South View, Darfield

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

8th April 2021



Prepared by:

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Document ref: MBE/ECO/2020/18/2				
Purpose and Description	Originated	Checked	Reviewed	Date
For Planning	P Middleton MCIEEM	R Bell MCIEEM	P Middleton MCIEEM	08.04.21

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Site Name South View	Site Address Darfield, Barnsley S73 9LW
Local Authority Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	**Grid Reference** SE 41160 04303
Surveyor Peter Middleton MCIEEM	**Date of Survey** 16/07/2020
National Character Area (NCA) The Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield (NCA 38)	**Designation of Site** None
Phase 1 Habitat Types on Site A2.2 Scattered scrub, A3.3 Mixed scattered trees, B2.2 Semi improved neutral grassland, B6 Poor semi-improved grassland, C1.2 Scattered bracken, C3.1 Tall ruderal, J2.1.2 Species poor intact hedge, J3.6 Buildings, J4 Bare ground, J5 Other habitat (orchard)	
NVC Communities on Site None	
Protected/Notable Species, Constraints on Site Nesting birds, house sparrow	
HPIs and SPIs under NERC Act 2006 House sparrow	
Barnsley BAP None	

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1. Summary

1.1.1 The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of land off Snape Hill Road, Darfield was commissioned by planning consultant James Roberts on behalf of the client Jason Hughes on 3rd July 2020. An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey was undertaken on 16th July 2020.

1.1.2 The survey was commissioned to inform a planning application for a residential development comprising 31 units. The proposed development will result in the loss of all existing habitats on site.

1.1.3 No impacts upon designated sites are anticipated because of the nature and scale of the development, distance from designated sites and because the site is surrounded on almost all sides by residential development and roads.

1.1.4 Site habitats are considered to be of importance to nature conservation at no more than the site level. The site is not considered to be of importance at greater than the site level to any faunal species group.

1.1.5 The layout of dwellings and associated landscaping for the proposed development should look to include some areas of higher quality semi-natural habitat within its design. Created habitats could potentially include a pond linked to a sustainable drainage system, new species rich boundary hedgerows and an area of species rich grassland. Also, new native shrub and tree species should be included in street tree and garden planting. It is recommended that such measures are formalised within an Ecological Design Strategy (EDS) to be secured by a planning condition.'

1.1.6 The following ecological constraints and associated recommendations to avoid/mitigate/compensate for potential impacts have been identified.

- Nesting birds – Vegetation clearance should take place at a time when it will not affect nesting birds (outside March to August). If works are to be undertaken during this time, then they should be preceded by a nesting bird check to be undertaken by an ecologist.
- Potential damage to boundary trees – Measures detailed in British Standard 5837 (2012): Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction, should be followed.
- Boundaries and fences that will not impede the free movement of hedgehogs throughout the site.

1.1.7 In addition to mitigation recommendations outlined above, enhancement recommendations include:

- Either, swift, house sparrow or bat boxes integral to the fabric of each new dwelling.

1.1.8 In order to further reduce scheme impacts and to ensure the scheme maximises potential benefits to nature conservation, it is recommended that mitigation and enhancement measures detailed in Sections 6.3 and 6.4 are adopted.

1.1.9 Using the Biodiversity Metric 2.0 it has been calculated the existing site has an ecological value of 3.8 Habitat Units plus 0.52 Hedgerow Units.

2. Introduction

2.1.1 The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of land off Snape Hill Road, Darfield was commissioned by planning consultant James Roberts on behalf of the client Jason Hughes on 3rd July 2020.

2.1.2 The survey was commissioned to inform a planning application for a residential development comprising 31 units. The proposed development is expected to result in the loss of all existing habitats on site.

2.1.3 The purpose of this report is to present the results of an extended Phase 1 habitat survey which includes determining the potential for, or presence of, protected and notable species, plus an appended map of the site showing the Phase 1 habitats present.

2.1.4 Ecological impacts associated with the scheme have been assessed, with the focus on identifying significant impacts. Mitigation, compensation, and enhancement measures are detailed.

2.1.5 Key legislation relating to designated sites and protected species and habitats is presented in Appendix 3. The implications of legislation are detailed in the body of the report where necessary.

3. Site Description

3.1.1 The application site is located in a largely residential area off Snape Hill Road in the village of Darfield, approximately 6.5km east-southeast of Barnsley town centre. The site consists of approximately 0.85ha of land comprising both neutral and species-poor semi improved grassland, scattered scrub, scattered mixed trees, tall ruderal, bare ground, buildings and a little scattered bracken (see Appendix 1 and Plates 1 to 4). The site steeply slopes from north to south towards the Dearne Valley.

3.1.2 With the exception of pasture fields adjacent to the western boundary, residential development and associated roads surround the site. Beyond the residential area c. 300m south of Snape Hill Road is the River Dove, the River Dearne flood plain and wetlands including the RSPBs Wombwell Ings. The site is largely landlocked by residential development and it has little ecological connectivity with higher conservation value habitats in the wider area.

3.1.3 The site falls within National Character Area 38: The Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield. This National Character Area (NCA) comprises a generally low-lying area, with hills and escarpments above wide valleys, the landscape embraces major industrial towns and cities as well as villages and countryside. Over half of the NCA is currently designated as greenbelt land; this maintains some distinction between settlements and represents areas that are often under pressure for development and changes in land use. Very little of the NCA is designated for geology or nature conservation, but instead the landscape is dotted with many pockets and patches of habitat where species find refuge. This is often on land that was once worked for minerals or occupied by major industry.

3.1.4 The naturally occurring soils in the area comprise freely draining slightly acid loamy soils.

Figure 1. The site location, as indicated by red line



4. Methodology

4.1 Data Consultation

4.1.1 Barnsley Biological Records Centre (BBRC) were contacted to request the following information for locations within a 1.5km radius of the site:

- Protected and notable species records
- The boundaries of non-statutory designated sites of nature conservation interest

4.1.2 A search of the Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website was undertaken to determine the following:

- The boundaries of statutory designated sites of nature conservation interest
- The locations of historic European Protected Species (EPS) licences granted by Natural England

4.2 Field Survey

4.2.1 The site was surveyed on 16th July 2020 using extended Phase 1 habitat survey methodology (JNCC, 2010) by the following personnel:

- Peter Middleton (MCIEEM)

4.2.2 Notable, rare, or scarce plant species were highlighted if present. Evidence of protected species or species of nature conservation importance was recorded where present at the time of survey. Species recorded are included within the report as appropriate. Information is presented on the Phase 1 plan, using Target Notes (TN) to

identify particular features of interest, where appropriate. Additionally, and where possible, habitats were classified using the National Vegetation Classification (NVC), as described in the JNCC National Vegetation Classification – Users Handbook (Rodwell, 2006).

4.2.3 Ariel photographs (Google Earth) were studied to place the site in its wider context and to look for ecological features that would not be evident on the ground during the walkover survey. This is particularly useful for identifying wildlife corridors and ponds but because the latter are often not apparent on aerial photographs, OS 1:25 000 scale maps are also used.

4.2.4 Habitats of Principal Importance (HPIs) and Species of Principal Importance (SPIs) are included on Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 were noted together with priority species and habitats as included on the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).

4.3 Methods of assessment

4.3.1 The value and sensitivity of ecological features present on site were determined based on the guidance given in 'Guidelines on Ecological Impact Assessment' (CIEEM, 2018). Individual ecological receptors (habitats and species that could be affected by the development) for the scheme were assigned levels of importance for nature conservation. The highest level is international, then decreasing in order of importance through national, regional, county, local and lastly site.

4.4 Biodiversity Calculation

4.4.1 Biodiversity calculations provide a numeric method of calculating biodiversity gains and losses as a result of a proposed development.

4.4.2 The Biodiversity Metric 2.0 (Crosher *et al*., 2019) is used to calculate the biodiversity impact of this scheme. This metric uses habitat as a proxy for wider biodiversity with different habitat types scored according to their relative biodiversity value. This value is then adjusted depending on the condition and location of the habitat, to calculate 'biodiversity units. Biodiversity Metric 2.0 incorporates similar but separate calculations for habitats that require a different method of measurement such as hedgerows, lines of trees, rivers, streams and street trees. Calculations are undertaken in a purpose designed spreadsheet, which provides the main output of the process.

4.5 Survey Limitations

4.5.1 No limitations to an affective preliminary ecological appraisal were encountered.

5. Ecological Baseline

5.1 Data Consultation

5.1.1 Designated sites present within 1.5km of the site are detailed in Table 1.

Table 1. Designated sites

Designation	Name	Interest	Distance and direction to site
Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	Park Hill LNR	Wetland habitats	1km south-southwest
Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	Wombwell Ings and Broomill Flash	Wetland habitats	500m south-southeast
	Park Hill LNR	Wetland habitats	1km south-southwest

5.1.2 A consideration of the scheme's potential to impact designated sites is presented in Section 6 of the report.

5.1.3 Records of protected and notable species obtained are discussed in the species accounts within the results section.

5.2 Field Survey

5.2.1 The arrangement of site habitats is shown on the Phase 1 plan in Appendix 1, whilst a field survey botanical species list is provided in Appendix 2.

5.2.2 Site habitats are no more than site level importance to nature conservation. The site is unlikely to be of greater than site level importance to any faunal species group.

5.2.3 A detailed description of site habitats and the site's potential to support protected and notable species is provided below.

Habitats

A2.2 Scattered scrub

5.2.4 Scattered scrub is present on site at the boundaries of the two fields. Some scrub plants are approaching five metres in height, whilst others are saplings. Species present, include frequent hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, elder *Sambucus nigra* and cherry plum *Prunus cerasifera* together with occasional cherry *Prunus* spp. and rarely occurring pendunculate oak *Quercus robur*, Corsican pine *Pinus nigra*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and grey willow *Salix cinerea*.

A3.3 Mixed scattered trees

5.2.5 Scattered trees are present at the site's east, north and west boundaries. Species along the eastern boundary which fall within the red line boundary include frequent Japanese cherry *Prunus serrulata* and occasional Corsican pine. In the far northwest corner of the site are two mature field maples *Acer campestre* and a large formally coppiced hazel *Corylus avellana* whilst near the northern boundary are several large mature hawthorns and an immature silver birch *Betula pendula*.

Plate 1. Mixed trees and scattered scrub at the eastern boundary



Plate 2. Hazel and field maple in northwest corner of site



B2.2 Semi improved neutral grassland

5.2.6 This habitat constitutes the majority of the site and it has been classified as such because there still remains evidence of its previous condition, prior to overgrazing by horses. The large western field and the steep ground in the northeast corner of the site supports somewhat large areas of abundant sheep's sorrel *Rumex acetosella* together with frequent or occasional catsear *Hypochaeris radicata* and autumn hawkbit *Scorzoneroides autumnalis* which is indicative of less nutrient enriched soils. No fine leaved grasses typical of acid grassland are present and there are many areas showing nutrient enrichment of the soil where docks *Rumex* spp. and nettle *Urtica dioica* are locally abundant. The grassland in all parts of the site largely comprises abundant creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera* and white clover *Trifolium repens* together with frequent Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata* and common ragwort *Senecio jacobea*. Occasional species include smooth meadow-grass *Poa pratensis*, rough meadow-grass *Poa trivialis*, common mousear *Cerastium fontanum*, perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne*, cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*, common

mallow *Malva sylvestris*, greater plantain *Plantago major*, yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, wormwood *Artemisia absinthium* and dandelion *Taraxicum officinalis* agg. Species occurring only rarely include tansy *Tanacetum vulgare* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* (see Appendix 2 for full species list).

Plate 3. Large (western) field (view west)



Plate 4. Steep ground in northeast corner of site is less nutrient enriched



B6 Poor semi-improved grassland

5.2.7 The grassland enclosed by trees, a hedge and livestock buildings in the southeast corner of the site was formally allotment gardens and whilst it is largely similar to the large western field it supports a lower species diversity. In particular, this area lacks those species indicative of low nutrient soil and/or acid grassland.

C1.2 Scattered bracken

5.2.8 Near the northern boundary, occupying a steep bank, is an area of scattered bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* (see Plate 5).

Plate 5. Area of bracken near northern boundary



A3.1 Tall ruderal

5.2.9 In the area of former allotment gardens at the east end of the site is a relatively small area of dense nettle, which comprises the only area of this habitat type on site.

J2.1.2 Intact species poor hedge

5.2.10 There are two native hedgerows on site, both of which are species poor. The one along the western boundary contains frequent hawthorn and cherry plum *Prunus cerasifera,* together with rarely occurring hybrid willow *Salix* spp., lilac *Syringa vulgaris* and alder (see Plate 6). The hedge dividing the western field from the former allotment gardens is dominated by hawthorn together with occasional elder and bramble.

J6 Other habitat (orchard)

5.2.11 For want of a better classification, a small orchard in the former allotment garden area has been classified as Other habitat. Domestic apple *Malus domestica* is the most numerous species together with two Japanese cherry and a cultivated pear *Pyrus communis* (see Plate 6). Whilst orchards are a habitat of principal importance, this example is very small and of poor quality (ecological value).

Plate 6. Former allotment garden and small orchard



J3.6 Buildings

5.2.12 There are several small single storey sheds and livestock buildings on site (Plates 7 & 8). Their potential to accommodate roosting bats is discussed in the species section of the report.

Species and species groups

Amphibians

5.2.13 No Great Crested Newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus* records were provided by BBRC for locations within a 1.5km radius of the site. No historic GCN EPS mitigation licences have been issued for locations within 8km of the application site.

5.2.14 Three amphibian records were provided by BBRC for a radius of 1.5km of the site centroid. Records included two common toad *Bufo bufo* and one smooth newt *Lissotriton vulgaris* records. The closest record to site comprises a common toad record collected in 1989 from a location 500m from the site centroid.

5.2.15 The pond search revealed there are three ponds within a 500m radius of the site, all of which are south (nearest 340m) of Snape Hill Road and a large housing estate. The busy road and the built environment are considered a major barrier to GCN movement and therefore GCN are not considered a receptor to the proposed scheme. Also, the heavily grazed grassland which constitutes the majority of the site is unlikely to be valuable to common amphibians.

Badger

5.2.16 Two badger *Meles meles* records were provided by BBRC for locations within a 1.5km radius of the site centroid. No signs of badgers were recorded on site; however, the site may be used as a wider foraging habitat for this species.

Bats

5.2.17 Forty-four bat records of at least four species were provided by BBRC. Positively identified species in the records comprised common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, noctule *Nyctalus noctula* and Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii*. The nearest roost record (unidentified bat) was collected in 2001 from a location 1km east of the site centroid.

5.2.18 No historic EPS mitigation licences have been obtained for locations within 2km of the application site.

5.2.19 There are no trees either on, or adjacent to the site that display features with potential to accommodate roosting bats and the site provides sub-optimal habitat for foraging bats. Buildings on site (plates 7 & 8) are all single skin structures that lack significant potential to accommodate roosting bats and are therefore considered to offer negligible bat roost potential.

Plate 7. Some of the site buildings in the allotment garden area of the site



Plate 8. Shed in southeast corner of site with poor semi improved grassland in foreground



5.2.20 The site is unlikely to be of more than site level importance to foraging and commuting bats due to its location and the sub-optimal foraging habitat present.

Birds

5.2.21 Of all the records provided by BBRC, the most significant are house sparrow *Passer domesticus* and starling *Sturnus vulgaris* records, both collected in 2006 for the 1km Ordnance Survey Grid Reference SE 4104. Both are red listed species within the Birds of Conservation Concern (Eaton *et al.,* 2015).

5.2.22 Four species of bird were recorded at the site's boundaries or overhead, including goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*, common swift *Apus apus*, house sparrow *Passer domesticus* and linnet *Carduelis cannabina*. The latter two are red listed species within the Birds of Conservation Concern (Eaton *et al.,* 2015). The list is not exhaustive, and the site's boundaries have the potential to support a greater assemblage of common garden birds.

Invasive species

5.2.23 No species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) were recorded on site.

Hedgehog

5.2.24 One hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* records were provided by BBRC for a location within a 1.5km radius of the site. No records were received for the site itself. The record to site was collected in 2018 in a location 900m from the site. The site is therefore at least likely to comprise part of a wider foraging habitat used by this species.

Invertebrates

5.2.25 Given the ubiquitous habitats on site, rarely occurring and/or notable species of invertebrates are not likely to be present as the ground flora appears to be somewhat species poor.

Plants

5.2.26 Given the habitats on site and the soils somewhat nutrient enriched state (in most part), they are unlikely to support rare or notable species of flowering plants.

Reptiles

5.2.27 Eleven reptile records were provided by BBRC for locations within 1.5km of the site. Records comprise grass snake *Natrix natrix* and adder *Vipera berus* from Park Hill Local Nature Reserve and Cathill Quarry, however, the latter is most likely to have been misidentified Given the unfavourable nature of habitats present within the interior of the site for reptiles and the relatively poor connectivity with suitable habitats elsewhere, reptiles are not considered likely to be a receptor to the proposed scheme.

5.3 Biodiversity Calculation

5.3.1 The existing site's value as calculated by the Biodiversity Metric 2.0 tool is 3.8 Habitat Units plus 0.52 Hedgerow Units (Appendix 5).

6. Assessment

6.1 Proposals

6.1.1 The assessment of impacts is based on the Proposed plan named: Proposed Residential Development at Hill Street, Darfield, Drawing no 2, 27/05/20, Neil Bowen Architects.

6.1.2 The proposed development will result in the loss of all existing habitats on site with the exception of several boundary trees and the western boundary hedgerow.

6.2 Assessment of Impacts

6.2.1 No impacts upon designated sites are anticipated because of the nature and scale of the development, distance from designated sites and because the site is surrounded on almost all sides by residential development and/or roads.

6.2.2 Site habitats are considered to be of importance to nature conservation at the site level only. The site is not considered to be of importance at greater than the site level to any faunal species group.

6.2.3 Potential impacts of the development are considered to comprise:

- Long-term loss of semi-natural habitats present within the interior of the site.
- Potential to damage or destroy active bird nests. Bird nests are subject to strong legal protections as detailed in Appendix 3.
- Damage to the root systems of existing trees as a result of construction works.
- Temporary increase in vehicle movements onto and out of the site during the period of construction.
- Temporary increase in noise, dust and vibration caused by construction work.
- Long term increase in human presence on site on completion of the development.

6.2.4 Methods to avoid or mitigate for the impacts detailed above are discussed in Section 6.3

6.3 Further Survey and Mitigation

6.3.1 The layout of dwellings and associated landscaping for the proposed development should look to include some areas of higher quality semi-natural habitat within its design. Created habitats could potentially include a pond linked to a sustainable drainage system, new species rich boundary hedgerows and an area of species rich grassland. Also, new native shrub and tree species should be included in street tree and garden planting. It is recommended that such measures are formalised within an Ecological Design Strategy (EDS) to be secured by a planning condition.'

6.3.2 In order to avoid or mitigate ecological impacts of the scheme, it is advised that the following recommendations are adopted:

- Vegetation clearance should take place at a time when it will not affect nesting birds (outside March to August). If works are to be undertaken during this time, then they should be preceded by a nesting bird check to be undertaken by an ecologist.
- Boundary trees should be retained (especially the northwest corner). Taking a best practice approach to nature conservation issues, British Standard 5837 (2012): Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction, should be followed. Root Protection Zones (RPZ's) should be calculated and implemented to prevent harm to trees. This should also apply to any trees outwith the site, up to 5 m from the boundary.

6.4 Enhancements

6.4.1 In accordance with the environmental aims of the National Planning Policy Framework, it is suggested that the developer follows the recommendations detailed below. These measures could be detailed in an EDS, to be secured by planning condition. Please note that the enhancements have been informed by the results and findings of the data consultation and the field survey.

- The development should include swift boxes in one third of units integral to the fabric of the building high on external walls. House sparrow terraces should

also be included in one third of units, with bat boxes in the remainder of new dwellings. Bird boxes should not be installed on the south facing elevations. Bat boxes should be installed at wall top height on either south or west elevations.

- Dwelling boundaries and fences should not impede the free movement of hedgehogs throughout the site with holes cut at fence junctions.

6.5 Conclusion and Residual Effects

6.5.1 The site is not considered to be of greater than site level importance to any habitat or species group.

6.5.2 The existing site's value as calculated by the Biodiversity Metric 2.0 tool is 3.8 Habitat Units plus 0.52 Hedgerow Units.

6.5.3 In order to further reduce scheme impacts and to ensure the scheme maximises potential benefits to nature conservation, it is recommended that mitigation and enhancement measures detailed in Sections 6.3 and 6.4 are adopted.

7. References

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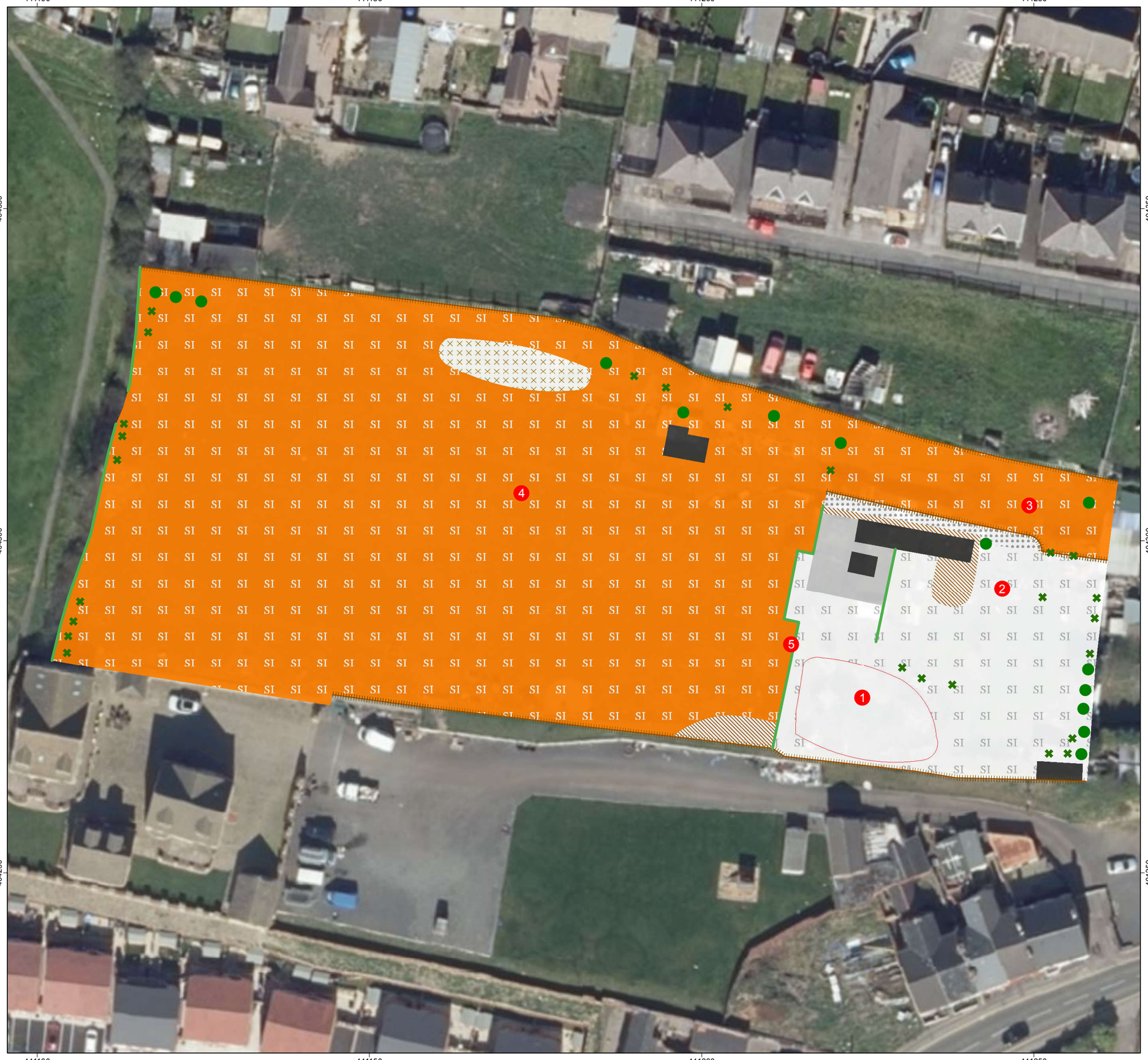
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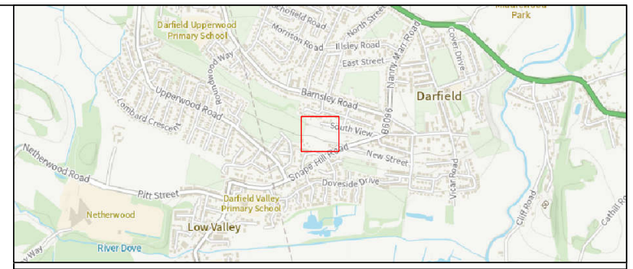
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Appendix 1. Phase 1 Plan





Survey Information	
	Site boundary (8,512m^2)
Phase 1 Habitat Survey	
	Semi-improved neutral grassland (6,587m^2)
	Poor semi-improved grassland (1,135m^2)
	Tall ruderal (117m^2)
	Bracken - scattered (121m^2)
	Bare ground (64m^2)
	Hardstanding (110m^2)
	Building (121m^2)
	Other - orchard (257m^2)
	Hedgerow (112.0m)
	Fence (310.5m)
	Scattered tree
	Scattered scrub
x	Target note

Target Notes:

[1] Other habitat – orchard
[2] Former allotment garden
[3] Abundant sheep's sorrel
[4] Abundant sheep's sorrel
[5] Uncut (high) hedge

Source:
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0 5 10 20
Metres

PROJECT TITLE

SOUTH VIEW, DARFIELD

DRAWING TITLE

Figure 1. Phase 1 Habitat Plan

VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked
1.3	08/04/21	Phase 1	MP	PM

DRAWING NUMBER:
MIDDLETONBELLECOLOGY/SnapeHillRd/Phase 1

SCALE	1:565	PLOT SIZE	A3	DATUM	OSGB	PROJECTION	BNG

Middleton Bell Ecology
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Appendix 2. Plant Species Recorded on Site

Name	Common name	DAFOR Rating
Trees, Scrub & Hedges		
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	Rare
Salix cinerea subsp. cinerea	Grey Willow	Rare
Sambucus nigra	Elder	Frequent
Salix caprea	Goat Willow	Rare
Corylus avellana	Hazel	Rare
Acer campestre	Field Maple	Occasional (2)
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	Locally abundant
Pyrus communis	Pear	Rare
Malus	Apple	Locally abundant
Prunus serrulata	Japanese Cherry	Frequent
Corylus avellana	Alder	Rare
Salix spp.	Hybrid willow	Rare
Quercus robur	Pendunculate oak	Rare
Betula pendula	Silver birch	Rare
Prunus cerasifera	Cherry plum	Locally frequent
Pinus nigra subsp. laricio	Corsican Pine	Occasional
Grassland		
Scorzoneroides autumnalis	Autumn Hawkbit	Locally frequent
Pteridium aquilinium	Bracken	Locally abundant
Bromus hordeaceus	Soft brome	Rare
Chenopodium album	Fat-hen	Rare
Myosotis arvensis var. sylvestris	Field Forget-Me-Not	Rare
Hypochaeris radicata	Cat's-ear	Locally frequent
Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved Dock	Rare
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	Occasional
Rumex acetosella subsp. *acetosella*	Sheep's Sorrel	Locally abundant
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle	Rare
Tanacetum vulgare	Tansy	Rare
Cerastium fontanum	Common Mouse-ear	Frequent
Plantago major	Greater Plantain	Occasional
Taraxacum	Dandelion	Occasional
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Locally abundant
Lolium perenne	Perennial Ryegrass	Locally abundant
Rumex crispus	Curled Dock	Occasional
Anthriscus sylvestris	Cow Parsley	Rare
Sisymbrium officinale	Hedge Mustard	Occasional
Convolvulus arvensis	Field Bindweed	Rare
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle	Occasional

Poa pratensis	Smooth Meadow-grass	Occasional
Poa trivialis	Rough Meadow-grass	Occasional
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	Locally abundant
Malva sylvestris	Common Mallow	Locally abundant
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	Occasional
Artemisia absinthium	Wormwood	Occasional
Trifolium repens	White Clover	Frequent
Senecio jacobaea	Common Ragwort	Frequent
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire-fog	Frequent
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping Bent	Abundant

Appendix 3. Relevant Legislation and Policy

Wildlife legislation relating to statutory designated sites and species is summarised in Table A1 and A2 below. This legal information is intended for summary only, and the original legal documents should be consulted if a detailed understanding is required.

Table A1. Legislation relating to designated sites and habitats

Designated Site	Legal Status
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	LNRs are of local, but not necessarily national, importance. An LNR can also be an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest), but often is not, or may have other designations. Except where the site is an SSSI, there is no legal necessity to manage an LNR to any set standard and there is no national legal protection specifically for LNRs. An LWS has certain protection against development on and around it. This protection is usually given via the local plan, (produced by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), and often supplemented by local by-laws.
Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	While they have no direct legal status, Local Wildlife Sites are considered important enough to receive recognition within the planning system. National planning policy requires local authorities to identify Local Wildlife Sites and provide for their protection through local policy.

Table A2. Legislation relating to species

Species	Legal Status
European protection	
European Protected Species (EPS) (including bats, Great Crested Newt (GCN), otter and hazel dormouse)	These animal species and their breeding sites or resting places are protected under Regulation 41 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which makes it illegal to: • Intentionally or deliberately capture, injure, or kill any such animal or to deliberately take or destroy their eggs. • Deliberately disturb such an animal. • Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal. European Protected Species (EPS) licences can be granted by Natural England in respect of development to permit activities that would otherwise be unlawful under the Conservation Regulations, providing that the following 3 tests (set out in the EC Habitats Directive) are passed: • The development is for reasons of overriding public interest. • There is no satisfactory alternative; and • The favourable conservation status of the species concerned will be maintained and/or enhanced. Under Regulation 9(5) of the Conservation Regulations, Planning Authorities have a legal duty to 'have regard to the requirements of the EC Habitats Directive in the exercise of their functions'. This means that they must consider the above 3 tests when determining whether Planning Permission should be granted for developments

Species	Legal Status
	likely to cause an offence under the Conservation Regulations. As a consequence, Planning Applications for such developments must demonstrate that the 3 tests will be passed. Natural England also allow sites to be registered on the Bat Low Impact Class Licence to permit activities that would otherwise be unlawful under the Conservation Regulations where the 3 tests can be passed and the bat roosts to be impacted are of low conservation status.
National protection	
European Protected Species and other species including water vole and white clawed crayfish	These animals receive full protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000), which makes it illegal (subject to exceptions) to: • Intentionally kill, injure or take any such animal. • Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct any place used for shelter or protection by any such animal; and • Intentionally or recklessly disturb such animals while they occupy a place used for shelter or protection.
Common amphibians and reptile species	These animals receive limited protection under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000), which makes it illegal to intentionally kill or injure any such animal.
Badger	The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 makes it illegal to wilfully kill or injure a Badger or attempt to do so and also make it illegal to intentionally or recklessly interfere with a Badger sett. This includes damaging or destroying a sett, obstructing access to a sett and disturbing a Badger while it is occupying a sett. Licences can be granted by Natural England to permit sett closure and/or disturbance between July and November inclusive.
Schedule 1 birds	Special penalties relate to offences concerning birds listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). In addition to the offences detailed above relating to all wild birds, it is illegal to intentionally or recklessly disturb any Schedule 1 bird or their dependent young while nesting.
All bird species	All wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000), which makes it illegal (subject to exceptions) to: • Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird. • Take, damage or destroy the nest (whilst being built or in use) or eggs of any wild bird.
Invasive species	The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) contains measures for preventing the establishment of non-native species which may be detrimental to native wildlife, prohibiting the release of animals and planting of plants listed in Schedule 9 of the Act. In relation to Schedule 9 plants it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause these plant species to grow in the wild.

Species and Habitats of Principal Importance

Planning authorities have a duty under Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 to have regard to priority species and habitats in exercising their functions including development control and planning. In compliance with Section 41 of the NERC Act, the Secretary of State has published a list of species and habitats considered to be of principal importance for conserving

biodiversity in England under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. This is known as the list of Habitats and Species of Principal Importance (HPI/SPI). The HPI/SPI list is used to guide planning authorities in implementing their duty under the NERC Act.

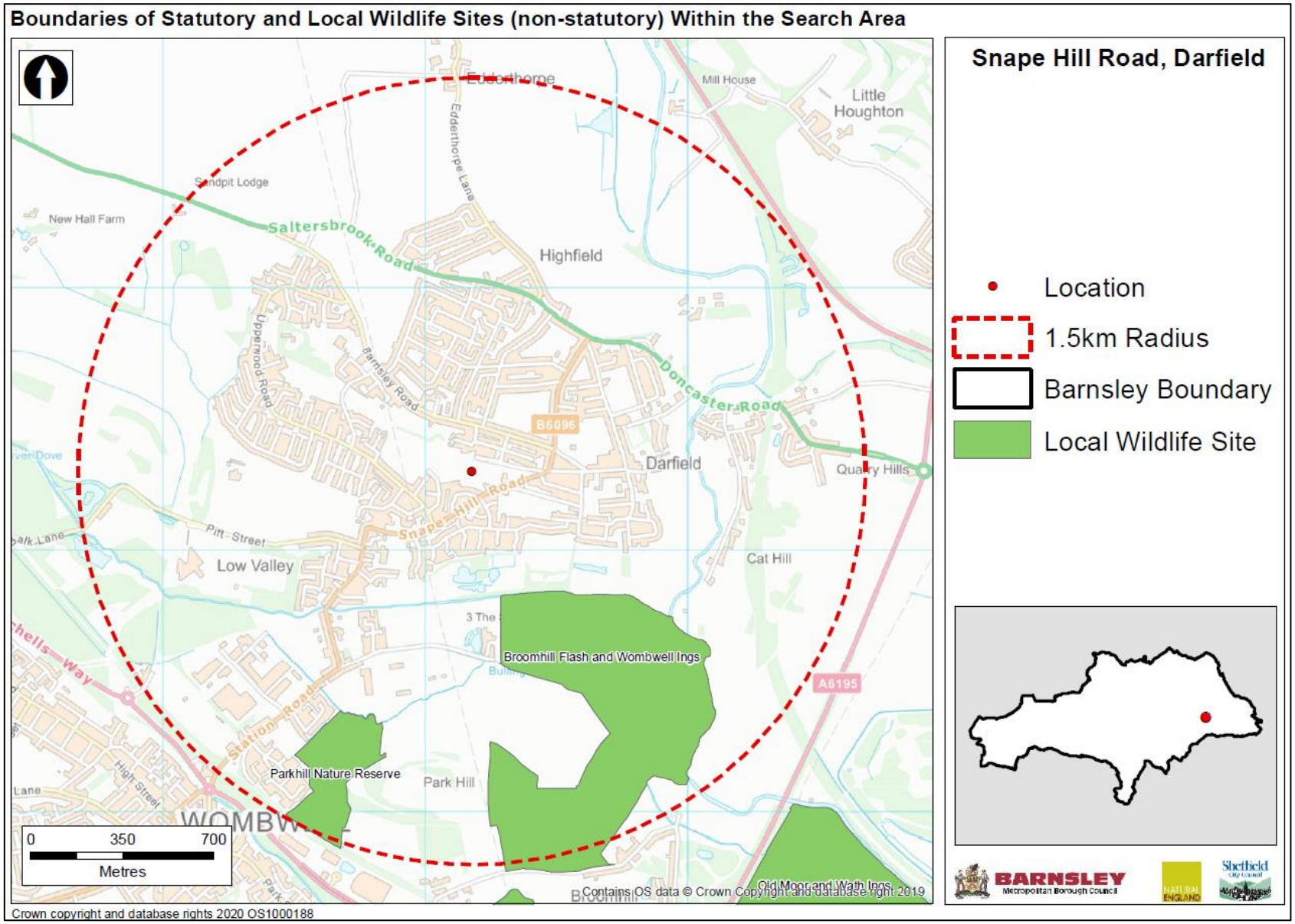
National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework for England was revised in 2018. This document states that plans should 'promote the conservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity'. It also puts an emphasis on refusing development which would result in the 'loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland)' unless there are 'wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable mitigation strategy exists'.

Local Biodiversity Action Plans

The HPI/SPI list included on Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 is supported by a series of Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs), usually set up on a local authority local authority administrative boundary basis. Each LBAP identifies those habitats and species considered to be most important in that area (usually referred to as priority habitats and species). Commonly, an LBAP will identify a number of habitats and species for which "action plans" have been prepared.

Appendix 4. Designated Sites Map



Appendix 5. Biodiversity Metric 2.0

On-site baseline	*Habitat units*	3.80
	Hedgerow units	0.52
	River units	0.00
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation, enhancement & succession)	*Habitat units*	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	River units	0.00
Off-site baseline	*Habitat units*	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	River units	0.00
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation, enhancement &	*Habitat units*	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	River units	0.00
Total net unit change (including all on-site & off-site habitat retention/creation)	*Habitat units*	-3.80
	Hedgerow units	-0.52
	River units	0.00
Total net % change (including all on-site & off-site habitat creation + retained habitats)	*Habitat units*	-100.00%
	Hedgerow units	-100.00%
	River units	0.00%