PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

LAND OFF ROWGATE, UPPER CUMBERWORTH, HUDDERSFIELD

SEPTEMBER 2026

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Land off, Rowgate, Upper Cumberworth, Huddersfield

A report for

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Report by

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 REASON FOR SURVEY

PENNINE Ecological have been commissioned by James Thackra, to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of Land off, Rowgate, Upper Cumberworth, Huddersfield, HD8 8XH.

The proposal includes the construction of 4no. dwellings at the site.

The study includes the following elements:

- UK Habitat Classification Survey.
- Badger Survey and Evaluation.
- Bat Assessment.
- Breeding Bird Survey and Evaluation.
- Reptile Scoping and Evaluation.
- Scoping for other protected or notable species potentially present within the site.

The study also includes a full evaluation of the ecological significance of the survey findings, and recommendations/precautions where appropriate.

1.2 SITE LOCATION

The site is located at National Grid Reference is SE 20411 08961. It comprises a parcel of land formerly utilised as a builders yard. It is bound by Rowgate to the east, an arable field to the north, pocket of woodland to the west, and dwelling to the south. The wider landscape comprises a mosaic of arable land, woodland and residential development.

The site comprises an area of disused land, which has been colonised by a series of tall forbs and ruderal vegetation. An aerial image of the area subject to survey and the red line application boundary is shown below.

Figure 1.1: Surveyed area at Land off, Rowgate, Upper Cumberworth, Huddersfield, HD8 8XH



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The methodologies where specific surveys were applied are outlined below. Surveys were undertaken on 12/08/2026.

2.1.1 Desk Based Study

The Multi Agency Geographical Information Centre[1] was referred to in respect of statutory sites within 2km of the site. Priority habitats, European Protected Species Licences (EPSL) issued in respect of GCN and bats, and GCN licence returns were searched up to 500m from the site.

It should be noted that species records over 500m of the site are not reproduced here as they are considered to have no association with the site and are beyond the sphere of influence of the proposals. Records older than 10 years are also not included, unless they have ecological significance (e.g. historic bat roost or historic presence of GCN within a pond).

In addition, a review was undertaken of previous assessments completed at the site by Borehole Solutions Ltd in October 2020.

2.1.2 UK Habitat Classification Survey

A UK Habitat Classification (UKHabs) survey (UKHab Ltd, 2023) of the habitats within the red line boundary was undertaken.

A habitat condition score for each of the habitats was completed where applicable (Appendix C).

2.1.3 Badger Survey

A badger survey was undertaken to identify evidence of badger utilising the site and up to 50m from the site. Surveys were undertaken in accordance with '*Surveying Badgers',* Harris et al., (1989) and '*Badger*', Roper (2010).

2.1.4 Bat Evaluation

A daytime survey was conducted in accordance with the methodology outlined in Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edn) Collins, J. Bat Conservation Trust (2023).

There are no suitable bat roosting habitats within the survey area and therefore the site was evaluated for its habitat value for foraging and commuting bats only. There are some immature trees present within the areas of scrub at the site, however, these were largely immature in their nature and as such, no further survey was deemed necessary.

[1] www.magic.gov.uk

2.1.5 Bird Survey and Evaluation

The site was assessed for its potential to support breeding birds. This included identifying any evidence of current or historic nesting within the site (i.e. within buildings, trees and hedgerows).

All birds heard or observed during the survey were recorded.

2.1.6 Reptile Scoping and Evaluation

The site was evaluated by means of desk study and the surveyor's specialist knowledge of the species.

2.1.7 Scoping of Other Protected and Notable Species

Consideration was given to other protected and notable species potentially present within the site. The following species / species groups have been scoped out for further assessment, with reasoning provided below:

- Great Crested Newts – No ponds are located within a 250m radius of the site. The nearest pond is located approximately 400m west of the site, associated with the quarry works. There is an abundance of optimal terrestrial habitat between the site and the quarry pond. Although some suitable terrestrial habitat is present within the site, given the proximity of the site to the nearest water body and the existing surrounding conditions, the site is considered to be outside the ecological range of GCN (and other amphibians) Amphibian species are considered to be absent from the site and locally.
- Riparian Mammals – There are no water courses on or connected to the site. There are also no riparian habitats present on site or within an influencing distance. It is concluded with reasonable certainty that riparian mammals are absent from the site and will be unimpacted by the proposals.
- Invertebrates –The site comprises mixed scrub and ruderal vegetation present on disturbed ground. There are localised areas within the site that may provide suitable microclimates for some invertebrate species (e.g. tall forbs, ruderal and disturbed ground areas providing varied structure), however these areas are small in their extent and are unlikely to support notable invertebrate assemblages (Buglife, 2015). It is concluded with reasonable certainty that notable invertebrate assemblages are absent from the site.
- Other notable mammals – The site is highly suboptimal for use by terrestrial mammals. Whilst it is accepted that species such as hedgehog may stray into the site, the site is not considered capable of supporting significant populations of any notable mammal species. No observations were recorded during the survey.

These species are not discussed further within this report.

2.2 SURVEYOR EXPERIENCE

The surveyor and author of this report is Gareth Hey. Gareth is an associate member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (ACIEEM) and has over 10 years' experience in ecological survey and evaluation. Key skills include the following.

- Over 10 years completing Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey / UKHabs Survey on both small planning applications and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).
- Experienced bat surveyor and class 2 bat licence holder with Natural England (2021-51195-CLS-CLS) and Natural Resource Wales (S094455/1). Named ecologist on over 20 EPSLs, including a variety of species. Also accredited agent on a Bat Mitigation Class Licence.
- Experienced bird scoping and breeding bird check. Good knowledge of common and widespread birds. Accredited agent on barn owl survey licence (CL29/00097).
- Extensive experience in great crested newt (GCN) survey, evaluation, licensing, and mitigation. Natural England Class Licence WML-CL08 held (2017-30374-CLS-CLS).
- Extensive experience undertaking terrestrial mammal surveys including badger.
- Extensive experience in undertaking riparian corridor and mammal surveys.
- Ecological Evaluation and Impact Assessments in association with large scale infrastructure projects.
- Experienced Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Undertaking various HRA's to assess significant effects on internationally and nationally designated sites.
- Previous ecologist within the Planning Development Team within a Local Planning Authority, reviewing ecological reports and advising on planning applications. Provided expert guidance on protected species, habitats and biodiversity net gain to support policy compliance and decision-making.

2.3 SURVEY CONSTRAINTS

The surveys were undertaken on 12/08/2026 in suitable weather conditions (dry weather).

Full access to the site was possible during the survey.

There are considered to be no survey constraints and an appropriate evaluation of the site has been completed.

3. RESULTS

3.1 RESULTS SUMMARY

- There are no statutory designated sites within the proposal site or within 2km of the site.
- The site is a former builders yard, which has been unmanaged for around five years. Given the above, dense patches of mixed scrub and ruderal vegetation have colonised the site.
- Japanese knotweed and Himalayan Balsam, which are listed under *Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)* as invasive non-native species, are present around the boundaries of the site, within areas of mixed scrub.
- No evidence of badger was recorded within the site, however, the site provides suitability for sett construction along with commuting and foraging value.
- There are no buildings within the site. There are some immature trees present within the areas of mixed scrub around the boundaries of the site, but these are of no value to roosting bats. The sites habitats are of 'moderate' habitat suitability for bats.
- No evidence of current bird nesting was recorded on site. The mixed scrub provides suitable habitat for nesting.
- No evidence of reptiles was recorded during the survey; however, the site provides moderate suitability for reptiles.
- No evidence or sightings of other protected / notable species was recorded within the site.

3.2 DESK BASED STUDY

3.2.1 Statutory Designated Sites

There are no statutorily designated sites on site or within 2km of the site.

3.2.2 Non-Statutory Designated Sites

There are no non-statutorily designated sites on site or within 500m of the site.

3.2.3 Protected and Notable Species

There are no protected or notable species records within 500m of the site.

3.3 HABITATS

3.3.1 UKHabs Classification Survey

The following habitats were recorded within the survey area:

- u1f (81) Ruderal / ephemeral
- h3h Mixed scrub

The site comprises a former builders yard, that has been abandoned for approximately 5 years. Given the above, the site has become colonised by dense patches of scrub, with the central compartment of the site succeeded with ruderal vegetation. Several strands of Japanese knotweed are present around the boundary of the site, along with Himalayan balsam.

Where applicable, habitat condition assessments were undertaken for each habitat parcel. A detailed description to support these has been provided in the target notes below.

(i) u1f (81) Ruderal and ephemeral dominated sparsely vegetated land

The site is dominated by an area of sparsely vegetated land, characterised by extensive areas of bare, disturbed substrate with a patchy cover of predominantly ruderal and early-successional vegetation. Vegetation cover is generally open and unevenly distributed, with taller stands becoming more established towards the margins of the habitat.

The vegetation is predominantly ruderal in character, with teasel (F), perennial rye-grass (F), and spear thistle (O). Mugwort, common ragwort, buddleia, red fescue, crane's-bill, alfalfa, dog rose, gorse, coltsfoot and common nettle occur rarely.

The combination of extensive bare ground, disturbed substrate and relatively sparse, patchy vegetation is indicative of former disturbance and early successional colonisation. Overall, the habitat is considered to be of relatively low botanical diversity and ecological value, although the developing ruderal vegetation provides some structural diversity and potential habitat for invertebrates and other fauna.

The ruderal vegetation is assessed as being in ‘poor’ habitat condition (Appendix C).

(ii) h3h Mixed scrub

Areas of dense mixed scrub are present predominantly around the site boundaries, forming relatively continuous belts of woody and ruderal vegetation. The scrub is well established and structurally diverse, comprising frequently occurring elder, willow, teasel, hawthorn, and broom, with bramble dominant throughout. The habitat has developed a dense and largely unmanaged structure, with taller shrubs and young trees occurring above areas of lower-growing scrub and tall ruderal vegetation.

The scrub provides valuable structural diversity around the margins of the site and offers suitable nesting and foraging habitat for birds, together with shelter and foraging opportunities for a range of other fauna. It also provides connectivity between habitats within the site and vegetation within the surrounding landscape.

Occurrences of Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam were recorded within areas of scrub around the site boundaries. Both species are invasive non-native plants listed on *Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended).

The mixed scrub is assessed as being in ‘moderate’ condition (Appendix C).

3.4 PROTECTED SPECIES

3.4.1 Badger

(i) Setts and Field Signs

No evidence of badger activity, including setts, well-worn paths, latrines, hairs, snuffle holes or footprints, was recorded during the survey.

(ii) Habitat suitability

The site is considered to provide moderate suitability for badger. The dense mixed scrub around the site boundaries provides suitable opportunities for shelter and sett excavation, particularly within less disturbed peripheral areas.

The scrub and adjoining areas of ruderal vegetation also provide potential foraging habitat and cover for badgers moving through the site. In contrast, the sparsely vegetated and disturbed areas within the central parts of the site provide comparatively limited opportunities for foraging, shelter or sett establishment.

3.4.2 Bats

(i) Preliminary Roost Assessment

There are no buildings within the site boundary. The trees within the areas of mixed scrub were largely immature and as such, held no features that could be utilised by roosting bats. Therefore potential roost features are absent from the site.

(ii) Bat Habitat Suitability

The site is considered to provide moderate value for foraging and commuting bats. The dense mixed scrub around the site boundaries provides sheltered foraging habitat and creates linear features that may be utilised by bats moving through the site and between habitats within the wider landscape. The areas of ruderal vegetation and sparsely vegetated land may also support invertebrate prey and provide additional, albeit more limited, foraging opportunities.

The greatest value is associated with the established boundary vegetation, which provides both shelter and habitat connectivity. Although the more open and disturbed central areas of the site are of comparatively limited value, the combination of dense peripheral scrub and ruderal vegetation provides a relatively varied habitat structure. Overall, the site is therefore considered to provide moderate value for foraging and commuting bats, principally associated with the vegetated site boundaries.

Overall the habitat associated with the site is considered to be of ‘moderate’ suitability for bats (refer to Figure 3.1 below).

Figure 3.1: Extract taken from Collins, BCT (2023); Good Practice Guidelines (4th Edition) - Table 4.1

Table 4.1. Guidelines for assessing the potential suitability of proposed development sites for bats, based on the presence of habitat features within the landscape, to be applied using professional judgement.

Potential suitability	Description	
	Roosting habitats in structures	Potential flight-paths and foraging habitats
None	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any roosting bats at any time of the year (i.e. a complete absence of crevices/suitable shelter at all ground/underground levels).	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any commuting or foraging bats at any time of the year (i.e. no habitats that provide continuous lines of shade/protection for flight-lines, or generate/shelter insect populations available to foraging bats).
Negligible[a]	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains as bats can use small and apparently unsuitable features on occasion.	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used as flight-paths or by foraging bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains in order to account for non-standard bat behaviour.
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically at any time of the year. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions[b] and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity and not a classic cool/stable hibernation site, but could be used by individual hibernating bats[c]).	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of bats as flight-paths such as a gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream, but isolated, i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat. Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.
Moderate	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions[b] and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only, such as maternity and hibernation – the categorisation described in this table is made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for flight-paths such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.
High	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions[b] and surrounding habitat. These structures have the potential to support high conservation status roosts, e.g. maternity or classic cool/stable hibernation site.	Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by bats for flight-paths such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge. High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland. Site is close to and connected to known roosts.

a Negligible is defined as 'so small or unimportant as to be not worth considering, insignificant'. This category may be used where there are places that a bat could roost or forage (due to one attribute) but it is unlikely that they actually would (due to another attribute).

b For example, in terms of temperature, humidity, height above ground level, light levels or levels of disturbance.

c Evidence from the Netherlands shows mass swarming events of common pipistrelle bats in the autumn followed by mass hibernation in a diverse range of building types in urban environments (Korsten *et al.*, 2016 and Jansen *et al.*, 2022). Common pipistrelle swarming has been observed in the UK (Bell, 2022 and Tomlinson, 2020) and winter hibernation of numbers of this species has been detected at Seaton Delaval Hall in Northumberland (National Trust, 2018). This phenomenon requires some research in the UK, but ecologists should be aware of the potential for larger numbers of this species to be present during the autumn and winter in prominent buildings in the landscape, urban or otherwise.

3.4.3 Birds

(i) Breeding Birds

No nests were identified during the course of the survey, however, the mixed scrub around the boundary of the site provides moderate suitability for a wide range of common and widespread bird species.

The following bird species were heard or seen within or adjacent to the site. Where applicable, bird species are colour coded based on their UK conservation status[2]:

Wren, dunnock, robin, great tit and blue tit.

3.4.4 Reptile

No evidence of reptiles was recorded during the survey.

The site is considered to provide moderate suitability for reptiles.

The disused nature of the site has allowed areas of tall ruderal vegetation and dense mixed scrub to establish, providing a mosaic of potential foraging, shelter and refuge habitat. The more sparsely vegetated areas also provide open ground suitable for basking, while the interface between open areas and denser peripheral vegetation creates varied vegetation structure that may be utilised by reptiles.

The site also retains connectivity with potentially suitable habitat within the wider landscape, particularly the adjacent woodland to the west and agricultural land to the north. Although the site's former use as a builders yard and areas of disturbed ground reduce its suitability locally, the combination of open basking areas, tall ruderal vegetation, dense scrub and connectivity with surrounding habitats provides suitable conditions for reptiles.

[2] Birds of Conservation Concern 5 (2021) – Red, amber, green status.

4. ECOLOGICAL EVALUATION

The following section discusses the significance of the survey findings. It should be noted that this part of the evaluation relates to habitats and species and includes reference to the following statutory/non-statutory instruments.

- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and later amendments), with particular reference to protected species listed in Schedules 1, 5 and 8 of the above act.
- Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.
- Section 41 Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England. Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.
- Reference to any relevant Red Data List/Book species and Nationally Scarce species not covered by the above or any other lists / schedules of species rarity or importance.

The evaluation is based on the commissioned surveys and desk study only.

The following statements are relevant in respect of the above.

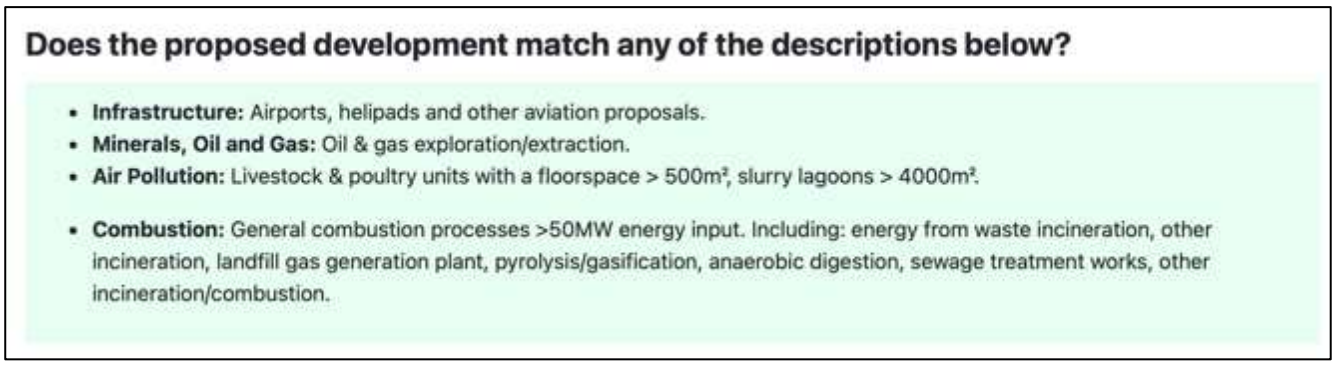
4.1 DESK STUDY

4.1.1 Statutory Sites

There are no internationally or nationally statutory designated sites within the site boundary or within 2km of the site.

The Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zones[3] (IRZ's) has been reviewed (see Figure 4.1 below).

Figure 4.1: IRZ summary for Land off, Rowgate, Upper Cumberworth, Huddersfield, HD8 8XH



It is considered that the proposal site does not match any of the descriptions outlined in the IRZ.

[3] The Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) are a GIS tool developed by Natural England to make an initial assessment of the likely risk of impacts on SSSIs posed by developments.

4.1.2 Non-statutory Sites

There are no known non-statutory designated sites within the site boundary or within a 2km radius of the site

4.1.3 Section 41 NERC Act 2006 Habitats and Species

There are no confirmed S41 habitats or species within the survey area.

4.1.4 Nationally Scarce/County Red Data List Species

There are no Nationally Scarce/County Red Data list plant species on the site.

4.2 HABITATS

The existing habitats on site are of low to medium distinctiveness (in accordance with the BNG metric calculation tool). The site comprises a former builders yard, that has been abandoned for approximately 5 years. Given the above, the site has become colonised by dense patches of scrub, with the central compartment of the site succeeded with ruderal vegetation. Several strands of Japanese knotweed are present around the boundary of the site, along with Himalayan balsam.

Given the condition of both of the habitats within the site, the area of ruderal dominated sparsely vegetated land was determined to be of ‘poor’ condition, while the mixed scrub was determined to be of ‘moderate’ condition.

Based on the size and condition of the habitats on site, the value of the current sites habitats cannot exceed 'site' ecological value.

Due to the scale and nature of the proposals, impacts are not anticipated beyond the land directly affected by the proposals.

4.3 INVASIVE SPECIES

Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam are both present throughout the site. Construction activities could result in the spread of both of these species.

4.4 PROTECTED SPECIES

4.4.1 Badger

No badger setts or evidence of badgers were recorded within the survey area. However, the site may be utilised by badgers for foraging and commuting purposes.

Based on the findings of the survey the sites value for badger does not exceed ‘site’ ecological value for badger.

4.4.2 Bats

There are no habitats on site suitable for bat roosting.

The sites habitats are considered to be of 'moderate' suitability for bats. The mixed scrub around the boundary of the site and sparsely vegetated land would provide localised opportunities for bat populations. The woodland adjacent to the site on the western boundary provides a suitable resource for bats commuting through the wider landscape to suitable foraging grounds and roosting sites.

Given the size of the site, the value of the site for bats does not exceed 'site' ecological value.

Due to the scale and nature of the proposals (i.e. no impact to key commuting and foraging features adjacent to the site), impacts to bats are not anticipated to extend beyond the land directly affected by the proposals.

4.4.3 Birds

The habitats within the site are likely to be utilised by a wide range of nesting bird species, including robin, wren, blue tits and great tits.

Based on the sites size and habitats present, the value of the site for breeding birds does not exceed 'site' ecological value.

The proposed development could result in the disturbance and subsequent abandonment of active bird nests within the site. However impacts are not anticipated to extend beyond the land directly affected by the proposals.

4.4.4 Reptile

The proposed development will result in the permanent loss of areas of tall ruderal vegetation, sparsely vegetated land and sections of dense mixed scrub. These habitats provide suitable sheltering, basking and foraging opportunities for common reptile species and, consequently, there is potential for reptiles to be killed or injured during vegetation clearance and ground preparation works, should they be present.

Given the availability of comparable habitat within the surrounding landscape, the proposed development is unlikely to result in a significant effect on the conservation status of local reptile populations, provided appropriate precautionary measures are implemented during site clearance and construction.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following section outlines any mitigation or precautions required in respect of the survey findings.

5.1 DESK STUDY

5.1.1 Statutory Sites

No further assessments or precautions are required.

5.1.2 Non-Statutory Sites

No further assessments or precautions are required.

5.2 HABITATS

5.2.1 Biodiversity Net Gain

Appropriate habitat enhancement and creation measures will be required to compensate the loss of any habitat which is of low distinctiveness or higher. The compensation measures will need to ensure there is a measurable 10% net gain overall.

It is recommended that a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment is undertaken. The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation should be completed to support this assessment.

The metric will need to consider impacts on habitats within the red line application boundary.

Other habitats outside of the red line boundary were accounted for, and can be input into the statutory metric, when required.

5.2.2 Invasive Non-Native Plants

(i) Japanese Knotweed

A Japanese Knotweed Management Plan should be prepared and implemented by a suitably experienced specialist contractor. The plan should identify the extent of each infestation and establish an appropriate programme for its treatment and long-term eradication, together with measures to prevent the accidental spread of viable plant or rhizome material during construction. Government guidance notes that effective herbicide treatment typically requires repeated treatment over a number of years and that rhizomes can remain dormant within the soil for extended periods.

Areas containing Japanese knotweed should be clearly demarcated prior to construction and protected from unnecessary disturbance, with movement of soil, vehicles, machinery and materials through affected areas avoided wherever practicable. Where development requires the disturbance or excavation of affected ground, this should be undertaken in accordance with the Management Plan and current Environment Agency requirements. Any Japanese knotweed material or contaminated soil requiring removal from the site should be treated

as controlled waste and transported by an appropriately registered waste carrier to a suitably permitted disposal facility.

The treatment programme should continue until the specialist contractor is satisfied that the infestation has been successfully controlled, with appropriate post-treatment monitoring undertaken to identify and treat any subsequent regrowth. This approach will minimise the risk of Japanese knotweed being spread within the development site or into adjacent habitats during the proposed works.

(ii) Himalayan balsam

Prior to vegetation clearance or construction works, the affected areas should be identified and appropriately managed to control and, where practicable, eradicate the species and prevent its further spread within or beyond the site. Himalayan balsam can form dense stands which suppress native vegetation, and appropriate management is therefore recommended.

Where practicable, plants should be hand-pulled or cut/strimmed below the lowest node before seed pods develop, with particular care taken to prevent the dispersal of seed. Treatment should be undertaken over successive growing seasons, with follow-up monitoring and removal of any regrowth or newly germinated plants until the infestation has been successfully controlled. Machinery, footwear and equipment used within affected areas should also be cleaned before leaving the site to minimise the risk of transferring seeds to unaffected areas.

The management of Himalayan balsam should be incorporated into the site clearance and construction methodology, with affected areas clearly identified to contractors prior to works commencing. This will minimise the risk of the proposed development facilitating the spread of the species and will provide opportunities for native vegetation to re-establish within treated areas.

5.3 PROTECTED SPECIES

5.3.1 Badger

There are no requirements for any further surveys or assessment.

Badger may be using the site for commuting and foraging purposes only. The following Precautionary Working Measures should be applied:

- All excavations must be covered or infilled at the end of each working day to ensure badgers and other mammals do not become entrapped.
- If excavations cannot be covered, then a ramp must be placed within the excavation that would allow badgers and other mammals to escape.
- Piles of bare earth substrate should not be stored within the site. If piles are stored, they must be checked daily, prior to any movement of materials to ensure badgers have not dug into the earth and occupied the earth mounds.
- Badgers are highly mobile species and can create setts in very short spaces of time. If a sett is found during construction, works must stop immediately and a suitably qualified ecologist consulted.

5.3.2 Bats

There are no requirements for any further surveys or assessment.

In all cases illumination of peripheral boundary areas should be avoided. Where lighting is required, this should be low level, low intensity and directed downwards away from boundaries. The following principles will apply;

- Where and if lighting is required, this should be directed internally within the site avoiding spillage towards boundary habitats.
- The use of low powered sodium lights or similar should be used and these will be fitted with cowls / covers that prevent lateral light spillage towards boundary habitats.
- Wherever possible and only if required low level (1-1.5m high) bollard lighting should be used.
- If required lights will be fitted with timer controls that minimise the duration of lighting.

Lighting requirements will follow guidance provided by the Bat Conservation Trust; links are provided below.

- Bat Conservation Trust's Artificial Lighting Guidance. Webpage link https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/lighting
- Bat Conservation Trust and Institute of Lighting Professionals Guidance Note 08/23: Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK. Webpage link https://theilp.org.uk/publication/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/

The installation of two bat boxes at the site will provide additional roosting habitat for bats. The bat boxes will be incorporated into the fabric of the new dwellings. Suitable bat boxes include Habibat Bat Box, Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box or similar alternative brand. Bat boxes should be positioned 3-5m above ground level facing in a south or south-westerly direction with a clear flight path to and from the entrance, away from artificial light.

5.3.3 Birds

To avoid impacts to nesting birds, any vegetation clearance, or building removal should be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season (March to August inclusive). Where this is not possible, affected vegetation, trees and structures should first be inspected by a suitably qualified ecologist no more than 48 hours prior to the commencement of works. Should an active nest be identified, an appropriate exclusion zone should be established and works delayed until nesting activity has ceased and dependent young have fledged.

It is recommended that at least three bird boxes are installed upon retained trees or within the fabric of the new buildings. Suitable bird boxes for the likely species within the area should include small hole-fronted nest boxes. Bird boxes could also include swift nest boxes. There are an abundance of suitable nest boxes available online. Nest boxes should be installed at least 3m above ground level. Swift nest boxes are more suitably placed below the eaves of buildings.

5.3.4 Reptile

There are no requirements for further survey or assessment.

Should reptile be utilising the site, the species are likely to be in small numbers and managed appropriately through the implementation of a precautionary working method during construction:

- Vegetation will be strimmed to and maintained at a short sward (5cm) to discourage reptile.
- Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape.
- Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations.
- If any reptiles are found in the working area these should be allowed to disperse of their own accord or, if at immediate risk, should be moved by hand to a sheltered, vegetated area away from disturbance.
- In the unlikely event that a reptile is identified, works must cease and advise must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.

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Appendix A – Figures



Site ref:
Land off, Rowgate,
Upper Cumberworth,
Huddersfield, HD8 8XH

Figure:
UKHabs Baseline

PENNINE ecological

Client: Gareth Salthouse

Survey date: 12/08/2026

James Thackra

Scale: 1 : 1100

- Red line boundary
- Mixed scrub (h3h)
- Developed land; sealed surface (u1b)
- Japanese knotweed locations

Appendix B – Photographs



Photograph 1: Sparsely vegetated land within the central are of the site.



Photograph 2: Japanese knotweed on the northern site boundary.



Photograph 3: Japanese knotweed, on the edge of an area of mixed scrub, in the south-western corner of the site.



Photograph 4: Addition al patch of Japanese knotweed on the southern boundary.

Appendix C – Condition Assessment Sheets

U1f [81] Sparsely vegetated land (assessed using 'Urban' condition sheet)

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core Criteria - must be assessed for **all urban habitat types**:			
A	Vegetation structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live, eat and breed. A single structural habitat component or vegetation type does not account for more than 80% of the total habitat area.	No	
B	The habitat parcel contains different plant species that are beneficial for wildlife, for example flowering species providing nectar sources for a range of invertebrates at different times of year.	No	
C	Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of WCA [1]) and others which are to the detriment of native wildlife (using professional judgement) [2] cover less than 5% of the total vegetated area [3]. **Note - to achieve Good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).**	No	
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for **Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land** only:			
D	The parcel shows spatial variation and forms a mosaic of bare substrate PLUS: - At least four early successional communities (a) to (i); Communities: (a) annuals; (b) mosses/liverworts; (c) lichens; (d) ruderals; (e) inundation species; (f) open grassland; (g) flower-rich grassland; (h) heathland, (i) pools.		
Additional Criteria - must be assessed for **Bioswale and SuDS** habitat types only:			
E1	Plant species are mostly native. If non-native species are present, they should not be detrimental to the habitat or native wildlife [4].		
E2	The vegetation is comprised of plant species suited to wetland or riparian situations.		
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for **Intensive green roofs** only:			
F	The roof has a minimum of 50% native and non-native wildflowers. 70% of the roof area is soil and vegetation (including water features).		
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for **Biodiverse green roofs** only:			
G	The roof has a varied depth of 80 – 150 mm; at least 50% is at 150 mm and is planted and seeded with wildflowers and sedums or is pre-prepared with sedums and wildflowers. **Note – to achieve Good condition some additional habitat, such as sand piles, stones, logs etc. are present.**		
		Essential criteria relevant for habitat type achieved (Yes or No)	No
		Number of criteria passed	0

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✗/✓
Results for habitats requiring assessment of **3 core criteria** only **(all listed urban habitats except Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land, Bioswale, SuDS and Green roofs)**:		
• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Good (3)	
• Passes 2 of 3 core criteria; OR • Passes 3 of 3 core criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Moderate (2)	

h3h Mixed scrub (assessed using ‘Scrub’ condition sheet)

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description (where in its natural range). [1] - At least 80% of scrub is native, - There are at least three native woody species [2], - No single species comprises more than 75% of the cover (except hazel *Corylus avellana*, common juniper *Juniperus communis*, sea buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides* (only in its restricted native range), or box *Buxus sempervirens*, which can be up to 100% cover).	Yes	
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran [3]) shrubs are all present.	Yes	
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species [4] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[5]) and species indicative of suboptimal condition [6] make up less than 5% of ground cover.	No	
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	Yes	
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	No	
		Number of criteria passed	Three

Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	Yes
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	