Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) Survey Report	
For:	Mr Neil Anthony
Site:	Land to the Rear of 79 Chapel Road, Pilley, Barnsley S75 3AR
Report Date:	13th November 2025
Report Reference:	SQ-3816

Surveying Ecologists:

Daniel knight-Woodall BSC (Hons), MSc and Aimee McManus BSc (Hons)

Client:	Mr Neil Anthony
Site Name:	Land to the Rear of 79 Chapel Road, Pilley, Barnsley S75 3AR
Grid Reference:	SE 33314 00736
Report:	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
Date of Survey:	21st of October 2025
Surveying Ecologists:	Daniel Knight-Woodall BSc (Hons), MSc and Aimee McManus BSc (Hons)

Issue:	Revision:	Stage:	Date:	Prepared by:	Approved by:
-	-	Draft for review	04/11/2025	Daniel Knight-Woodall BSc (hons), MSc, Estrada Ecology Ltd	Aimee McManus BSc (hons), Estrada Ecology Ltd
1	-	Final	13/11/2025	Daniel Knight-Woodall BSc (hons), MSc, Estrada Ecology Ltd	Natasha Estrada MRes, MCIEEM, Estrada Ecology Ltd

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The contents of this report have been produced with consideration of 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 subject site, spanning 0.065 hectares, is situated to the rear of a residential property located in the village of Pilley, approximately 6km south of Barnsley. The site is accessible from the Pilley Hills road that runs parallel to the north-western boundary of the site. The site itself is heavily overgrown with piles of stones underneath vegetation scattered across the site.

The primary habitat type identified on the site is bramble-dominated scrub interspersed with small areas of tall forbs, primarily nettles, and areas of ruderal and ephemeral vegetation. There are numerous scattered trees present, mostly Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). A line of trees borders the north-western boundary. Immediately across Pilley Hills, <10m from the site boundary, is a compartment of deciduous woodland known as Broad Ings Plantation.

Findings

Suitable habitats for breeding birds were recorded within the site. Recommendations in respect of breeding birds are given in the conclusion of this report.

The site was deemed to offer suitability for European Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*), namely the scrub habitats on site. Recommendations regarding potential impacts towards hedgehogs are given in the conclusion of this report.

Various trees on site were deemed to have suitable features potentially suitable for bat roosts, likely supporting a low level of individuals. Further recommendations in respect of bats are given in the conclusion of this report.

The site was deemed suitable for use by European Badgers (*Meles meles*), serving as suitable foraging and commuting habitat. Recommendations with regards to European Badgers are given in the conclusion of this report.

The site was deemed to hold suitability for herpetofauna (reptiles and amphibians) habitat, namely the dense scrub and the piles of rocks underneath that create good terrestrial habitat for herpetofauna during periods of brumation. There is also a pond within 500m of the site boundary, connected via linear habitats. Recommendations with regards to herpetofauna are given in the conclusion of this report.

No suitable habitats for riparian mammals were recorded within the site. No further survey effort is recommended.

No species listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 were recorded within the site. One species listed on Schedule 9 (II) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) was recorded within the site – variegated Yellow Archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon* subsp. *argentatum*). Recommendations have been provided within the report.

Contents:

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 to the rear of 79 Chapel Road, Pilley, Barnsley, S75 3AR.

1.2 The site consists of

- Tall Forbs (16)
- Bramble scrub (h3d)
- Ruderal or Ephemeral Vegetation (81)
- Scattered Trees (32)
- Line of Trees (33)

1.3 It is understood that the current development proposal is for a new residential property, subject to the necessary consents.

1.4 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, 2024).

1.5 Site Location and Wider Area

1.5.1 The site is located in the village of Pilley, in the Tankersley area of Barnsley, approximately six kilometres south of Barnsley city centre. The entirety of the western side of the site borders Pilley Hills, a main road that connects to the A629 via Hermit Hills Lane.

1.5.2 The survey site's central OS grid reference is SE 33314 00736.

1.5.3 The site is surrounded by deciduous woodland to the north and west, with agricultural land beyond this. South and east of the site is predominantly agricultural land with residential buildings.

Figure 1: The survey site within its wider setting.

Google Earth 2025

2 Protected Species Legislation

2.1 Relevant legislation includes the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Species Amendment (EU Exit) Regulations which came into force on 31 December 2020.

2.2 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act came into force on 1 Oct 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, 2024), 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 further enhance the conservation status of Species and Principal Habitats.

2.4.2 Species and Habitats of Principal Importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England (JNCC, 2009) are covered under section 41 of the Natural Environmental and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006). Species and habitats listed within Section 41 need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions, such as assessing planning applications.

2.4.3 Development proposals submitted after 12th 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 Wildlife

2.5.1 European Protected Species, such as bats (all species) and great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*), are afforded protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as well as under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000. It is an offence to:

- Deliberately or recklessly capture, injure, or kill any wild animal of a European protected species.
- Deliberately or recklessly disturb any such animal.
- Damage or destroy their breeding site or resting place.
- Keep, transport, or offer for sale / exchange any live or dead animal, or any part of, or anything from these species.

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

- To impair their ability to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young; or, in the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; and
- To significantly affect the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.

2.6 UK Legislation

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 2010 (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, or parts of.

2.6.3 **Reptiles** (all native species) are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence to intentionally kill, injure and trade these animals.

2.6.4 **Amphibians** (all native species) are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). The sale, barter, exchange, transportation for sale, and advertising to sell or to buy are an offence.

2.6.5 **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 willfully 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; and marking a badger or attaching any ring, tag, or other marking device to a badger.

2.6.6 **Eurasian Otters** are a European Protected Species (EPS) and are also fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is against the law to capture, kill,

disturb or injure otters (on purpose or by not taking enough care); damage or destroy a breeding or resting place (deliberately or by not taking enough care); obstruct access to their resting or sheltering places (deliberately or by not taking enough care); and possess, sell, control or transport live or dead otters, or parts of otters.

2.6.7 **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).

3 Survey Methodology

3.1 Desktop Survey

3.1.1 A biological data records search was commissioned from Barnsley Biological Records Centre for a 1 km radius from the central grid reference.

3.1.2 Further inspection, using colour 1:25,000 OS base maps (www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk), MAGIC (www.magic.defra.gov.uk), aerial photographs from Google Earth (www.maps.google.co.uk), was also undertaken to provide additional context and identify any features of potential importance for nature conservation in the wider countryside.

3.1.3 Furthermore, consultation with MAGIC was undertaken to ascertain any European Protected Species Mitigation Licenses granted within a 1 km radius from grid.

3.1.4 Natural England's Geoportal: England-wide data for great crested newts (GCN) was analysed for any records within a 1km radius from grid. The dataset contains eDNA pond surveys for district level licensing (England). When available for the location, the Risk Zones for GCN are considered for the site.

3.2 Field Survey

3.2.1 The survey area was investigated on foot to ascertain habitats on site and the potential of those habitats to support ecological diversity. The vegetation types present within the site were assessed by ecologists Aimee McManus and Daniel Knight-Woodall, using methodology based on that described in the UK Habitat Classification User Manual Version 2.0 (2023) and CIEEM's Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (2023).

3.2.2 Habitats and features with potential to support protected and / or conservation priority faunal species, together with any field signs of such species were recorded on the field map using target notes. A search was undertaken for the following key habitats and field signs for protected or conservation priority species highlighted in Table 1.

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 (Triturus cristatus)	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 of 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 on the morning of 21st of October 2025.

3.3.2 Weather conditions at the time of the site visit were cloudy with temperatures of 11°C.

3.4 Personnel

3.4.1 The survey was undertaken by ecologists Daniel Knight-Woodall BSc (Hons), MSc and Aimee McManus BSC (Hons), both ecologists are experienced with various ecological survey methodologies and best practice guidelines.

3.4.2 All surveying ecologists worked under the supervision and guidance of experienced ecologist Natasha Estrada BSc (Hons), MRes, MCIEEM, who is a licensed bat ecologist (2015-12213-CLS- CLS) and the named ecologist on several Natural England European Protected Species Mitigation Licenses.

3.5 Preliminary Roost Assessment

3.5.1 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 current best practice guidance (Collins, 2023).

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

3.5.3 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:

- **Negligible:** 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.
- **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 and / or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats.
- **Moderate:** A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions, and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status.
- **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, and surrounding habitat. These structures have the potential to support high conservation status roosts (e.g., maternity, or classic cool / stable hibernation site).

4 Ecological Constraints

4.1 It should be noted that this ecological appraisal provides baseline ecological data at the time of survey only and does not include flora or fauna which may be present at different times of the year.

4.2 An absence of species records from within a search radius does not provide confirmation that a species is absent from within the search area.

4.3 The site was not fully accessible during the site visit, as access to certain areas was restricted by rock mounds overgrown with dense scrub, resulting in unpredictable and potentially hazardous terrain. Surveyors assessed the site to the maximum extent safely possible.

5 Survey Results

5.1 Field Survey Results

5.1.1 **Habitat Overview**

5.1.1.1 A summary of the habitats recorded during the site inspection are listed as follows:

Table 2: Recorded Habitats Within the Site Boundaries.

Habitat	UK HABS Codes	
	Primary	*Secondary*
Bramble Scrub	**h3d**	**-**
Line of Trees	w	**33**
Ruderal or Ephemeral Vegetation	h	**81**
Scattered Trees	w	**32**
Tall Forbs	h	**16**

5.1.1.2 A list of all species recorded on the site during the survey can be found in appendix three.

5.1.2 **Bramble Scrub**

5.1.2.1 Bramble scrub dominates the south-western portion of the site. The scrub extends to the site boundary, creating the appearance of a defined hedgerow. In reality, this is continuous bramble scrub that is privately managed on the adjacent land, giving the impression of an existing linear feature rather than a formal hedgerow.

5.1.2.2 This habitat has established over piles of brick and stone, remnants of a previously demolished building, resulting in uneven ground and scattered rubble. Looking at previous mapping, the building was demolished sometime in the early 20th Century. These piles of stones, intertwined with bramble, create opportunities for reptiles and amphibians to seek refuge in during periods of brumation.

5.1.2.3 Species recorded within this habitat include bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Ivy (*Hedera helix*), small-flowered cranesbill (*Geranium pusillum*), variegated yellow-archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon* subsp. *argentatum*), European ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), and hedge bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*).

5.1.2.4 Under current works proposals, this habitat will be impacted. Recommendations regarding this habitat and any species within it are given in the conclusion of this report.

Figure 2: Bramble scrub on site.

5.1.3 **Tall Forbs**

5.1.3.1 Distinct patches of tall forbs were present on site, bordering the north-eastern boundary of the site, to the rear of the residential properties adjacent to site. The dense vegetation of this habitat indicates suitability for various protected species, including hedgehog, reptiles and amphibians. This habitat is species-poor and is dominated by a few species which are indicative of localised nutrient enrichment.

5.1.3.2 Species recorded within this habitat include common nettle, creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), European ash, sycamore and bramble.

5.1.3.3 Under current works proposals, this habitat will be impacted. Recommendations regarding this habitat and any species within it are given in the conclusion of this report

Figure 3: Tall Forbs.

5.1.4 **Ruderal or Ephemeral Vegetation**

5.1.4.1 A small patch of ruderal and ephemeral vegetation was recorded on site. The ground layer of ivy could provide suitability for commuting and foraging small mammals and herpetofauna. No mammal paths or field signs were recorded in this habitat.

5.1.4.2 Species recorded include European ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Sycamore, (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*) and Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*).

5.1.4.3 Under current works proposals, this habitat will be impacted. Recommendations regarding this habitat and any species within it are given in the conclusion of this report.

Figure 4: Ruderal and Ephemeral vegetation.

5.1.5 **Scattered Trees**

5.1.5.1 Fifteen scattered individual trees were recorded within the site, comprising thirteen small and two medium-sized specimens. Several dead trees and pieces of deadwood were also present within the site boundary; these provide potential roost features (PRF-Is) for bats, primarily in the form of Ivy cover. In addition, one live Hawthorn tree supported dense Ivy growth, which may obscure potential roost features.

5.1.5.2 Species recorded include European ash, Hawthorn, ivy (*Hedera helix*), Sycamore, Wych elm and Norway maple.

5.1.5.3 Under current works proposals, this habitat will be impacted. Recommendations regarding this habitat and any species within it are given in the conclusion of this report

Figure 5: Scattered Trees.




5.1.6 **Line of Trees**

5.1.6.1 A line of trees is present along the site's northwestern boundary, bordering the Pilley Hills road.

5.1.6.2 This habitat could provide commuting habitat and refugia for small mammal species including hedgehog as well as habitat for breeding birds. The trees within the line were also assessed individually for bat roost potential. A medium Sycamore tree was found to have PRF-

IS in the form of ivy growing on the trunk. Other trees were assessed as negligible for bat roost potential.

5.1.6.3 Species recorded within this habitat include Wych elm, Norway Maple, Sycamore, dewberry (*Rubus caesius*) and Bramble.

5.1.6.4 Under current works proposals, this habitat will be impacted. Recommendations regarding this habitat and any species within it are given in the conclusion of this report.

Figure 6: Line of trees.

5.2 Desktop Survey Results

5.2.1 Sheffield and Barnsley Biological Records Centre returned 2117 records from a 1 km radius from the 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: Records found within the search radius.

Species	Number of Records	Notes
Bats	58	Fifty-eight records were returned for bats from between 1985 and 2023. Thirty-three for Whiskered Bat (*Myotis mystacinus*), six for Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*), five for Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), four for Brown Long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*), three for Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), two for Leisler's Bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*), one for Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*), three for just "Pipistrelle" species and one for "bat".
Badgers	-	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	3	Three records were returned for European Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaea*) from 2019.
Otter	0	No records for Otter (*Lutra lutra*) were returned

Water Vole	0	No records for Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) were returned.
Amphibians	7	Seven records were for amphibians from between 2012 and 2019. Five for Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*), one for Great-crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) and one for Smooth Newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*).
Reptiles	0	No records for reptiles were returned
Other	2069	The remaining records pertain largely to plant, bird, invertebrate, and other mammal, records.

5.2.2 Consultation with MAGIC Maps returned one European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) Licence granted within a 1 km radius from grid.

Table 4: EPSM License Granted within a 1Km radius from central grid reference.

License Number:	Species:	Date of Issue:	Reason for Issue:	Distance from Site (m):
EPSM 2012-5372	C-PIP	21/01/2013	Not listed	607.24

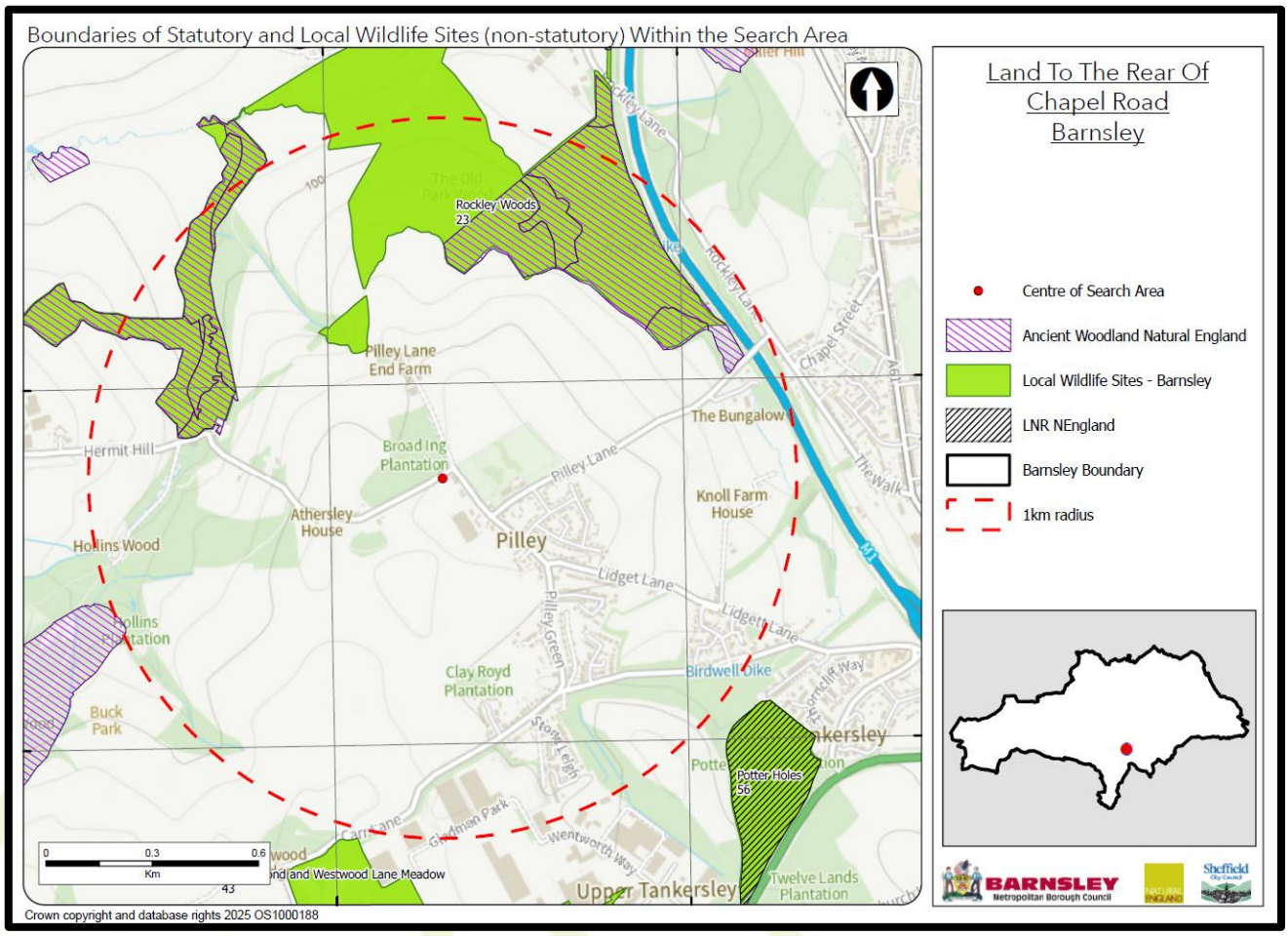
5.2.3 No records for great crested newt presence were recorded within a 1km radius from grid via consultation with Natural England's eDNA pond surveys for District Level Licensing (England). The site is recorded as falling within an amber-risk zone for GCN.

5.3 Designated Sites

5.3.1 Consultation with Barnsley Biological Records Centre returned no Statutory Designated Site within the 1 km search radius from grid. The site does fall into the outer impact zone for Hilton Gravel Pits SSSI.

5.3.2 Consultation with Barnsley Biological Records Centre returned one Non-Statutory Designated Sites within the 1 km search radius from grid – Rockley Woods Local Wildlife Site (LWS).

Figure 7: Non-designated sites within 1km search radius.



5.4 Priority Habitats and Priority Species

5.4.1 No priority habitats were recorded within the redline site boundary.

5.4.2 Priority habitat was recorded outside the redline site boundary but within the search radius displayed in table 5 below.

Table 5: Priority Habitats outside the Site Boundary but within the 1km search radius

Habitat Type	Habitat Description
Deciduous Woodland	Several parcels of deciduous woodland are found within a 1000m radius, the closest of which is approximately 15 metres north-west, across Pilley Hills road. This parcel of woodland is a former plantation known as Broad Ing Plantation.
Ancient Woodland	Several parcels of ancient woodland are found within a 1000m radius, the closest of which is approximately 427 metres north-west. This parcel of woodland is known as Friar Trail Wood.
Wood Pasture and Parkland	One parcel of wood pasture and parkland habitat is found within a 1000m radius, is approximately 973 metres west of the site's central grid reference.
Traditional Orchards	One parcel of traditional orchard habitat is found within a 100m radius, approximately 917 metres west of the site's central grid reference.

5.4.3 No protected species listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as

amended) were recorded within the application boundary.

5.4.4 One non-native / invasive species listed on Schedule 9 (II) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) was recorded within the site boundary – Variegated Yellow-archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon* subsp. *argentatum*). Recommendations regarding invasive species are found in the conclusions of this report.

5.5 Protected Species

5.5.1 **Breeding Birds**

5.5.1.1 No current or historic evidence of breeding birds using the site was recorded within the surveyed area. It is predicted that birds will be affected by disturbance levels/proposed works as currently, the works on site require the removal of one or more trees.

5.5.1.2 Furthermore, the trees and dense scrub on site was recorded as being suitable for habitats in which, birds could potentially utilise for nesting, and breeding purposes.

5.5.1.3 Recommendations regarding breeding birds are given within the conclusion of this report.

5.5.2 **Bats**

5.5.2.1 Two trees on site were assessed as possessing PRF-Is, both having Ivy growing on their trunks, potentially obscuring cavities and creating space for bats to roost. There were also several dead trees on site possessing cavities and substantial Ivy growth, thus having the potential for use by bats.

5.5.2.2 The site is not a likely major foraging or commuting ground, based on the habitat composition and the surrounding area, however, the small parcel of woodland, within the Broad Ings Plantation, 15m outside the site boundary is suitable foraging habitat.

5.5.2.5 Recommendations regarding bats are given within the conclusion of this report.

5.5.3 **Badger**

5.5.3.1 No field sign evidence suggesting the use of the site by badgers was recorded on site The site is however deemed suitable for usage by badger.

5.5.3.2 Considering the surrounding area, specifically the woodland nearby, as well as the habitats present within the boundary, the site offers suitability for commuting and foraging badger. The road that divides the site from the Broad Ings Plantation is not a busy main road so would not serve as a major obstruction towards badger movement, particularly at night. The piles of stones present on site reduce the suitability of the site for commuting as it is difficult to traverse nor does it provide many foraging opportunities.

5.5.3.3 Recommendations regarding Eurasian Badgers are given within the conclusion of this report.

5.5.4 **European Hedgehog**

5.5.4.1 No field-sign evidence suggesting the use of the site by hedgehogs were recorded.

5.5.4.2 Given the habitat on site and within the vicinity of the site, impacts towards hedgehogs are deemed to be a residual potential.

5.5.4.3 Recommendations regarding hedgehogs are given within the conclusion of this report.

5.5.5 **Riparian/Aquatic Mammals**

5.5.5.1 No field sign evidence for riparian mammals was recorded within the site.

5.5.5.2 No aquatic or terrestrial habitat deemed suitable for use by riparian mammals was recorded within the curtilage of the site or in the immediate environment.

5.5.5.3 No impacts towards riparian mammals are predicted for this development, therefore no further survey effort is required.

5.5.6 **Herpetofauna**

5.5.6.1 The site is deemed to offer possible suitability for herpetofauna (reptiles and amphibians). No presence of great crested newts was detected within the site during the survey; however, the great crested newt risk level is amber.

5.5.6.2 No aquatic habitat for herpetofauna was recorded on site; however, the site falls within 500 metres of a pond, which is situated around 470 metres west of the site. Terrestrial habitats suitable for herpetofauna were detected within the site, specifically the piles of rocks that were present underneath the bramble scrub. There is connectivity between the pond and the site, with the only barrier for commuting herpetofauna being the Pilley Hills road that separates the site from Broad Ings Plantation.

5.5.6.3 Herpetofauna require refugia that is protected from frost and predators, the large rocks, underneath bramble scrub are a good representation of this, providing a safe place for herpetofauna during periods of brumation when they are vulnerable to predation.

5.5.6.4 Recommendations regarding herpetofauna are given within the conclusion of this report.

5.5.7 **Other species**

5.5.7.1 The site does not support suitable habitat for any other protected or significant fauna, such as barn owl (*Tyto alba*), dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*), brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*), or white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*). No impacts towards these species are anticipated.

6 Conclusions

6.1 Designated Sites

6.1.1.1 No Statutory Designated Sites were recorded within the 1 km search radius. Considering the scope of the works and the distance between the site and any designated areas, no impacts to any statutory sites are predicted.

6.1.1.2 One Non-Statutory Designated Site was recorded within the 1 km search radius –

Rockley Woods LWS. Considering the scope of the works and the distance between the site and any designated areas, no impacts to any non-statutory sites are predicted.

6.1.1.3 The site is within the impact zone for Hilton Gravel Pits SSSI, however, given the scope of the works it is unlikely that there will be any impact on this statutory site.

6.1.1.4 The potential for impacts on any designated sites is negligible. No recommendations are required.

6.2 Habitats and Vegetation

6.2.1.1 No priority habitats were recorded within the redline boundary, however, there is a parcel of deciduous woodland 15 metres north of the site boundary, as well as ancient woodland 427 metres northwest. Any impacts towards these sensitive receptors can be mitigated for with the implementation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

6.2.1.2 No trees which are on the Ancient Tree Inventory were recorded on site.

6.2.2 No protected or notable flora listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) was recorded during the survey.

6.2.3 One non-native invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) was recorded during the survey – Variegated Yellow Archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon* subsp. *argentatum*), a CEMP is recommended to mitigate against the spread of this species.

6.3 Recommendations

6.3.1 **Birds**

6.3.1.1 Suitable habitats are recorded within the site in which birds could utilise. If vegetation is to be removed within the breeding bird season (typically March to September inclusive), a pre-works check is required prior to removal of vegetation to ensure nests are not impacted. If this is not feasible, a pre-works check may be required prior to the on-set of works.

6.3.1.2 A two-layered cutting method is recommended for any clearance of scrub or to mitigate for impacts towards ground nesting birds which may be using the site. This will be included in a Precautionary Method Statement.

6.3.1.3 Should breeding birds be recorded, then a suitable buffer should be erected as advised by a suitably qualified ecologist. The buffer should be retained until breeding has ceased and the young have fledged.

6.3.1.4 It is recommended that any trees removed, be removed outside of the breeding bird season (typically March to September inclusive). Should any trees need to be removed in this habitat within the breeding bird season, a pre-works check is required prior to removal of vegetation to ensure nests are not impacted.

6.3.2 **Bats**

6.3.2.1 No bats were recorded in situ. In addition, field signs of bats were not recorded on the site.

6.3.2.2 No buildings were recorded on site; however, two trees were recorded to possess PRF-Is that could provide suitable space for roosting bats, a small Hawthorn tree and a medium Sycamore, both with ivy coverage. Furthermore, several dead trees on site possess PRF-Is, having numerous cavities and dense ivy coverage. Habitat in the surrounding area, namely the woodland within the Broad Ings Plantation, also provides suitable commuting and foraging habitats for bats.

6.3.2.3 If any of these trees are proposed to be removed or managed as part of the development of the site, precautionary soft-felling methodologies are recommended to mitigate for any bat which may be using the trees as a roost. Once felled, any potential feature should be lain up-facing to allow for dispersal prior to removal from site.

6.3.2.4 Given the potential for the site as suitable habitat for commuting and foraging bats, a lighting scheme is recommended for any works conducted on site. This should outline sensitive lighting design principles to avoid light splay towards retained foraging habitats within the site or wider area. This will be incorporated into a Precautionary Method Statement.

6.3.3 **Precautionary Measures**

6.3.3.1 The scrub, piles of stones and scattered trees present site, as well as habitats present outside the site boundary, offer suitability for foraging and commuting hedgehogs and badgers, as well as providing potential refugia for brumating reptiles and amphibians. Therefore, it is deemed suitable for a precautionary method statement to be adopted within the scheme to ensure these species are not impacted by proposed works.

6.3.3.2 These measures will include a pre-works check by a suitably qualified ecologist, as well a qualified Ecological Clerk of Works to be present on site during the clearing of the stones. Any open holes or trenches are to be covered when not in use. A designated person is to check any open holes, trenches or any piles of equipment each morning for small animals that may have become trapped or are using equipment as refuge overnight. A simple measure such as a plank of wood placed into holes and trenches, can allow small animals to escape.

6.3.3.3 If a common amphibian or hedgehog is located on site, the animal can be gently removed with gloved hands and transported to adjacent woodland habitats across the road to the north of the site, out of harm's way. If a great crested newt, further badger sett or bird nest is located on site, all works must cease, and an ecologist be consulted immediately.

6.3.3.4 Similarly, if any additional lighting is proposed for the construction, then a lighting scheme must be incorporated into the precautionary methods statement in order to mitigate for the effect on foraging and commuting bat species.

6.3.4 **Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)**

6.3.4.1 A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is deemed necessary to mitigate potential impact towards sensitive receptors, such as the parcel of deciduous woodland present outside the site boundary. Any impacts during the construction phases of

the proposed project on sensitive receptors should be mitigated for via the implementation of a CEMP.

6.3.4.2 A CEMP is also necessary to control and mitigate against the spread of a non-native invasive species on site, listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), namely variegated yellow archangel.

6.3.4.3 A CEMP is deemed sufficient to remove and mitigate any potential impacts on nearby receptors, given the size and scope of the proposed developments. Such potential impacts include dust, light, noise, and runoff pollution resulting from work on the site. The habitats on site which require protection via a CEMP include:

- Deciduous Woodland 15 metres north of the site boundary.
- Ancient Woodland 427 metres northwest of the site boundary.

7 Biodiversity Enhancement

7.1 In line with National Planning Policy Framework (2024) the application should demonstrate biodiversity enhancements.

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

- Boundary features should be made permeable to small terrestrial mammals such as hedgehogs.
- 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 green space within the site. Plantings should comprise native species of high biodiversity value.

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.

7.4 A baseline assessment of the site and condition assessment of the habitats present was conducted during the survey which was conducted in October 2025. 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 and or Linear Habitat	UK HABS codes		Habitat Size	Baseline Units	Condition Assessment/ Strategic Significance
	Primary	*Secondary*			
Bramble Scrub	**h3d**	**-**	0.0301 ha	0.12	Bramble scrub recorded on site, not requiring a condition assessment. Not identified in local plan.
Ephemeral/ Ruderal	U	**81**	0.0144 ha	0.13	Ruderal/Ephemeral vegetation recorded on site, automatically achieving a good condition as the survey was conducted outside of the growing season. Not identified in the local plan.
Tall Forbs	g	**16**	0.0209 ha	0.09	Tall Forbs recorded on site, automatically achieving good condition as the survey was conducted outside of the growing season.
Scattered Trees	w	**32**	0.0859 ha	0.74	Thirteen small trees recorded on site, automatically achieving a good condition as the survey was conducted outside the growing season.
				0.45	Two medium trees recorded on site, automatically achieving a good condition as the survey was conducted outside the growing season. Formally identified in Barnsley Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity
Line of Trees	w	**33**	0.03 km	0.21 **(Linear)**	Line of trees recorded on site, automatically achieving good condition as the survey was conducted outside the growing season. Formally identified in Barnsley Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

7.5 The total value of the site at the baseline is calculated to be **1.52** area habitat units and **0.21** linear hedgerow units. No irreplaceable habitats are recorded on the baseline. A map of the baseline habitats can be found in Appendix Two.

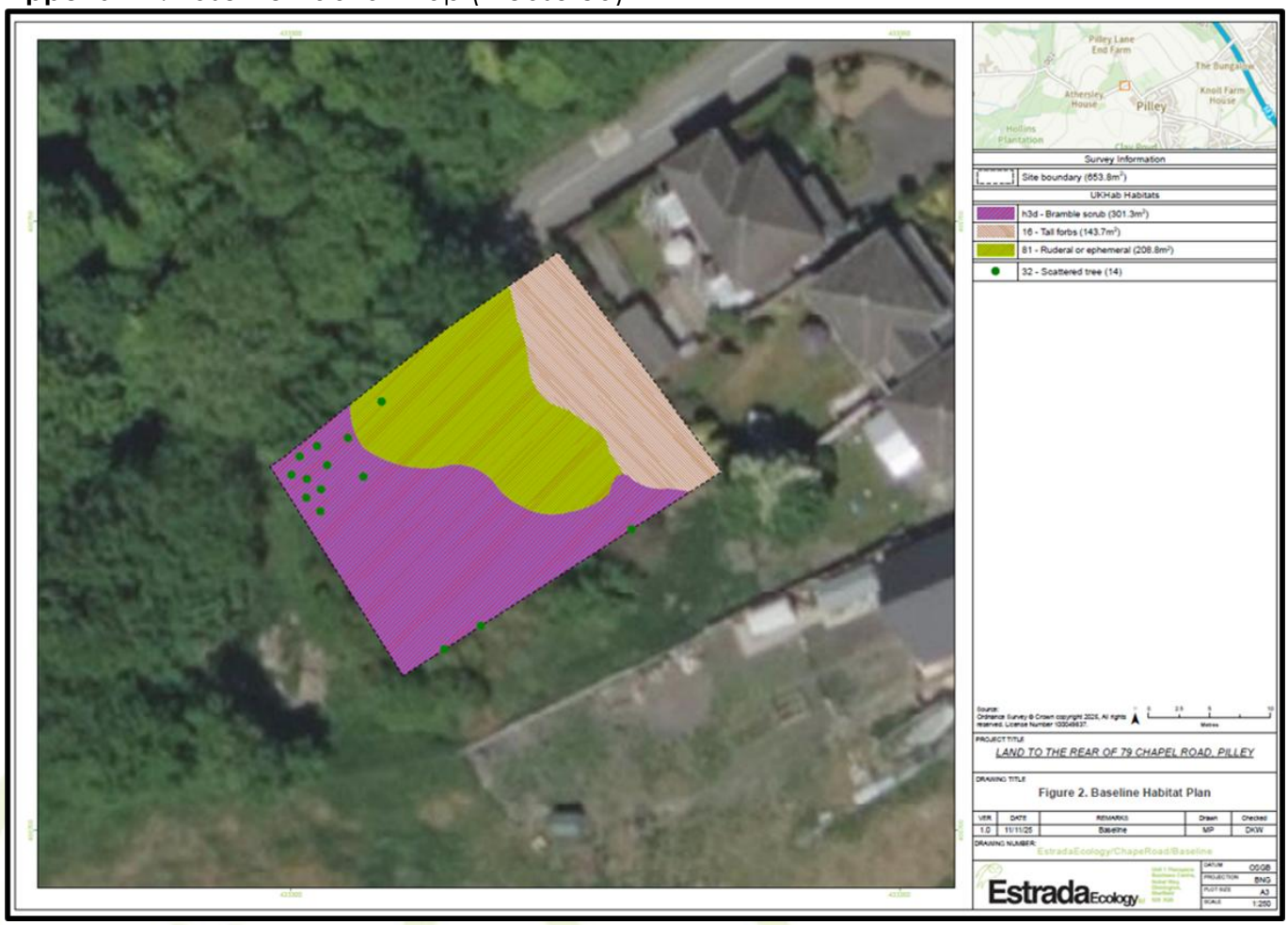
7.6 To achieve the target 10% net gain, the site **post-development** will need to provide a total value of **1.67** area habitat units and **0.23** linear hedgerow units, minimum.

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 1: Phase one Habitat Map

Appendix One Habitat Key	
	Redline Development Boundary
	Ruderal or Ephemeral Vegetation
	Tall Forbs
	Bramble Scrub
	Line of Trees
	Individual Trees
	Deadwood
	Bat PRF (Ivy Covered)

Appendix 2: Baseline Habitat Map (Measured)



Appendix 3: Species list (on site)

Vernacular	Taxon
Flora	
Blackthorn	*Prunus spinosa*
Bramble	*Rubus fruticosus* agg.
Common Nettle	*Urtica dioica*
Dewberry	*Rubus caesius*
European Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*
Ivy	*Hedera helix*
European Beech	*Fagus sylvatica*
Norway maple	*Acer platanoides*
Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*
Variegated Yellow Archangel	*Lamiastrum galeobdolon* subsp. *argentatum*
Wych Elm	*Ulmus glabra*
Small-flowered Cranesbill	*Geranium pusillum*

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