphibians were identified within the application boundary.

5.5.6.2 A small number of waterbodies are identified within 500 m of the site; however, these were not assessed for suitability due to being located on private land and/or not being readily accessible. One waterbody identified by MAGIC approximately 85 m south-east of the site could not be identified on available Google Earth imagery and may therefore no longer be present or may not represent a suitable aquatic feature.

5.5.6.3 The River Dearne is located approximately 373 m north of the site and is considered unlikely to provide suitable breeding habitat for great crested newt. A network of drainage features and field ditches is also present within the wider 500 m search area.

5.5.6.4 No records for great crested newt presence were identified through Natural England's eDNA pond survey data within the 2 km search area, and the site is not located within a mapped great crested newt risk zone. One historic great crested newt record dated 2000 was returned through the biological records search.

5.5.6.5 The ruderal vegetation, tall forbs, bare ground and dry-stone walls provide some terrestrial opportunities for common amphibians, including sheltering and foraging.

5.5.6.6 Overall, the likelihood of the site supporting significant amphibian habitat is considered low. Common amphibians may occur occasionally, but great crested newt presence within the site is considered unlikely given the absence of suitable aquatic habitat.

5.5.6.7 Given the absence of confirmed suitable breeding habitat and the site's location outside mapped GCN risk zones, further amphibian survey is not considered proportionate at this stage. However, given the presence of an unidentified waterbody approximately 85 m south-east of the site, precautionary working methods should be implemented during vegetation clearance and groundworks and detailed within a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

5.5.7 Reptiles

5.5.7.1 No records for reptiles were returned through the desk study, and no reptiles or evidence of reptiles were recorded during the field survey.

5.5.7.2 The areas of ruderal vegetation, tall forbs, bare ground and dry-stone walls provide some limited opportunities for reptile sheltering, foraging and movement.

5.5.7.3 The habitat is relatively disturbed and fragmented, and more extensive suitable habitat is present within the surrounding landscape. The site is therefore considered to provide low suitability for reptiles.

5.5.7.4 No further reptile survey is considered necessary. A precautionary approach to vegetation clearance and groundworks is recommended.

5.5.8 Other Protected and Notable Species

5.5.8.1 Three records of brown hare were returned during the desk study. The site provides limited suitability for brown hare due to its relatively small size, disturbed nature and lack of extensive open grassland or arable habitat.

5.5.8.2 One record of white-clawed crayfish was returned during the desk study. No suitable aquatic habitat for this species is present within the application boundary.

6 Conclusions

6.1.1 No statutory designated sites were identified within the 2 km search radius of the site.

6.2 Habitats and Vegetation

works in the immediate vicinity should cease and an appropriately qualified ecologist should be contacted for advice.

6.3.4 Hedgehog and Badger

6.3.4.1 A precautionary approach should be adopted during vegetation clearance and groundworks due to the potential for hedgehog and transient badger activity within the site.

6.3.4.2 Open excavations should not be left unattended overnight where practicable. Where this cannot be avoided, suitable means of escape should be provided.

6.3.4.3 Materials and vegetation piles should be stored and managed to avoid creating potential traps or refugia for mammals.

6.3.5 TPO Trees

6.3.5.1 The individually protected trees and the line of trees within the TPO Area are understood to be retained as part of the proposed development.

6.3.5.2 One TPO tree has naturally degraded and partially failed. Any proposed removal or significant pruning of this tree must be considered through the relevant TPO process and discussed with Kirklees Council prior to works.

6.3.5.3 No recommendation is made within this ecological appraisal regarding whether the degraded tree should be removed, as this falls outside the scope of ecological assessment and requires consideration under the relevant TPO and arboricultural requirements.

6.3.6 Construction Environmental Management Plan

6.3.6.1 A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) should be prepared prior to commencement of works to detail appropriate precautionary working methods and ecological protection measures to be implemented during construction.

6.3.6.2 The CEMP should include measures to minimise potential impacts to the nearby woodland habitats and other retained boundary vegetation, including measures to prevent accidental encroachment, damage, pollution, dust and uncontrolled runoff during construction.

6.3.6.3 The CEMP should also detail precautionary working methods for protected and notable species that may potentially occur within the site, including great crested newt, common amphibians, reptiles, hedgehog, badger and nesting birds.

6.3.6.4 The CEMP should include measures relating to vegetation clearance, exposed ground, excavations, material storage, lighting and pollution prevention, as appropriate to the construction works.

7 Biodiversity Enhancement and Biodiversity Net Gain

7.1 In line with the National Planning Policy Framework (2026) the application should demonstrate biodiversity enhancements. Upon finalisation of plans, calculations can be compiled.

7.2 Due to the size of the site and location, applicable specific habitat enhancements could include:

- Bat and bird boxes integrated into the scheme design to enhance roosting provision over the wider site.
- A planting scheme should be implemented within the scheme to create a greenspace within the site. Plantings should comprise native species of high biodiversity value.
- Boundary features should be kept open and allow passage for small mammals such as hedgehogs.

7.3 In line with National Policy, developments submitted for planning after the 12th of February 2024, with some exceptions, are expected to achieve a 10% net gain minimum increase in site biodiversity value from the existing baseline assessment. Upon finalisation of the scheme, Biodiversity Net Gain calculations can be compiled.

7.4 A baseline assessment of the site and condition assessment of the habitats present was conducted during the survey which was conducted in July. The results of the baseline BNG assessment are outlined below. Upon completion of the scheme design, calculations can be compiled. Units are given to two decimal places.

Table 6: Statutory Metric Baseline

Area Habitat	UK HABS codes		Condition Assessment/ Strategic Significance	Area Size (ha)	Baseline Units (2 d.p.)
	Primary	Secondary			
Developed Land; Sealed Surface	u1b	-	N/A	0.0305	0.00
Built Linear Features	u1b5	-	N/A	0.006	0.00
Sparsely vegetated land; Tall forbs	u1f	16	Poor condition. No strategic significance.	0.2473	0.49
Sparsely vegetated land; Ruderal or ephemeral	u1f	81	Poor condition. No strategic significance.	0.1157	0.23
Bare ground	u	510	Poor condition. No strategic significance.	0.0491	0.10
Individual tree: x-large	g	32	Good condition. No strategic significance.	0.1529	1.83
Individual tree: large	g	32	Good condition. No strategic significance.	0.0733	0.88
Individual tree: medium	g	32	Moderate condition. No strategic significance.	0.0651	0.52
Individual tree: small	g	32	Moderate condition. No strategic significance.	0.0611	0.49
Individual tree: large	g	32	Good condition. No strategic significance.	0.0366	0.44
Linear Habitat	UK HABS codes		Condition Assessment/ Strategic Significance	Length (km)	Baseline Units (2 d.p.)
	Primary	Secondary			
Line of trees	w	33	Moderate condition. No strategic significance.	0.0676	0.27

7.5 The total value of the site at the baseline is calculated to be 4.99 area habitat units and 0.27 linear units. No watercourse units were recorded on the baseline. No irreplaceable habitats are recorded on the baseline. A map of the measured baseline habitats can be found in Appendix One.

Figure 8: Statutory Metric Final Results

FINAL RESULTS				
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	<i>Area habitat units</i>	-4.99		
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	-0.27		
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00		
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	<i>Area habitat units</i>	-100.00%		
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	-100.00%		
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00%		
Trading rules satisfied?		No - Check Trading Summaries ▲		
Area created must match area lost for both onsite and offsite ▲				
Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit
<i>Area habitat units</i>	10.00%	4.99	5.49	5.49
<i>Hedgerow units</i>	10.00%	0.27	0.30	0.30
<i>Watercourse units</i>	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00

7.6 To achieve the target 10% net gain, the site post-development will need to provide a total value of 5.49 area habitat units and 0.30 linear units, minimum.

7.7 Once a development / landscaping scheme is compiled, a full BNG assessment can be completed. The development / landscaping scheme should consider how to achieve 10% net gain within the development boundaries and satisfy the Trading Summaries. If on-site 10% net gain cannot be achieved, offsetting units may be a requirement.

Appendix One : UK Habitats Classification Map



Vernacular	Taxon
Flora	
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>
Broad-leaved dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
Buddleia	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Crane's-bill species	<i>Geranium</i> sp.
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Herb-Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Horse chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>
Ragwort species	<i>Jacobaea</i> sp.
Oak	<i>Quercus</i> sp.
Perennial ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
Purple toadflax	<i>Linaria purpurea</i>
Rosebay willowherb	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>
Wych elm	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>

References:

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

DEFRA (2023). Great Crested Newts eDNA Pond Surveys for District Level Licensing (England).

Available online at:

[https://naturalenglanddefra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/ffba3805a4d9439c95351ef7f26ab33c_0/explore]

DEFRA (2023). Risk Zones for District Licensing of Great Crested Newts. [Available online at: <https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/search?q=gcn>].

Natural England (no date) MAGIC Maps. Available online at:

[<https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.html>]

UKHab Ltd (2023). UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 Available at [<https://www.ukhab.org>].

Woodland Trust (2024). Ancient Tree Inventory. Available online at:

[<https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/tree-search>]