



**Woolley Colliery Road, Barnsley**

**MJ Gleeson PLC**

Report Ref. ER-8088-07

Report Reference:	Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP: Biodiversity) Woolley Colliery Road, Barnsley
Report Reference:	ER-8088-07
Written by:	Micah Duckworth BA MSc MCIEEM CSJK Biodiversity Manager
Technical review:	Christopher Shaw BSc (Hons), CEcol, MCIEEM Associate Director
QA:	Beth Chesworth BSc (Hons), PGDip Graduate Ecologist
Project Manager:	Christopher Shaw BSc (Hons), CEcol, MCIEEM Associate Director
Date:	06/05/2026

# Introduction

This document is produced to show how the Site can be built out without significant impacts on important ecological features.

This document is produced with reference to British Standard 42020 Clause 10.2 Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP).

The purpose of a CEMP (Biodiversity) is to identify risks to biodiversity during the construction phase, evaluate the level of risk, and supply methods for the management of these.

In producing this plan, the following information sources are referred to:

- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report. Brooks Ecological Report Ref. ER-8088-01A (November 2024).
- Woolley Colliery\_TA 2\_Reptile Survey\_v1, SLR Consulting (Feb 2025)
- Woolley Colliery\_TA 1\_Bat Surveys\_v1, SLR Consulting (Feb 2025)
- Badger Report. Brooks Ecological Report Ref. ER-8088-04 (April 2025). Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Brooks Ecological Report Ref. ER-8088-02B (July 2025).
- Invertebrate Survey Report, Ref. ER-8088-05B. October 2025. Survey data collected May & June 2025 (Red & Blue Line Land)
- ER-8088-06 - Invertebrate Assessment 2019-2025 Summary
- Tree Constraints Report. Tree Survey Solutions

## Responsible Persons & Lines of Communication

An Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be appointed by MJ Gleeson PLC prior to any activity commencing on site.

MJ Gleeson PLC will formalise lines of communication with the ECoW establishing who within their operation is responsible for actions on site prior to any work commencing. These links will be maintained until such a time as a Site Manager is appointed and assumes this responsibility.

MJ Gleeson PLC is responsible for maintenance of protection and exclusion fencing, however the ECoW will check fencing on each visit and immediately bring issues to the attention of the Project Manager or Site Manager

MJ Gleeson PLC is responsible for compliance with regulations, legal consents, planning conditions, environmental procedures and contractual agreements and the issuing of periodic reports on success and compliance. These periodic reports will feedback into the CEMP for the subsequent phase (s) and MJ Gleeson PLC will ensure the results of this review are effectively communicated to on-site staff.

## The Role of an Ecological Clerk of Works

The ECoW will be a suitably trained and experienced professional ecologist

who is a member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

The ECoW will carry out all ecological surveys and watching briefs.

The ECoW will deliver a tool box talk to site workers prior to any clearance commencing.

The ECoW will make periodic monitoring visits to check the integrity of any fencing and monitor site activities (pollution control). On each visit to the site, the ECoW will monitor the activities and assess for compliance with this CEMP (Biodiversity).

A Site Inspection Certificate will be issued to client following this with any recommendations highlighted. client will take all measures necessary to comply with the recommendations. ECoW visits will be carried out according to Site conditions The Site Manager will call the ECoW to site as soon as any of the following emergency events occur:

### Encountering protected species

Should any protected species (or nesting birds) be encountered during any phase the ECoW will be consulted. Any advice provided to ensure that wildlife offences are not committed will be followed. This could include curtailing works in part or all the site until appropriate species mitigation, licensing or agreed avoidance measures be secured.

### Damage to retained habitats

The Site manager will follow the advice of the ECoW to ensure that the careful like for like restoration of habitats damaged is enacted in the first available season. This may include replanting, re-seeding and appropriate establishment management.



# Constraints

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was undertaken in November 2024. This identified a number of potential ecological constraints within the Site, leading to a number of further ecological studies being undertaken.. A summary of the reports' findings are outlined below.

## Designated Sites

A desk-based study indicated that a single statutorily designated site (Denby Grange Colliery Ponds SAC) is present within 10km of the Site, however impacts on this site from development were scoped out.

Two non-statutory designated sites are present within 2km of the Site, however impacts on these sites from development were scoped out.

## Habitats

The Site comprises a former colliery, which was not subject to restoration works following its closure. Instead, the site has been allowed to vegetate naturally, and now supports a mix of neutral grassland, scrub, and woodland.

## Protected Species

Invertebrate species records for Woolley Colliery collected between 2019 and 2025 were inputted into Pantheon software for habitat assessment. The species of interest suggest that both the proposed development (red-line) area and the mitigation (blue-line) area are attractive for a wide variety of invertebrates and support a number of uncommon species. Taken, together with the previous site records including those recorded by the surveyor (Godfrey 2023), it is suggested that it is a site of high invertebrate quality and is worthy of Local Wildlife Status.

Reptile surveys undertaken in 2019 and 2022/23 identified the presence of a small common lizard population off-site to the north, with occasional records of this species within the red line boundary. Dedicated survey in 2025 identified 6 common lizard within the red and blue line survey area.

Bat activity surveys undertaken in summer/autumn 2022 and spring 2023 indicated the site is used for commuting and foraging by a typical assemblage of common and widespread bat species. Survey in 2025 identified 3 trees with roost potential outside the development footprint.

Badger surveys confirmed the likely absence of this species from site, though suitable habitat is available and presents an ongoing risk of setts establishing in the future.

## Invasive Species

Invasive Non-native Species (INNS) have not been recorded on Site.

**Table 1** Ecological constraints.

Habitat/Feature	Protected/Notable species
Mature Broadleaved Woodland	Nesting birds
	Invertebrates (butterflies)
	Common lizard
	Bats (foraging/commuting)



## Impacts

Impacts on biodiversity features and associated fauna fall into the following broad categories:

- Vegetation clearance;
- Soil stripping;
- Re-spreading soil and stored materials; and
- Noise generation and disturbance.

## Construction Stages

### i) Site clearance and soil stripping

Trees and woody vegetation are usually removed by a forestry or arboricultural contractor using either a large driven mulching machine which chops arisings and incorporates with the soil, or locally by hand machinery with material being chipped and spread, piled, or removed.

Large excavators scrape back soil to create clear development platforms. There will be limited existing topsoil on Site. Crushed rubble, sub-soil will be taken by dumper to create the Butterfly mitigation area within the blue line land.

This phase presents the greatest risk to nesting birds and the health of retained hedgerows and trees.

### ii) Installing drainage

This work will be carried out following full site vegetation removal, earthworks and site remodelling. Backfilled trenches will not be seeded. Drainage will be carried out in line with the build phases.

### iii) Installing roads and sewers

This is normally completed by a contractor digging into the cleared development platforms as the first construction activity.

### iv) Building out cleared plots

Creation of show home, then phased construction of plots according to market demand in approximately 2-3 years.

Typical activities which require Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) overseeing are likely to be: clearing any remaining bird nesting habitat, or clearance of soil stores (which could have been used by fauna such as badger/fox).

# Risk Assessment of Potentially Damaging Development

## High Risk

### Unnecessary damage to retained woodland & off-site habitat

Much of the existing on-site vegetation, plus some areas of off-site vegetation, will be cleared to facilitate development and off-site mitigation. Mature woodland along the site peripheries has been retained within the Site Layout wherever possible. However, without adequate protection in place, construction activities pose a high, ongoing risk of damaging these features unnecessarily.

### Control 1: BS5837 fencing

An Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) will be produced to support the application; this will identify the root protection areas for the retained woodland edge trees, and will set out the exact location/requirement for protection fencing.

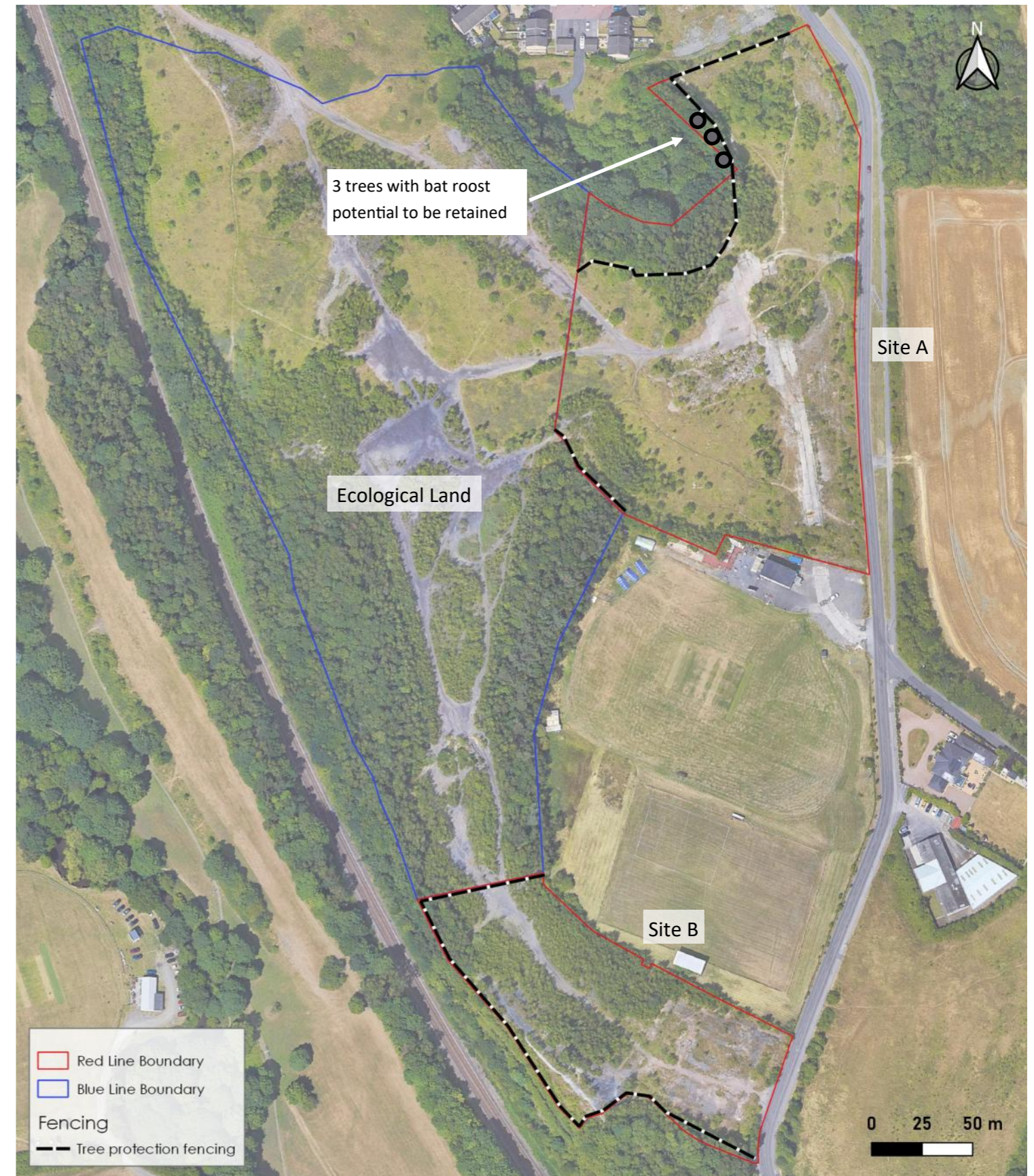
Fencing according to the Tree Protection Plan (TPP) within the AMS should be followed. The figure opposite is illustrative only.

Fencing will be installed prior to site clearance within each site (North/South).

Fencing position will be checked by the ECoW or lead Arboricultural Consultant prior to site soil stripping.



Example BS:5837 fencing



# Risk Assessment of Potentially Damaging Development

## High Risk

### Destroying bird nests

Initial clearance works impacting upon rough grassland, scrub, and young birch woodland presents a high risk of affecting nesting birds, contrary to the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). Most of the Site, with the exception of hard standing and bare substrate areas, has the potential for nesting birds to be present. Ground nesting birds are considered very low risk, given the high rate of dogwalkers on-site.

### Control 2: Timing

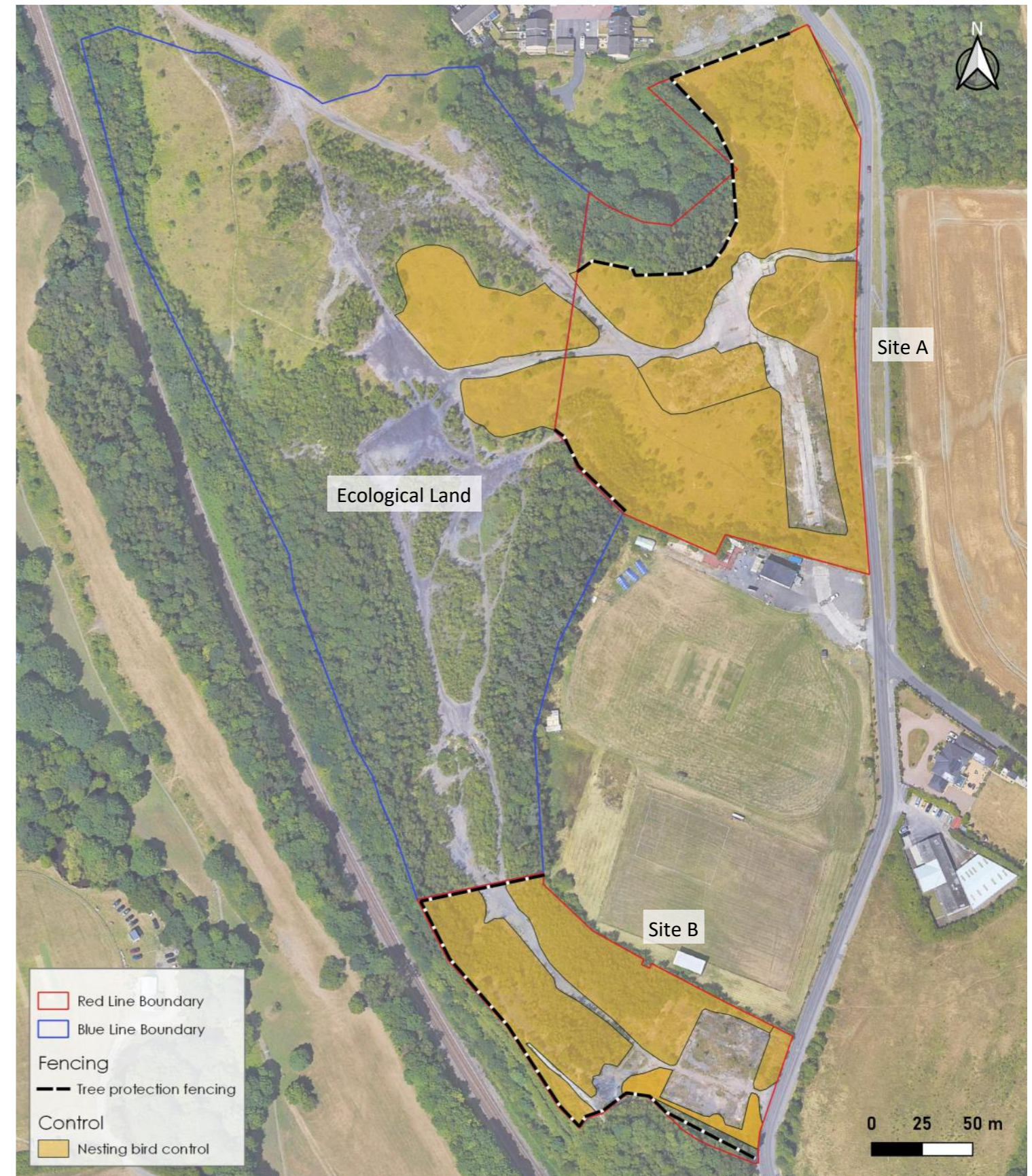
Where feasible, vegetation will be cleared outside of the bird nesting season (in period September-February).

### Control 3: Survey

Where this is not possible or sections have been missed and need to be cleared in the period March to August (inclusive), the ECoW will carry out nesting surveys of the vegetation to be affected. The area shaded yellow is subject to this control.

If nests are found, these will be demarcated on the ground and works will avoid them until birds have fledged or abandoned the nest. An ecologist inspection report confirming this will be produced before works continue.

In areas where vegetation is too dense to allow the ECoW to conclude likely absence of a nest, the ECoW will supervise vegetation clearance. Only hand-held brush cutters will be used in these areas. The ECoW will direct cutting until such a time that they are happy that no nests are present.



# Risk Assessment of Potentially Damaging Development

## Moderate Risk

### Destroying habitat valued by notable invertebrates and killing adults/larvae.

Given the Site's unique history and prevailing ground conditions, a number of notable invertebrate species have established on Site, and within other areas of the former colliery. Most notable are the butterfly species small blue, small heath, and dingy skipper.

Whilst the lack of human interference is the main reason that invertebrates have prospered on-site since the colliery ceased operation, the Site is now at a turning point, where natural succession of birch scrub is leading to a reduction in habitat structure and diversity, which in turn is resulting in many of the notable butterfly populations contracting. The Site's development will provide a mechanism to secure long-term management of the wider colliery (blue line land), with the aim of maintaining and increasing habitat for notable invertebrates.

Prior to construction commencing, efforts will be made to capture and translocate as much of the remaining notable butterfly populations within the red line boundary as possible, and translocate these to Receptor Sites situated off-Site.

### Control 4: Creating Suitable Receptor Sites

Following committee resolution to approve the outline application works, works commenced within the blue line land to create suitable receptor sites for the release of notable invertebrates, well in advance of construction works commencing.

A large SUDS basin to the north was entered into a program of conservation management, in collaboration with the Yorkshire Butterfly Conservation Trust (YBCT). Targeted shrub clearance was completed in late spring/early summer 2023 within key areas of grassland, which will increase the carrying capacity for translocated adults/larvae.

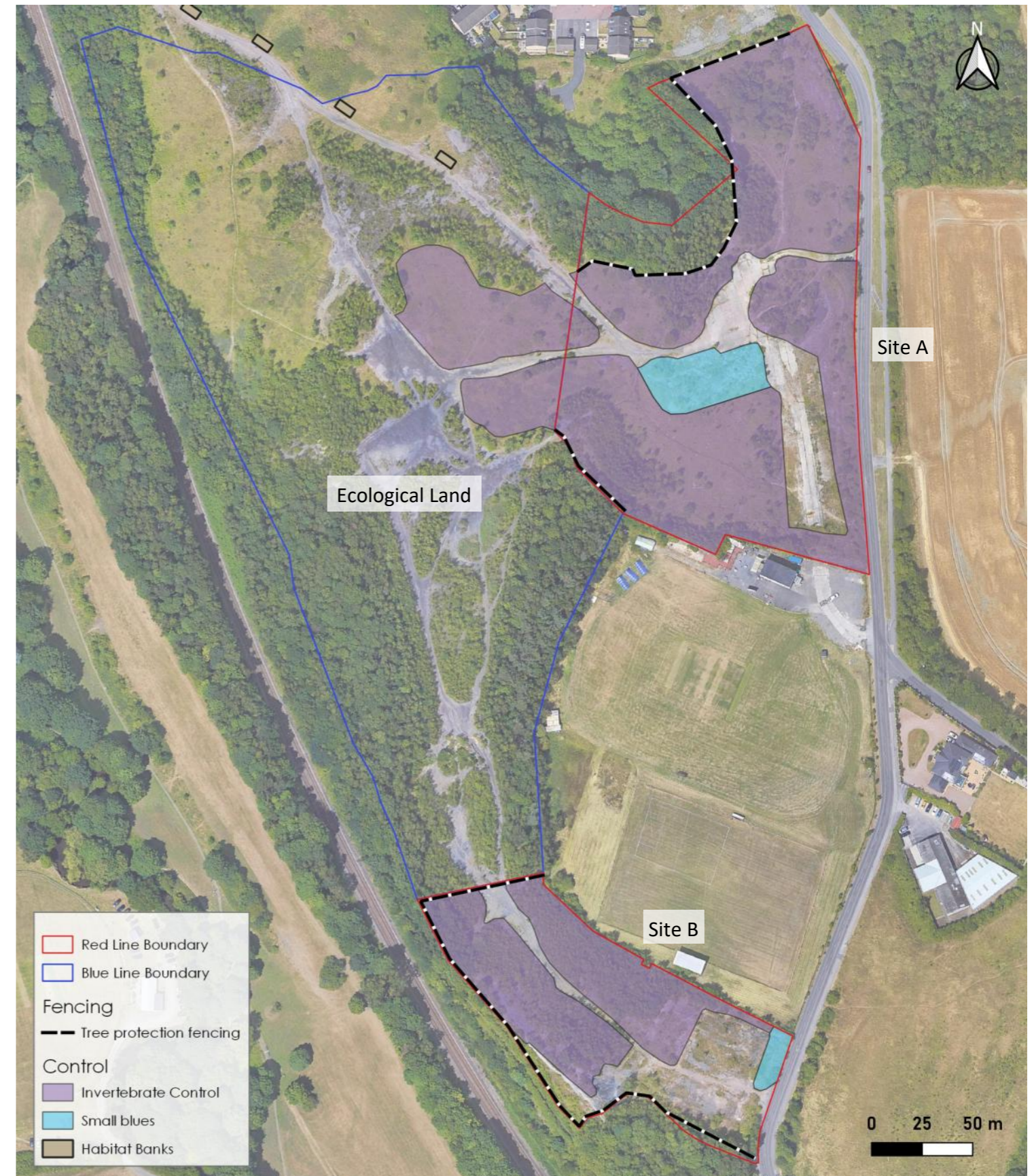
A series of seven 'Butterfly Habitat Banks' were also constructed in late spring/early summer 2023, providing 'stepping stones' of suitable habitat between the northern SUDS basin and the area of land that will become the main invertebrate mitigation area. These were constructed in accordance with guidance set out by the Butterfly Conservation Trust, and fitted with information boards.

### Control 5: Capture & Translocation

**Adults:** Volunteers from the YBCT have agreed to undertake periodic visits to the Site throughout summer 2023, and using hand nets, will collect any adult butterflies from areas marked purple and blue in the figure opposite, and release these within the northern SUDS basin. A record of these visits and an estimate of the number of translocated adults will be collected and submitted to the LPA.

**Larvae:** Certain butterflies, such as the dingy skipper and small blue, will overwinter as caterpillars. For small blue, this is within the flower heads of kidney vetch or on the ground surrounding the vetch, whilst dingy skipper will create conspicuous 'tents' in vegetation close to the ground. In late summer, the ECoW will carry out a hand-search of the areas highlighted purple in the figure opposite, and translocate any caterpillars found to the northern SUDS.

**Host Plants:** The habitat banks will be seeded with a mix of kidney vetch and bird's foot trefoil. As an additional measure, the ECoW will dig up a number of mature kidney vetch plants in late summer and early autumn, and plant these within the habitat banks. The areas marked blue on the figure opposite show the locations where kidney vetch may still be found.



# Risk Assessment of Potentially Damaging Development

## Low Risk

### Injuring/killing Common Lizards

Previous surveys demonstrated a likely absence of reptiles within the red line boundary, but did identify a small population of common lizard just off-Site to the north.

Updating surveys carried out in 2022/23 recorded sporadic use of the Site by very low numbers of common lizard, and records are present for this species within gardens to the south. Site clearance and soil stripping therefore presents a risk, albeit low, of killing and injuring common lizard.

### Control 6: Destructive Search & Directional Clearance

**Destructive search:** Prior to site clearance an appropriate sized team of Ecologists will carry out a hand search for common lizard in all suitable refuges, including leaf litter, boulder piles, rubble/log piles, and any other natural or man-made debris that provides cover.

Any reptiles found will be rescued and released in suitable habitat to the north, such as the northern SUDS basin.

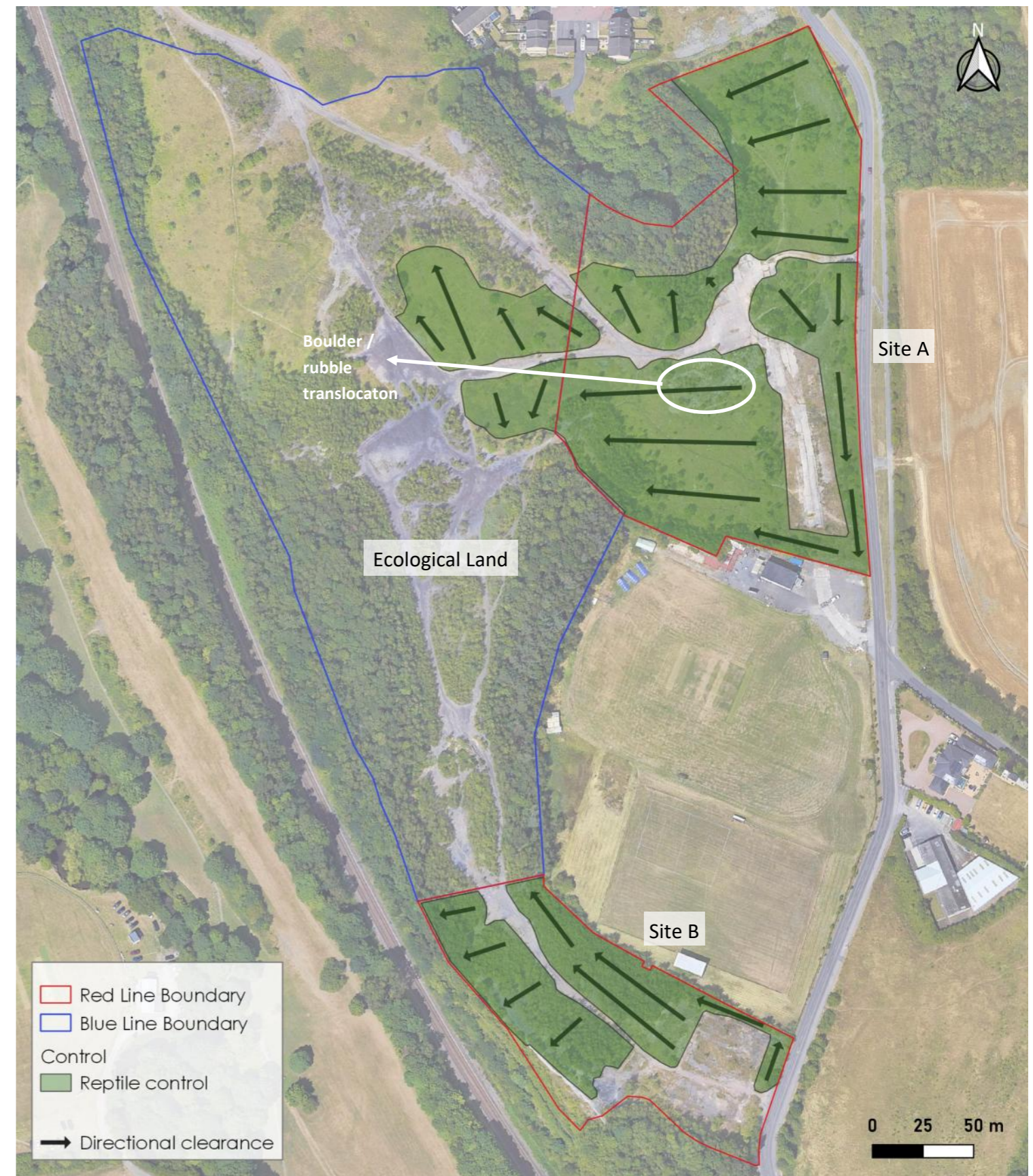
Boulders will be lifted carefully under an ECoW watching brief, and immediately transported off site and into a pre-agreed location within the blue line land.

**Directional clearance:** Areas of rough vegetation (marked green in the right-hand figure) will be cleared in such a way that common lizard can take flight and head off into safe cover rather than be trapped in areas to be cleared later, or forced out into unsuitable habitat, such as roads and hardstanding.

For grassland areas, this will be subject to two cuts, spaced 24-48hrs apart. The first cut will be on a high flail / mower height 150-200mm. The second is down to ground level.

The figure opposite shows the recommended direction of vegetation clearance.

Prior to vegetation works commencing, the ECoW will deliver a toolbox talk to contractors, and will oversee the start of clearance works.



# Risk Assessment of Potentially Damaging Development

## Low Risk

### Interfering with a badger sett contrary to the Protection of Badgers Act

Although no evidence of badger setts or activity was found by Brooks Ecological during the course of previous surveys, it was recognised that the surrounding woodland presents suitable badger habitat, and there is a risk that this species could move into the site prior to development commencing.

A precautionary appropriate to this species is therefore recommended.

### Control 7: Pre-commencement Survey & Precautions

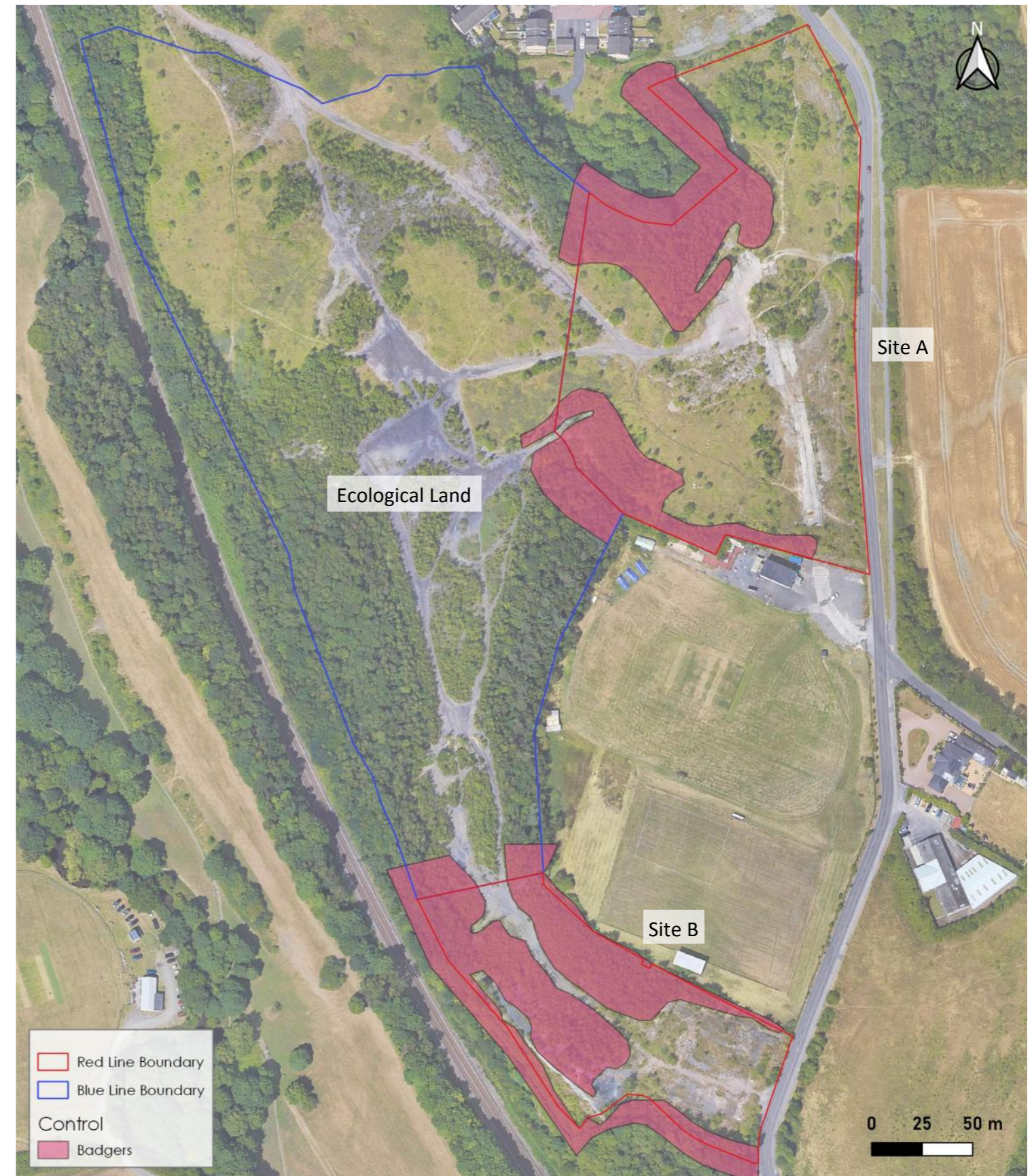
Survey: Prior to site clearance work commencing, the entire site and surrounding woodland (minimum 30m radius from boundary where accessible) will be subject to a precautionary, pre-commencement badger survey.

If a badger sett is found it will be marked out on the ground by the ECoW using temporary barrier fencing and pins, and notices will be erected advising of a No Works Area. Rouse Homes will follow all advice supplied by the ECoW in terms of the need for, and approaches to, licensing or supervision of works in proximity to any identified sett.

Standard precaution: Even where evidence of badger activity is not found during the pre-commencement survey, there is always a risk that badgers can move into the Site at any time during the construction phase.

The Site Manager should therefore be vigilant for signs of badger activity appearing on-Site. Prior to re-working soil stores, contractors should be advised to check for mammal holes; should any be found, the ECoW should be asked for advice before proceeding.

Where possible, trenches/excavations should not be left open overnight. Where this is unavoidable, a means of escape should be fitted to the excavation, in the form of an earth ramp of scaffold board.



# Risk Assessment of Potentially Damaging Development

## Low Risk

### Disturbing nocturnal fauna (i.e. bats)

Without precautionary controls in place, artificial lighting used during works poses a risk of causing disturbance to bats and other nocturnal animals which are present in peripheral off-Site habitat areas.

### Control 8: Lighting Plan

A strategic plan to control artificial lighting during construction and beyond will need to be devised for each phase of development, so as to remove/limit light spill into the zones indicated in the plan right, and maintain these as protected dark zones. Lighting can be controlled through a variety of mechanisms which control the location, height, direction, intensity, duration, frequency, and beam of light sources.

1. If the Site is to be trafficked at night or used for operations such as welding at night, perimeter fencing adjacent to the dark zone should incorporate light screening material construction to prevent headlight illumination, or arc lighting.
2. On-site construction lighting to be directed away from the protected dark zones throughout the construction phase through considered placement of lighting towers and use of directional lighting baffles.
3. The Site's Lighting Strategy will demonstrate the avoidance of impacts to these areas during operation, as seen in the figure opposite.



# Work Schedule

The work schedule below outlines when the tasks required should be carried out, and whether input is required from the ECoW.

Task	ECoW to direct	ECoW to carry out	At Setting out stage	Prior to any work in identified areas	Other timing considerations
<u>Control 1</u> Tree Protection Fencing			Yes	Yes	Prior to any works commencing on-Site.
<u>Control 2 &amp; 3</u> Nesting birds		Yes		Yes	Survey required if vegetation cleared between March and August.
<u>Controls 4</u> Creation of invertebrate receptor habitat	Yes		Yes	Yes	Completed late spring, early summer
<u>Control 5</u> Translocation of notable invertebrates		Yes		Yes	
<u>Control 6</u> Reptile control–directional clearance	Yes			Yes	
<u>Control 7</u> Pre-commencement Survey–Badgers		Yes		Yes	
<u>Control 8</u> Sensitive Lighting Strategy					
ECoW monitoring and reporting		Yes		Yes	
ECoW available for unforeseen issues and supervision		Yes	Yes	Yes	Provide suitable notice to arrange Site visits.