Land off Blackmoorfoot Road, Huddersfield – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Update)

LNT Care Developments

Date: 19/12/2025

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Ref: 26042-PEA-V0.2

Report to:	LNT Care Developments
Report Title:	Land off Blackmoorfoot Road, Huddersfield – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Update)
Version:	V1.0
Issue Date:	December 2025
Report Ref:	26042
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Version	Author	Description	Date
V0.1	NB	First Draft	17/11/2025
V0.2	MM	Quality Assurance 1 (QA1)	15/12/2025
V0.3	NB	QA1 Comments Addressed	16/12/2025
V0.4	CE	QA2	18/12/2025
V1.0	NB	Issue to Client	19/12/2025

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Executive Summary

Cura Terrae Land & Nature (CTLN) was commissioned by LNT Care Developments to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), 2017) for a circa 1.21 hectare (ha) area of land to the north Blackmoorfoot Road, Huddersfield (central Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OS NGR): SE 11370 14757), hereafter referred to as 'the Site'. The extent of the Site and its location is shown by the redline boundary in **Figure 1.**

It is understood that an updated Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) is required, as the previous survey undertaken by CTLN in 2023 is now out of date in accordance with CIEEM's guidelines on the lifespan of ecological reports (CIEEM, 2019). In addition, remediation and groundworks have since commenced at the Site; therefore, the updated PEA will record the extent of these recent works and describe whether any habitats or ecological features previously identified have been affected, altered, or removed. This will ensure that the ecological baseline accurately reflects the current Site conditions and status and that any subsequent recommendations remain appropriate and up to date.

Current proposals comprise the development of a care home and associated landscaping. At the time of writing, detailed landscaping plans had not yet been provided.

This report culminates the results of data consultation from West Yorkshire Ecology Service (WYES) and an updated habitat and protected species appraisal by CTLN in November 2025.

Following the results of the PEA, the following are constraints to the proposed works:

- Common amphibians and widespread reptiles (excluding great crested newt (GCN));
- Nesting birds;
- Bats (roosting only);
- Badger;
- Hedgehog; and
- Invasive non-native plant species (INNPS).

The following mitigation measures or further assessment are required prior to or throughout the works:

- Best Practice Measures regarding common amphibians, widespread reptiles, badger and hedgehog;
- Nesting bird check within 24 hours of works that may disturb nesting birds (if required);
- If removal of the dry stone wall along the northern boundary of the Site is required to facilitate the works, this should be carried out by hand to minimise the risk of disturbance, in the unlikely event that roosting bats are present within the structure; and
- Biosecurity measures to be implemented throughout the duration of the construction phase to prevent the accidental spreading of INNPS onto Site.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Cura Terrae Land & Nature (CTLN) was commissioned by LNT Care Developments to undertake an updated Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), 2017) for a circa 1.21 hectare (ha) area of land to the north of Blackmoorfoot Road, Huddersfield (central Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OS NGR): SE 11370 14757), hereafter referred to as 'the Site'. The extent of the Site and its location is shown by the redline boundary in Figure 1.

1.1.2 It is understood that an updated Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) is required, as the previous survey undertaken by CTLN in 2023 is now out of date in accordance with CIEEM's guidelines on the lifespan of ecological reports (CIEEM, 2019). In addition, remediation and groundworks have since commenced at the Site; therefore, the updated PEA is intended to record the extent of these recent works and describe whether any habitats or ecological features previously identified have been affected, altered, or removed. This will ensure that the ecological baseline accurately reflects the current Site conditions and status and that any subsequent recommendations remain appropriate and up to date.

1.1.3 This report details the findings of a data consultation and ecological walkover survey carried out during November 2025. Methodologies employed during the surveys are described along with the survey findings, evaluation, assessment and requirement for any further survey work and/or mitigation/enhancement as required.

1.2 Previous Surveys

1.2.1 Previous ecological surveys were conducted on the Site by CTLN between 2023 and 2024 as part of a wider 45-ha development scheme for 700 residential properties with associated access, landscaping, and facilities (hereafter referred to as the 'Survey Area').

1.2.2 The initial PEA survey completed in 2023 assessed this wider Survey Area and identified habitats with potential suitability for amphibians (excluding great crested newt (GCN)), reptiles, badger, bats, breeding birds, invertebrates and hedgehog. Several Schedule 9 invasive plant species were also recorded within this wider Survey Area. Targeted protected species surveys were subsequently undertaken across the Survey Area in 2024.

1.3 Site Proposals

1.3.1 Current proposals comprise the development of a care home and associated landscaping. At the time of writing, detailed landscaping plans had not yet been provided.

2. Methodology

2.1 Data Consultation

2.1.1 As part of the PEA process, an updated data consultation was undertaken by CTLN in November 2025 with the local record centre, West Yorkshire Ecology Service (WYES). The data consultation was undertaken to determine the presence of existing biological records or local non-statutory designated sites of nature conservation interest within 2 kilometres (km) of the Site.

2.1.2 All records received have been reviewed, but 'recent' records dating from the past ten years are considered to have greater relevance. Habitats within the Site that are listed as Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI) (NERC Act, 2006) and as priority habitats on the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) as well as those within 2 km of the Site were identified to be relevant.

2.1.3 The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website (http://magic.defra.gov.uk) was consulted for the presence of European Protected Species (EPS) mitigation licences (from 2023) for great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* (GCN) and bats within 1 km of the Site. MAGIC was also used to search for information relating to GCN Class Survey Licence Returns within 500 m of the Site.

2.2 Ecological Walkover Survey

2.2.1 A habitat survey and protected species assessment was completed in accordance with industry guidelines (CIEEM, 2017) on 14th November 2025.

2.2.2 Weather conditions and visibility were considered to be suitable for the purpose of the survey (temperature = 7°C, wind = Beaufort 3-4, cloud cover = Oktas 8, precipitation = heavy throughout).

2.2.3 The Site was assessed as shown by the red line boundary on **Figure 1.**

2.2.4 Botanical species were recorded by level of abundance using the DAFOR method and a preliminary species list was compiled. This method is intended to provide an indication of the relative abundances of plant species within each habitat. The standardised terms in descending order of abundance level are as follows:

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

2.2.5 This survey method aims to characterise habitats and communities present and is not intended to provide a complete list of all plants occurring across the Site.

2.2.6 Evidence of protected species, species of nature conservation importance, and notable, rare, or scarce species was recorded if field signs were present at the time of survey. Any evidence recorded is included within the report as appropriate and represented as Target Notes (TN) in **Figure 2.** Photographs were taken of each habitat type and any features with potential to support protected or notable species. Photographs of the Site can be viewed in **Appendix 1**.

2.2.7 Any habitats present which are listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act, the Local Biodiversity Action (Kirklees Biodiversity Action Plan, 2007) or Kirklees Biodiversity Strategy (Kirklees Council, 2025) were noted. There is currently no Local Nature Recovery Strategy specific to Kirklees, instead, the district will be covered by the West Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which is still in development and is expected to be published in 2026.

2.2.8 The importance of ecological features present within the Sites was determined based on the guidance given in CIEEM Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM, 2017) and Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (CIEEM, 2018).

2.2.9 Ecological features (habitats and species that could be affected by the proposed works) were assigned levels of importance for nature conservation. The hierarchy of importance used in this report scales from international, national, regional, county, local and lastly site level (CIEEM, 2018).

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 with regards to its potential to support amphibians, including a detailed GCN assessment as described below.

2.3.3 A desk-based search for waterbodies within 500 metres (m) of the Site, which are not separated by a significant barrier to amphibian dispersal, were searched for using 1:10,000 OS mapping.

2.3.4 Habitats within the Site were assessed for their suitability to support amphibians during their terrestrial and aquatic stages.

Badger

2.3.5 Signs of badger *Meles meles* activity were searched for within the Site and up to 30 m beyond the perimeter of the Site observed, where possible.

2.3.6 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).

2.3.7 This included survey for badger 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.

2.3.8 The survey focused on areas with suitable topography and/or vegetation for sett building as well as key habitats favoured for foraging such as woodland, heathland and banks.

Bats

2.3.9 In accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust's best practice guidelines (Collins, 2023), the suitability of any buildings within the Site to support roosting bats were categorised as negligible, low, moderate, or high, based on the number and type of roosting features and surrounding landscape character. If possible, an inspection of the interior of any buildings present on Site was also undertaken.

2.3.10 Any structures and trees present within the Site were subject to an external visual assessment, undertaken from ground-level using binoculars. This approach permitted a search for the presence of Potential Roosting Features (PRFs) which could be used by roosting bats.

2.3.11 Trees are assigned a level of potential for their ability to support roosting bats which range from:

- 'None', no Potential Roosting Features (PRFs) within tree or highly unlikely to be any;
- 'Further Assessment Required (FAR)', further assessment is required to establish if PRF's are present within the tree;
- 'PRF-I, a tree with at least one potential roosting feature that is likely to be used by individual or low number of bats;
- 'PRF-M', a tree with potential roosting features that may be used by a maternity colony and/ or several bats; and
- Confirmed if bats or secondary evidence of bats is recorded.

2.3.12 An individual tree or structure may have several PRFs associated with it. It is not always possible to confirm if a feature is used by bats, as bats may not use the feature frequently.

2.3.13 Habitats within the Site were also assessed for their suitability to support foraging and commuting bats.

Birds

2.3.14 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.

2.3.15 "Red" is the highest conservation priority, with species needing urgent action due to either a historical decline in breeding population, severe (>50 percent (%)) decline in breeding or non-breeding population, or severe decline in breeding range over 50 years or more. "Amber" is the next most critical group, with species qualifying for this status as a result of either recovery from red list criterion, being classed as rare breeders in the UK, moderate (>25%) decline in breeding or non-breeding population or moderate decline in breeding range over 25 years or more. These categories are followed by "Green", indicating that the species are relatively unthreatened.

2.3.16 Desk study 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 Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) as described above, was also referred to.

2.3.17 While on Site during the survey, any species of birds encountered were recorded and habitats assessed for their potential value to nesting, wintering and foraging birds.

Invertebrates

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

Reptiles

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

Riparian Mammals and White-clawed Crayfish

2.3.20 A desk-based search for watercourses on, and within 30 m of, the Site which are not separated from the Site by a significant barrier to dispersal was undertaken using OS 1:10,000 mapping.

2.3.21 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

2.3.22 Whilst on Site habitats were assessed for their potential to support any other nationally, locally scarce or locally notable species.

2.4 Invasive Species

2.4.1 Any evidence of invasive non-native plant species listed under Schedule 9 of the WCA 1981 was recorded during the survey including, but not limited to: Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica*, hybrid knotweed *R. x bohemica*, giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum* and Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*.

2.4.2 Evidence of invasive non-native animal species was noted incidentally, and any relevant recommendations have been made in **Section 5.**

2.5 Assumptions and Limitations

2.5.1 Every effort has been made to provide a comprehensive description of the Site, but the following specific limitations apply to this appraisal.

2.5.2 The survey undertaken was intended to provide a rapid assessment of the habitats present within the Site and was not intended to replace detailed vegetation or protected species surveys. Where a greater level of information is necessary to inform an assessment, recommendations have been made to undertake further detailed survey.

2.5.3 Surveys of this type provide a snapshot of the Site at the time of the survey.

2.5.4 The survey was completed in November, which is outside of the optimal botanical survey period (May to September inclusive) Many plant species would not be present at this time of year. However, it is considered that an adequate assessment of the habitats and protected/notable species potential of the Site has been made.

3. Findings and Evaluation

3.1 Site Description

3.1.1 The Site is a total circa of 1.21 ha and comprises bare ground, flanked at its boundaries by other neutral grassland and scattered trees. The Site is located to the south west of Huddersfield town, north of Blackmoorfoot Road and north-east of Felks Stile Road.

3.1.2 The surrounding area is semi-rural in character and comprises open fields, woodland and former quarry workings to the north, Crosland Heath Golf Club to the west, Wellfield Quarry and Crosland Moor Airfield to the south-west, and the built-up area of Crosland Moor to the east.

3.2 Designated Sites

3.2.1 No statutory designated sites of importance to nature conservation were identified within 2 km of the Site following a review of the MAGIC website. Statutory designated sites are therefore, not a constraint to the works.

3.2.2 WYES returned details of five non-statutory designated sites, all pertaining to Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) located within 2 km of the site. Details of the non-statutory designated sites are provided in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Non-statutory Designated Sites within 2 km of the Site

Designated Site	Description from Citation	Approximate Distance and Direction from Site
Delves Wood LWS	The northern half of the woodland is National Vegetation Classification (NVC) W16 acid woodland, with abundant sessile oak *Quercus petraea*, frequent downy birch *Betula pubescens* and occasional pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and silver birch *Betula pendula* in the canopy and frequent holly *Ilex aquifolium* and occasional rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* in the understorey. The southern half of the woodland is closest to W10 acid woodland, with abundant sessile oak, frequent downy birch and occasional silver birch in the canopy and frequent holly and occasional hazel *Corylus avellana* and rowan in the understorey.	809 m to the south east
Dean Wood LWS	Most of the woodland is W10 acid woodland, with abundant sessile oak , frequent downy birch and occasional sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* in the canopy.	1.13 km to the south east

Huddersfield Narrow Canal LWS	A range of plant and aquatic-margin communities, with kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* and otter spraint noted.	1.48 km to the north west
Low Westwood Pond LWS	A pond designated for its population of floating water plantain.	1.65 km west
Bank Wood LWS	Most of the woodland is closest to W10 acid woodland, with a range of ages in the canopy, although no very old trees. The site is very hummocky with steep slopes, with much of the woodland appearing to be natural regeneration after quarrying.	1.83 km to the south

3.2.3 There is no hydrological connectivity between the Site and LWS's listed above. Some terrestrial connectivity exists between the Site and Delves Wood LWS in the form of grassland, hedgerows and blocks of woodland, however this is partially fragmented by a network of roads.

3.2.4 Given the localised nature of the proposed works, the distance to the non-statutory designated sites, and the lack of connecting habitats or ecological features, these sites do not present a potential constraint to the works.

3.2.5 Non-statutory designated sites are of value to nature conservation at the local level.

3.3 Other Important Habitats

Ancient Woodland

3.3.1 MAGIC confirmed the presence of eight parcels of ancient woodland within 2 km of the Site listed within the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI). The closest of these pertained to Round Wood Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland, located 692 m south east of the Site. There is no hydrological connectivity between the Site and Round Wood. Limited terrestrial connectivity is present via small woodland blocks, although this is partially fragmented by a network of roads.

3.3.2 The AWI site has limited connectivity to the Site and given the distance to the Site it is not a constraint to the proposed works.

Habitats of Principal Importance

3.3.3 Three Habitats of Principal Importance (HPIs) were included within the Natural England Priority Habitats Inventory (Natural England, 2020) database within 2 km of the Site. These comprised:

- Lowland dry acid grassland, closest parcel located 405 m north;
- Decidious woodland, closest parcel located 533 m north;
- Woodpasture and parkland, closest parcel located 1.14 km south east; and
- Traditional orchard, closest parcel located 1.6 km north west

3.3.4 There is limited terrestrial connectivity between the Site and HPIs, provided by parcels of woodland, grassland, treelines and hedgerows, however, this connectivity is fragmented by a network of urban infrastructure, including industrial estates, roads and blocks of residential dwellings.

3.3.5 Given the localised nature of the proposed works, the distance to the HPI's, and the lack of connecting habitats or ecological features, these sites do not present a potential constraint to the works.

Aquatic Habitats

3.3.6 A total of six waterbodies were identified within 500 m of the Site, these pertain to:

- A network of four waterbodies located 366 m south east, situated within Wellfield Quarry;
- A single waterbody located 397 m south west, situated within Crosland Heath Golf Course; and
- A single waterbody located 487 m south west, situated within Moorfield Quarry.

3.3.7 No watercourses were identified within 30 m of the Site.

3.3.8 There is no hydrological connectivity between the Site and these waterbodies.

3.3.9 Due to the nature of the works, lack of connectivity and distance of the waterbodies from the Site, aquatic habitats are not a constraint to the works.

3.4 Habitats

3.4.1 Habitats recorded on the Site, their distribution and composition are discussed in order of dominance below. Descriptions are provided for the habitats recorded during 2023 and 2025. Habitat locations and TN depicting features of ecological interest are annotated on **Figure 1a** (2025 habitats) and **1b** (2023 habitats). Secondary codes are denoted in square brackets e.g. [32 Scattered trees]. Site photographs are displayed in **Appendix 2**.

2023 Habitats

g3c Other neutral grassland [Scattered trees 32]

3.4.2 Prior to recent groundworks, habitats on Site comprised entirely of unmanaged other neutral grassland with scattered oak trees along its northern boundary. Species present within this habitat included sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, common chickweed *Stellaria media*, white clover *Trifolium repens* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*.

Current Habitats (2025)

Bare ground

3.4.3 The majority of the Site comprises disturbed bare ground, resulting from recent remediation and groundworks on the former grassland. Pools of standing water, attributable to recent heavy rainfall was present across the southern and southwestern aspects of the habitat. This habitat was devoid of vegetation.

3.4.4 Bare ground is not a NERC Act 2006 Section 41 priority habitat and is not listed within the Kirklees HAP i.e. LBAP. This habitat has negligible ecological value. Bare ground is considered to be of importance at the site level only.

g3c Other neutral grassland [Scattered trees 32]

3.4.5 The Site boundaries are flanked at all aspects by unmanaged species-poor neutral grassland. Species present included occasional creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, red fescue and cow parsley. Common sorrel was frequent within this habitat. Three young oak trees *Quercus sp*. were located at the northern aspect of the Site, adjacent to a dry-stone wall.

3.4.6 Other neutral grassland is not a NERC Act 2006 Section 41 priority habitat and is not listed within the Kirklees HAP i.e. LBAP. Based on its species composition and distribution on Site, the grassland has been designated as having medium ecological value. Given the presence of grassland habitats locally this habitat is of importance at the site level only.

3.5 Species

Amphibians (including GCN)

3.5.1 West Yorkshire Ecology Service (WYES) returned a single recent record of common amphibians for locations within 2 km of the Site. This record pertained to a deceased common frog *Rana temporaria*, located approximately 1.27 km north west of the Site in 2015.

3.5.2 WYES returned no recent or historical records for great crested newts (GCN) *Triturus cristatus* from within 2 km of the Site.

3.5.3 No GCN European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSML) licences, GCN Pond Surveys 2017 – 2019 data or GCN Class Survey Licence Returns (England) records were identified within a 2 km radius of the Site following a review of the MAGIC website.

3.5.4 This Site is not currently eligible for the District Level Licensing (DLL) scheme as DLL is not yet available in Kirklees.

3.5.5 No waterbodies were identified within 250 m of the Site. A network of waterbodies were present between 250-500 m of the Site, including four waterbodies situated within Wellfield Quarry, 364 m south east and a further two waterbodies located 397 m and 487 m south west of the Site respectively. Some terrestrial connectivity exists between the Site and these waterbodies in the form of expanses of grassland and blocks of woodland, however, this connectivity is partially fragmented by small areas of residential development to the south west and a network of roads, which may act as dispersal barriers.

3.5.6 No ornamental ponds or features were identified within neighbouring residential gardens. It is acknowledged that unidentified ponds may exist within adjacent properties; nonetheless, such features are typically small and more likely to support common amphibian species (e.g., smooth newt, palmate newt, or common frog) than GCN. GCN or common toad may use garden ponds in some circumstances, particularly where larger waterbodies supporting these species exist nearby.

3.5.7 Terrestrial habitats within the Site are generally suboptimal for amphibians, with vegetated areas confined largely to the boundary of the Site. Several standing pools of water were observed during the survey; however, these are considered temporary features formed following recent heavy rainfall and are not suitable breeding habitat.

3.5.8 Suitable woodland and grassland habitats are present closer to the off-site waterbodies. Given the typical dispersal distance of GCN (usually <250 m), combined with the presence of partial barriers to movement, it is unlikely that any GCN potentially associated with these waterbodies would utilise the Site. Therefore, GCN are not evaluated as a constraint to the works.

3.5.9 Some common amphibians, such as common toad, are known to disperse further from breeding ponds than GCN, and therefore there remains a low possibility that such species could be associated with the Site.

3.5.10 The Site is therefore assessed as being of no more than site level importance for common amphibians only.

3.5.11 Common amphibians (excluding GCN) are therefore a constraint to works.

Badger

3.5.12 WYES returned no badger records from within 200 m of the Site. The Site did however fall within the range for increased probability of badger activity in accordance with WYES's records.

3.5.13 Habitats within the Site boundary are considered suboptimal for the creation of badger setts, as the area is highly exposed and currently subject to live construction activities, resulting in elevated levels of disturbance. Despite this, the Site and its surrounding habitats still offer suitable foraging and commuting opportunities for badgers, with construction works potentially uprooting invertebrates and creating softer ground that is easier for digging.

3.5.14 During the initial PEA in 2023, four confirmed badger setts were recorded within close proximity to the Site, along with several additional potential mammal entrances. Subsequent targeted badger surveys identified a total of 23 setts within the wider Site, indicating active and widespread use of the local landscape by badgers.

3.5.15 More suitable habitat for badger exists within large expanses of grassland and woodland to the north, west and southern aspects of the Site. As such, there is potential for badgers to commute through the Site when moving between more optimal habitats.

3.5.16 The Site itself is assessed as being of site level importance for badger only.

3.5.17 Commuting and foraging badger are therefore a constraint to works.

Bats

Roosting

3.5.18 WYES returned three recent records of bat roosts from within 2 km of the Site. All roosts pertained to a single location, 1.55 km west of the Site in 2021 and 2022 and contained brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus* and common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*.

3.5.19 Three young oak trees were recorded at the northern aspect of the Site. No potential roost features such as split limbs, cavities or woodpecker holes were identified on either tree. Consequently, the oaks were assessed as having negligible potential to support roosting bats. Scattered trees located adjacent to the Site boundary were also assessed for potential roosting features, with no PRF's noted.

3.5.20 No buildings were identified on Site. A dry-stone wall (Structure 1) extends along the northern boundary of the Site. Although dry stone walls can occasionally provide roosting opportunities for bats, this feature was assessed as offering only low roosting potential due to its exposed location and the limited surrounding vegetation, which provides poor foraging conditions and increased risk of predation. Although unlikely, the dry-stone wall may provide a potential roosting feature for opportunistic bat species, and appropriate precautions should be taken during the course of the works.

3.5.21 The presence of roosting bats on Site is considered unlikely. However, the dry-stone wall along the northern boundary should be taken into account, as it may provide opportunistic roosting opportunities for bats during construction. Roosting bats are therefore a constraint to the works.

3.5.22 The Site is considered to be of site level importance for roosting bats.

Commuting and Foraging

3.5.23 WYES returned six recent records of foraging and commuting bats from locations within 2 km of the Site. These include Daubenton's *Myotis daubentonii*, common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*.

3.5.24 The habitats within the Site were largely lacking in vegetation, with only a small number of scattered trees present, and were therefore considered suboptimal for foraging and commuting bats. Bats typically prefer to commute along features such as treelines, hedgerows and scrub, which provide shelter and protection from predators. More suitable foraging and commuting habitats are available within the surrounding landscape, particularly within areas of grassland, woodland, river corridors and urban green spaces.

3.5.25 The Site is considered to be of negligible importance for foraging and commuting bats.

3.5.26 Foraging and commuting bats are not a constraint to the works.

Birds

3.5.27 WYES returned a total of 29 records comprising 12 bird species for locations within 2 km of the Site. Bird species recorded within 2 km of the Site are summarised in **Appendix 3** and include four Red and six Amber listed BoCC species and one Schedule 1 bird species, as listed within the WCA 1981 (as amended).

3.5.28 The scattered trees and patch of bramble scrub located outside the Heras fencing on Site has potential to support a common assemblage of nesting birds. In its current form the Site has suboptimal potential to support ground nesting species. Due to the type and nature of habitats on Site, the Site is considered unlikely to support nesting Schedule 1 bird species.

3.5.29 Given the size of the Site and the habitats present, the Site is considered to be of site level importance for nesting birds.

3.5.30 Nesting birds are therefore a constraint to the works.

Invertebrates

3.5.31 WYES returned one recent invertebrate record within 2 km of the Site. This record relates to white ermine *Spilosoma lubricipeda*, recorded in 2016 approximately 1.56 km north-west of the Site. Site habitats are considered to offer some albeit low potential for this species with suitable vegetation limited to the boundary of the Site.

3.5.32 The Site which comprises primarily of bare ground with scattered trees and small strips of poor-quality neutral grassland is likely to support small populations of common invertebrate species. Due to the

nature of the Site, significant populations of invertebrates or those listed as European protected species (i.e. stag beetle) are not likely to be present on Site.

3.5.33 The Site is deemed to be of site level importance for invertebrates only.

3.5.34 Invertebrates are therefore not discussed further within this report.

Reptiles

3.5.35 WYES returned no recent records for reptiles for locations within 2 km of the Site.

3.5.36 Due to the geographical location and nature of Site habitats, the Site is considered highly unlikely to support rare reptiles (i.e. smooth snake *Coronella austriaca* and sand lizard *Lacerta agilis*).

3.5.37 No evidence or incidental observations of reptiles were recorded during the survey.

3.5.38 The Site in its current condition comprises predominantly exposed soil and compacted ground, with only narrow strips of neutral grassland around the perimeter. These marginal areas provide limited, suboptimal foraging and dispersal habitat for reptiles. Sheltering opportunities are similarly restricted, with only small gaps within the boundary dry stone wall offering minimal refuge. More suitable reptile habitat such as extensive grassland, woodland blocks, riparian corridors and parkland occurs within the wider landscape. Good ecological connectivity exists between the Site and these higher quality habitats to the west and south, with only limited dispersal barriers (e.g. local roads).

3.5.39 Given the very limited availability of suitable foraging and sheltering resources within the Site, species such as adder *Vipera berus* and grass snake *Natrix helvetica* are considered unlikely to utilise the area. These species require specific habitat types, including heathland and rough grassland for adder and wetland associated habitats for grass snake, none of which are present.

3.5.40 Nevertheless, the surrounding grassland margin and dry-stone wall may be used occasionally by more habitat tolerant species such as common lizard *Zootoca vivipara* and slow worm *Anguis fragilis* commuting through the local area.

3.5.41 As suitable habitat exists within adjacent land, the presence of widespread reptiles cannot be entirely ruled out, and they therefore remain a constraint to the works.

Riparian mammals and White-clawed crayfish

3.5.42 WYES returned no recent or historical records for European otter *Lutra lutra* or white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* for locations within 2 km of the Site.

3.5.43 WYES returned no recent records for water vole *Arvicola amphibius* for locations within 2 km of the Site. Six historical records for water vole were returned 1.6 – 1.9 km from the Site in 1999.

3.5.44 A search on MAGIC returned no granted EPS mitigation licences relating to otter within 2 km of the Site.

3.5.45 No aquatic habitats suitable for white-clawed crayfish were present on or adjacent to the Site. White-clawed crayfish are therefore not considered likely to be associated with the Site.

3.5.46 No suitable riparian habitats for otter and water vole were recorded within the Site.

3.5.47 The closest watercourses pertained to the Huddersfield Narrow Canal and River Colne located approximately 1.34 km and 1.37 km north of the Site respectively. A number of dispersal barriers including a major A road (A62) and a large network of residential dwellings exist between these watercourses and the Site.

3.5.48 The Site lacks hydrological connectivity to nearby waterbodies, and as water voles typically remain close to the vegetation along the water's edge, it offers negligible suitability for this species. Similarly, although otters have a larger terrestrial range, the surrounding landscape is heavily urbanised and provides suboptimal terrestrial habitat for commuting, making it highly unlikely that otters would be associated with the Site.

3.5.49 As a result, riparian species are not deemed to be a constraint to the works and are therefore not discussed further within this report.

Other notable and Key species

3.5.50 WYES returned no recent or historical records of European hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* for locations within 2 km of the Site. Although no hedgehog records were returned, this should not be taken as evidence of their absence from the local area, as this species is often-under recorded.

3.5.51 The Site offers only limited suitability for hedgehog. Some foraging opportunities are present where the recently disturbed, loose substrate resulting from topsoil removal may expose invertebrates and facilitate feeding. However, the Site is largely exposed, with vegetation confined to boundary features and providing minimal shelter or refuge. No features suitable for hibernation are present. Higher-quality habitat occurs within the wider landscape, including areas of grassland, woodland blocks and urban greenspace (i.e. parks and golf courses).

3.5.52 Hedgehog are likely to be present in the local area, where they typically utilise gardens, hedgerows and other sheltered features for foraging and refugia. Overall, hedgehog are considered highly unlikely to use the Site for hibernation or resting, although occasional commuting or opportunistic foraging may occur.

3.5.53 Given the scale and current nature of the Site, Site habitats are deemed to be of importance to hedgehog at the local level only.

3.5.54 Albeit unlikely, the presence of hedgehog on Site cannot be entirely ruled out. As such, hedgehog are a constraint to the works.

3.6 Invasive Species

3.6.1 WYES returned 47 recent records for invasive non-native plant species (INNPS) for locations within 2 km of the Site. These of which include Himalyan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*, Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*, rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* and yellow azalea *Rhododendron luteum*.

3.6.2 No species listed under Schedule 9 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) were identified on Site.

3.6.3 Several Schedule 9 INNS have been recorded during previous ecological surveys in close proximity to the Site, including Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*, Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*, wall cotoneaster *Cotoneaster horizontalis*, and hollyberry cotoneaster *Cotoneaster bullatus*.

3.6.4 Although no invasive non-native plant species have been identified within the Site itself, their occurrence in the wider survey area indicates both their proximity and the potential for encroachment onto Site habitats. Accordingly, appropriate precautionary measures should be implemented in relation to these species.

4. Conclusion

4.1.1 In accordance with published advice from CIEEM (2019), this PEA report will remain valid for a period of 18 months from the date of the survey. Should there be changes to the Site within this timeframe which may result in a change in the presence of habitats and/or species, an update survey should be considered. After 18 months, an update survey to re-assess the Site is likely to be required to inform an appropriate assessment of the potential impacts to ecological features and presence of protected species. If the survey assesses no changes at the Site, a full PEA report and desk study would not be required.

4.1.2 Current proposals comprise the development of a care home and associated landscaping. At the time of writing, detailed landscaping plans had not yet been provided.

4.1.3 The ecological constraints, potential impacts and further survey/mitigation required to address the above are detailed in **Table 2** on the following pages.

Table 2: Ecological constraints, impacts and recommendations

Feature/Constraint	Potential Impact and Effect	Recommendation	Deliverable	Timing
Protected and notable species				
Birds	**IF** vegetation clearance of suitable habitat (i.e. trees and bramble scrub) is required, there will be a minor loss of suitable habitat for nesting birds. Construction works are likely to disturb nesting birds.	Due to the suitability of the Site and adjacent habitats for nesting birds, it is recommended that a nesting bird check is undertaken by a suitably qualified individual or ecologist if site are works are scheduled to commence during the main nesting bird season (March to August inclusive). Nesting bird checks are valid for a 24-hour period only. If an active nest is identified, an appropriate exclusion zone (species dependent) must be installed around the nest until it is no longer active. This may require monitoring for periods of at least up to a month dependent on nesting stage.	Appropriate timing of works and nesting bird checks where appropriate.	Within 24 hours prior to works commencing.
Badger & Hedgehog	Disturbance or injury to foraging and dispersing badger and hedgehog.	Best Practice Measures (BPM): Any excavations created during site works should be covered overnight or provide a suitable escape ramp for badger or hedgehog that may fall in and become entrapped. A suitable escape ramp would provide	BPM	Construction phase.

Feature/Constraint	Potential Impact and Effect	Recommendation	Deliverable	Timing
		suitable grip, be at least 30 cm wide and set at an angle of no greater than 45°. Limiting construction works to daylight hours only and having a suitable lighting strategy in place (if required) will minimise effects to nocturnal faunal species in adjacent habitats		
Common amphibians and Widespread reptiles	Disturbance or injury to dispersing amphibians.	Best Practice Measures (BPM): Before de-vegetation and topsoil removal, the grassland area within the Site should be walked over to check for commuting and foraging amphibians & reptiles. If grassland strip bordering the Site has grown tall then any de-vegetation should be done under a two-stage cut across two days. With the first day cut being to 300 mm, the next day the grassland can be de-vegetated to ground level. De-vegetation should be done via 'displacement'. De-vegetation should be unidirectional, towards connecting off-Site habitat. Any amphibians & reptiles present can move away from the noise of the works, off-Site.	BPM	Construction phase.

Feature/Constraint	Potential Impact and Effect	Recommendation	Deliverable	Timing
		If an amphibian or reptile is encountered on Site then they should be allowed to move off-Site of their own accord. If the animal is in imminent danger then they can be picked up and moved off Site with a gloved hand (provided the reptile is not an adder).		
Roosting bats – IF removing dry stone wall	Disturbance or injury to roosting bats.	Where possible, the dry stone wall should remain in place to avoid disturbing potential wildlife. IF sections of the wall must be removed, this should be carried out carefully by hand to minimise the risk of harming any roosting bats that may be present within the structure. Work should be undertaken slowly, with each stone lifted individually, and any gaps or cavities inspected by a licensed ecologist prior to removal to ensure no bats are disturbed. If a bat is found during the works **all works should cease and an ecologist contacted for further advice.**	Sensitive working measure.	Construction phase.
INNPS	Accidental spreading of invasive non-native plant species onto Site.	Biosecurity measures (i.e boot wash and equipment cleaning station) should be implemented on Site throughout the duration of works to prevent the accidental spreading of invasive non-native plant species onto Site.	Biosecurity Measures.	Construction phase.

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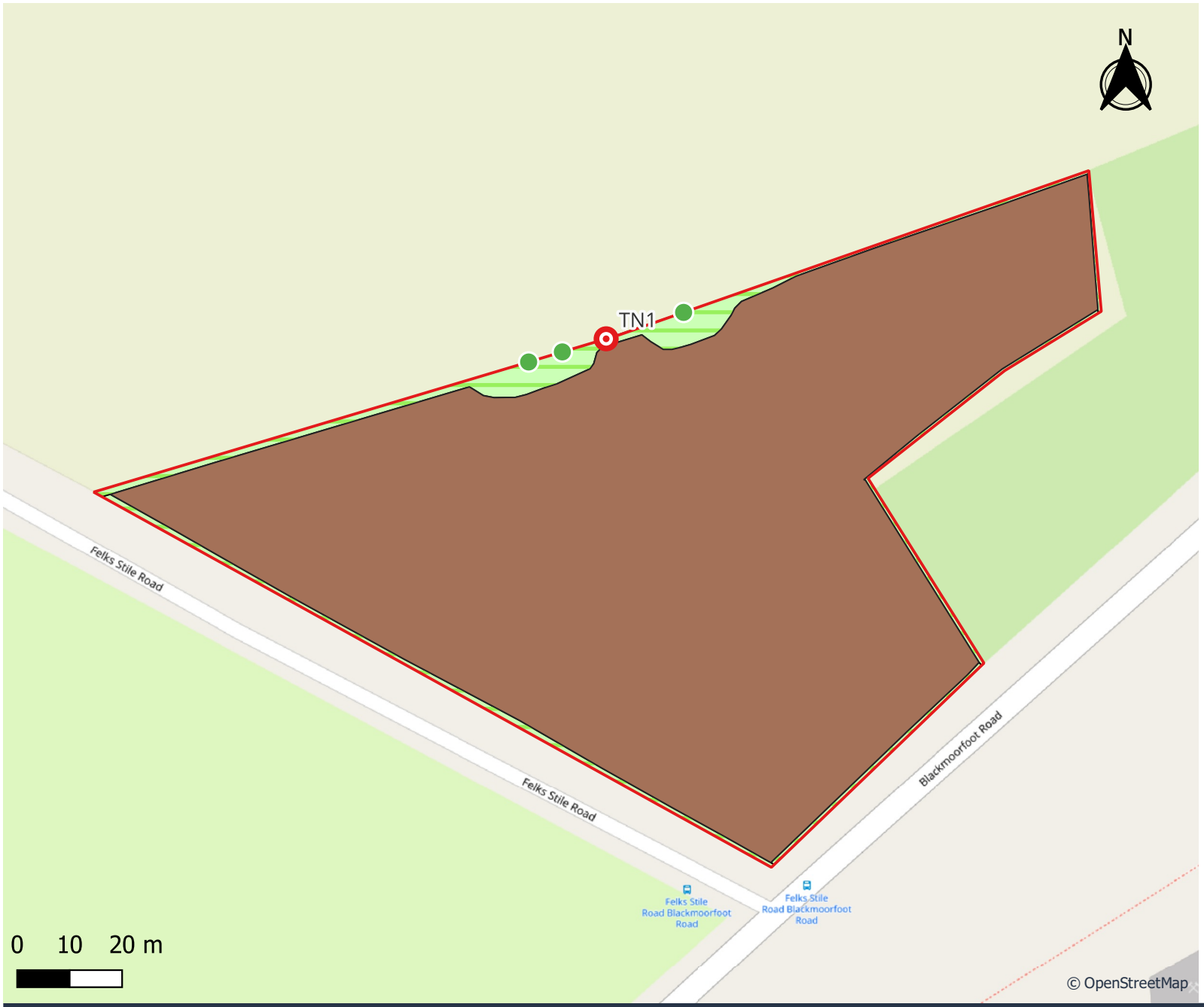
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Figure 1a: UK Habitat Classification Map – Current Habitats (2025)



Legend

- Site boundary
- Bare ground
- Other neutral grassland (g3c)
- Baseline trees
- Target Notes

Revision	Date	Drawn by	Checked by
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Drg. Ref.: 26042/1a

Scale (A4): 1:1,084

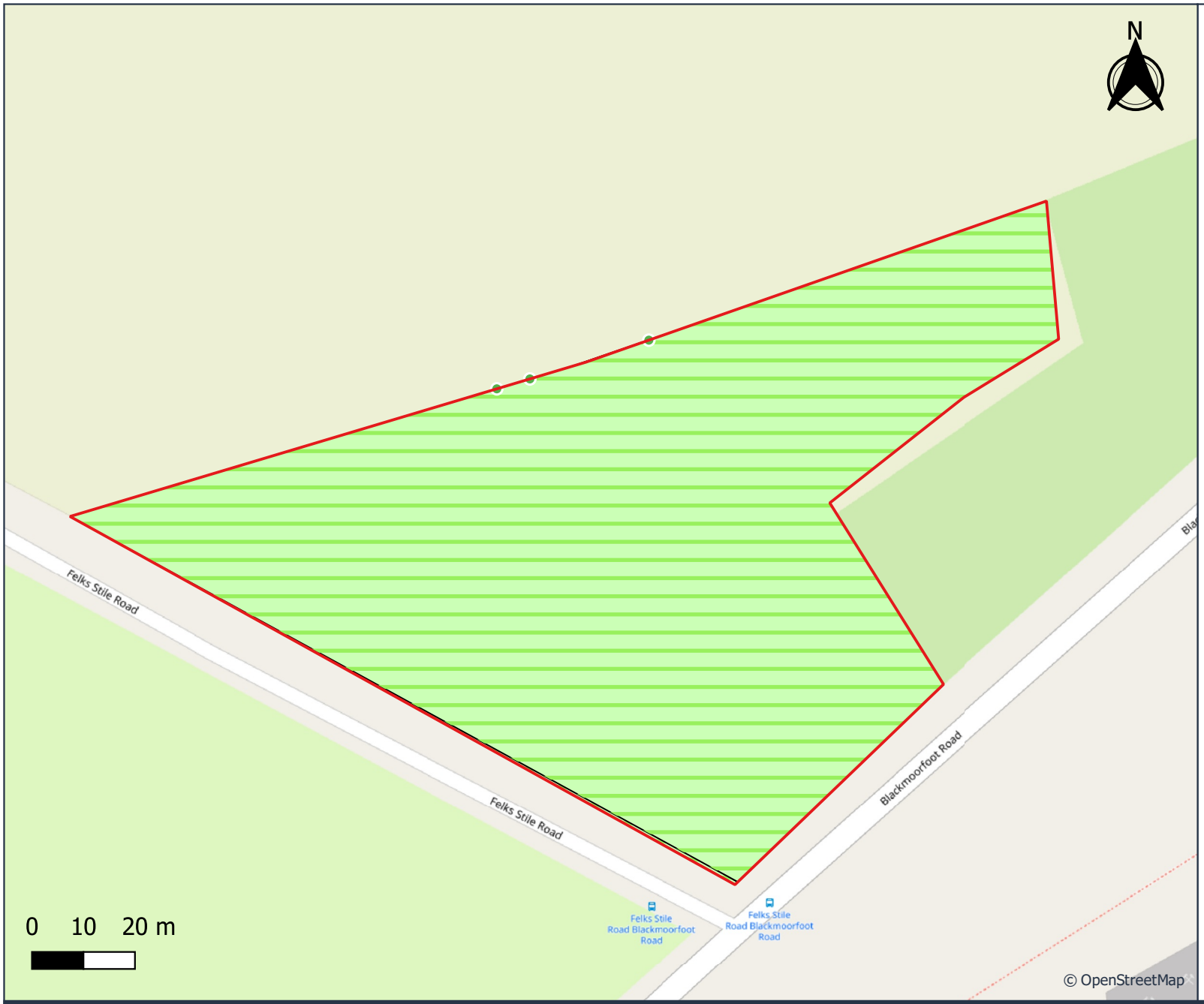
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LNT Care Developments

Figure 1a. UK Habs Map - Current Habitats

Figure 1b: UK Habitat Classification Map – 2023 Habitats



Revision	Date	Drawn by	Checked by
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Drg. Ref.: 26042/1b Scale (A4): 1:1,101

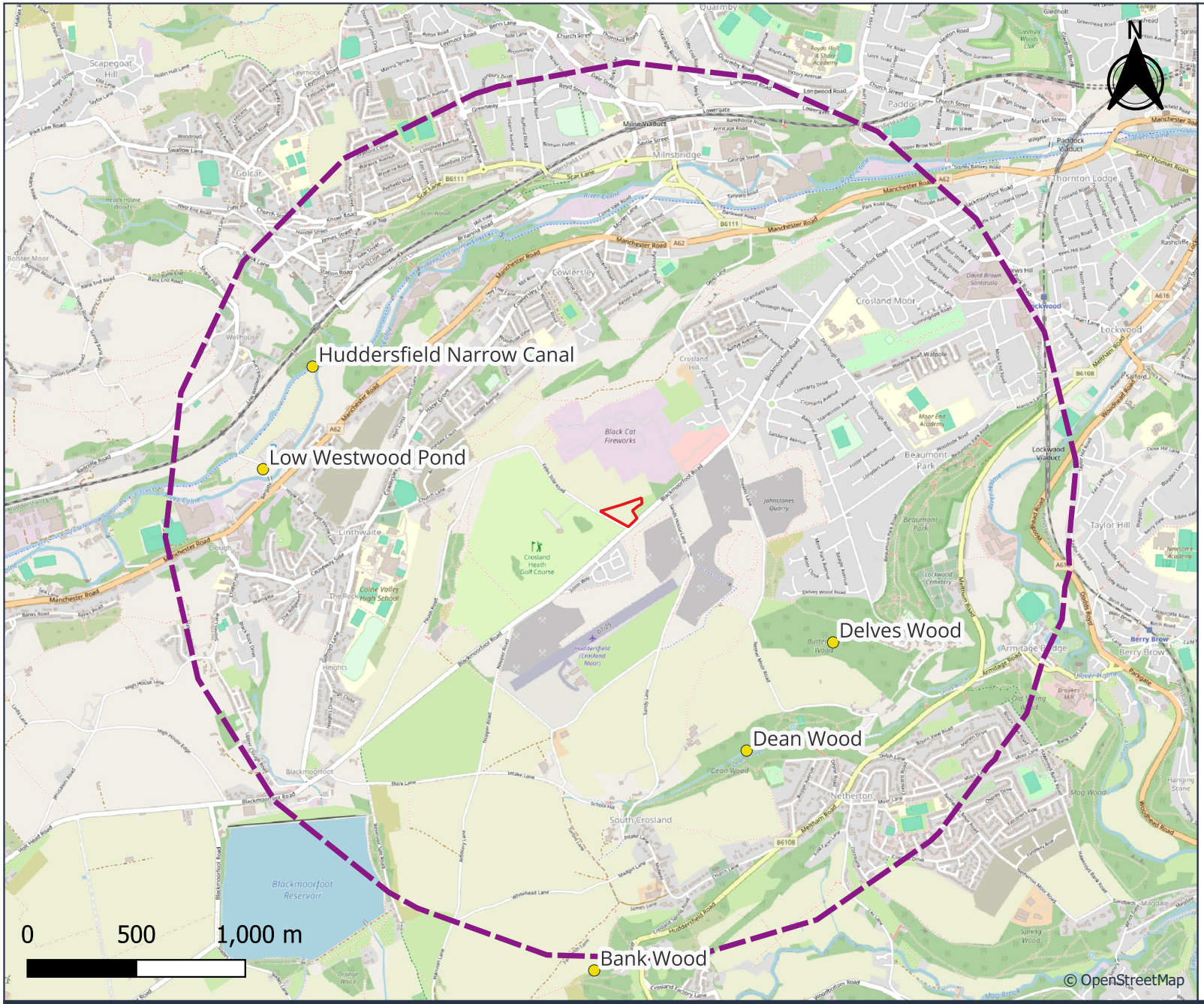
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Figure 1b. UK Habs Map - 2023 Habitats

Figure 2: Designated Sites Map



Legend

- Site boundary
- 2 km buffer
- Local Wildlife Site (LWS)

Revision	Date	Drawn by	Checked by
A	24/11/2025	NB	MM

Drg. Ref.: 26042/2

Scale (A4): 1:26,033

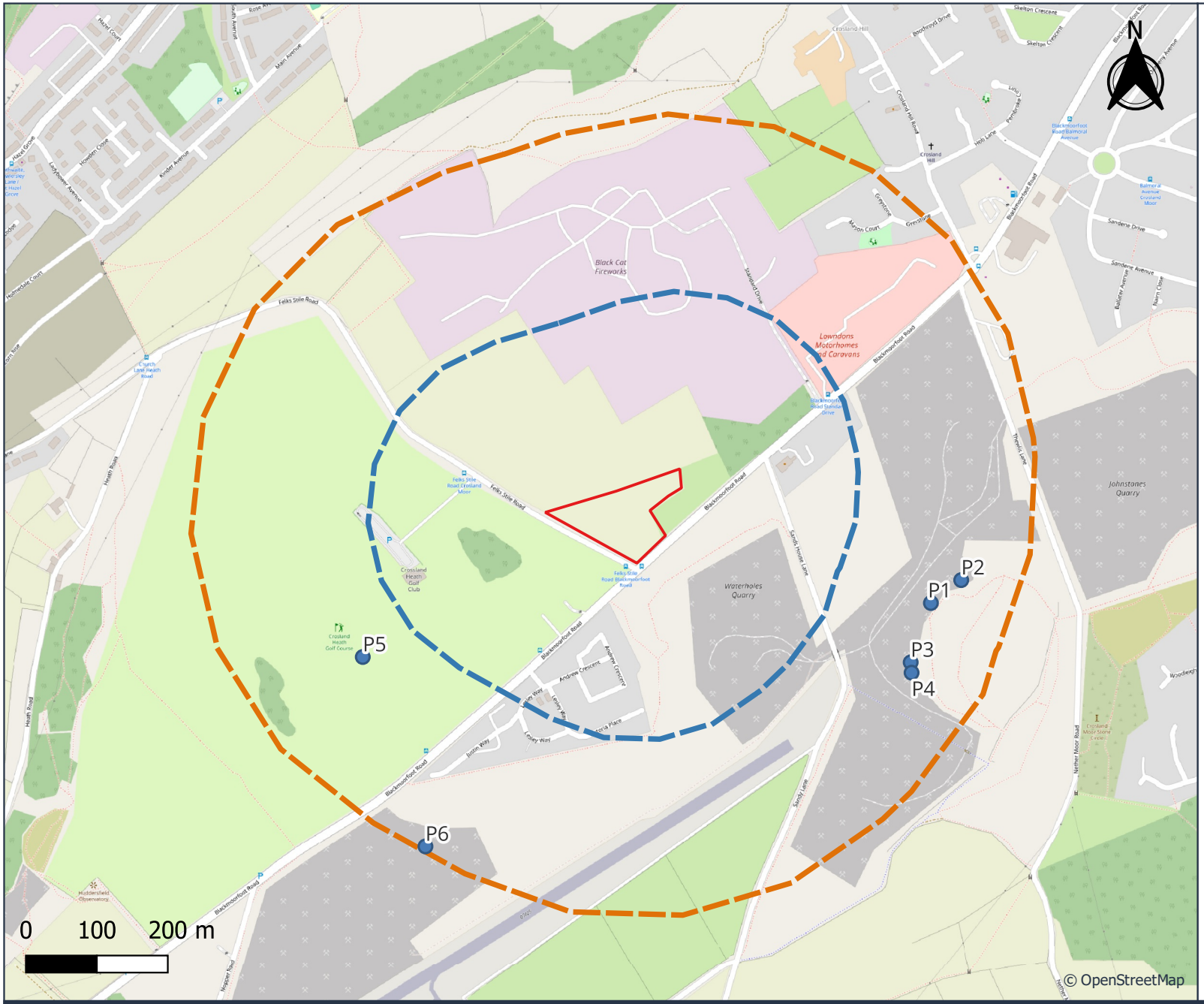
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Figure 2. Designated Sites Map

Figure 3: Waterbody Location Map



Legend

- Site boundary
- 250 m buffer
- 500 m buffer
- Waterbodies

Revision	Date	Drawn by	Checked by
A	24/11/2025	NB	MM

Drg. Ref.: 26042/3

Scale (A4): 1:7,991

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LNT Care Developments

Figure 3. Waterbody Location Map

Appendix 1: Target Notes

Target Note	Description
TN1	Dry stone wall – potential roosting feature for opportunistic bats.

Appendix 2: Site Photographs



Plate 1: Site habitats comprising primarily of bare ground resulting from recent excavation works.



Plate 2: Dry stone wall located along the northern boundary of the Site.



Plate 3: Three young oak trees and strip of other neutral grassland present at northern aspect of the Site.



Plate 4: Area of standing water observed at the southwestern corner of the site, likely attributable to heavy rainfall occurring at the time of the survey.

Appendix 3 : Bird Species Records within 1 km of the Site

Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status
Coot	*Fulica atra*	-
Dunnock	*Prunella modularis*	Amber
Greenfinch	*Chloris chloris*	Red
Grey Wagtail	*Motacilla cinerea*	Amber
House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	Red, NERC Section 41
Kingfisher	*Alcedo atthis*	WCA1
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	Amber
Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*	Amber
Swift	*Apus apus*	Red
Tree Sparrow	*Passer montanus*	Red, NERC Section 41
Woodpigeon	*Columba palumbus*	Amber
Wren	*Troglodytes troglodytes*	Amber