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St Mary's Residential Development, Penistone

Ecological Impact Assessment

Prepared for Mark Jackson Planning

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Notes:	**This report contains sensitive information concerning protected species and caution should be exercised when copying and distributing to third parties.** **Appendix 4Should only be released to trusted organisations as it contains sensitive and specific information concerning the location of protected species**	

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. In May 2012 ***RDF*** Ecology Limited was appointed by Mark Jackson planning on behalf of their client (Reliant Building contractors Limited) to undertake an ecological impact assessment of a proposed residential development on land adjacent to the disused coal drops at St Mary's Street, Penistone, South Yorkshire.

1.2. A preliminary ecological study had been previously completed for the proposed development in and comments received from Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council on the preliminary assessment report indicated that further ecological studies were required, in particular to address issues relating to protected species including birds, bats and reptiles.

1.3. After consultation with the Biodiversity Officer of Barnsley MBC the following work was undertaken in order to meet the requirements of the brief:

1.4. Provide a description of the work to be undertaken as part of the condition in a bulleted list as below

- A desktop study, data review and consultation with relevant agencies
- An extended phase 1 habitat survey
- A preliminary bat roost potential survey
- Evening emergence/activity surveys to look for and record bat activity at the site

1.5. This report describes the findings of the desktop study and field survey work, considers the potential impacts arising from the proposed development and proposes appropriate mitigation measures.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

2.1. The proposed development assessed in this report is show in Figure RBC02-25 Rev C dated 13 September 2012 and comprises the following:

- The refurbishment of Regency House
- The conversion of the former coal drops into 5 retail units with a green roof system
- The construction of 15 residential properties
- Provision of associated access, parking areas and landscaping.

3. SURVEY METHODOLOGY

3.1. Study Area

3.1.1. The proposed development site lies immediately to the south of the Trans Pennine Trail, west of St Mary's Street, Penistone and the extent of the development site study area is shown in Figure 1 in Appendix 2.

3.1.2. The desktop study area extends to approximately 1.5km beyond the development site boundary.

3.2. Desktop Study

3.2.1. A range of data sources were consulted to obtain ecological information about the study area and its immediate surroundings and included the following:

- Barnsley Biological Records Centre
- Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website
- Natural England web site and online SSSI database
- The National Biodiversity Network on-line Biological Records Database.

3.3. Field Survey

3.3.1. Extended Phase I Habitat Survey Methodology

3.3.1.1. During the site visits the whole of the development site was examined in detail and lists of all the plant species identified were compiled. Separate lists were produced for each habitat area identified. Detailed species lists are provided in Appendix 1.

3.3.1.2. The habitats within the study area were mapped according to the techniques described in the publication —Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey—published by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (revised 2010). Figure 3 in Appendix 2 shows the results of the Phase 1 Habitat Survey.

3.3.1.3. Target notes provide descriptions on the main habitats of the site, including information on species composition, habitat structure, evidence of management, habitats too small to map and transitional or mosaic habitats.

3.3.1.4. Sufficient detail on the composition of the vegetation can be obtained from a Phase 1 Habitat Survey, which enable it to be characterised and assessed.

3.3.1.5. During the site visit notes were made of features of potential value to other groups such as birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates paying particular attention to protected species.

3.4. Bat Survey Methodology

3.4.1. Bat Survey Methods

Building Assessment Survey

3.4.1.1. The buildings within the study area were visually assessed for potential access points and evidence of bat activity using binoculars to view upper floor areas and roofs.

3.4.1.2. The survey sought to identify features such as small gaps in the pointing and brickwork, or in or around barge/soffit/fascia boards, raised or missing ridge tiles and gaps at gable ends, all of which provide potential access points for bats. Evidence to indicate that potential access points were actively used by bats included looking for staining within gaps and bat droppings or urine staining under gaps; any marks such as these were recorded. Indicators that potential access points were likely to be inactive included the presence of cobwebs and general detritus within the access.

3.4.1.3. The coal drops were examined in detail during the extended phase I habitat survey along with the other buildings on site which were examined internally and externally, using binoculars to examine soffits and second floor brickwork.

3.4.1.4. When a roost is positively identified during an internal and external visual inspection, the building within which the roost is located is classified within the category *roost present*. Other buildings are classified as at *high, medium* or *low risk* of containing bat roosts based upon the number and quality of features present, and the buildings position in relation to the surrounding environment. Table 2 shows the features considered when attributing a risk classification to a building.

3.4.1.5. A *high risk* building would typically be an older building situated close to high quality bat foraging habitats such as woodland, water features or substantial hedgerows. Buildings falling within this class will usually offer a variety of roosting opportunities suitable for use by a range of bat species.

3.4.1.6. Conversely a *low risk* building will typically be well sealed and of modern construction, offering no or few clear access points or roosting opportunities. The risk of a building housing a bat roost is further reduced

if located within an area of poor quality habitat such as hard standing or amenity grassland.

Table 1—Features typical of buildings within the different risk categories

Low Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk
No easily identifiable access points such as gaps within stonework or between tiles.	Some access points. Typically obscured by cobwebs or detritus.	Several possible access points. Some clean showing potential use.
No roof void	Small or cluttered roof void	Large roof void with unobstructed flying spaces
No external cavities such as crevices within wall or behind fascia boards	Few external cavities with cavities present of low suitability	A variety of external features offering a range of roosting locations
Located within areas of poor quality habitat, away from bat foraging or commuting routes	Area offering some habitat features likely to be used by bats	Good connectivity to high quality habitats
Not part of a group of buildings	Part of a group of buildings, all offering similar roosting opportunities	Part of a group of buildings offering a range of different conditions and potential roost locations
Heavily disturbed	Potential roosting locations suffering little disturbance	Building disused or little used, largely undisturbed

3.4.2. Tree Assessment Survey

3.4.2.1. During the phase I habitat survey any mature trees that may provide potential roost locations for bats were examined. from the ground (using binoculars where necessary) to look for features of potential value to roosting bats including old woodpecker holes, Ivy cover, lifted or flaking bark, rot holes and split limbs. Trees were also examined for any other evidence of occupation by bats such as staining, droppings and scratch marks.

3.4.2.2. The risk of trees or groups of trees to support roosting bats was assessed according to the criteria in Table 3 below:

Table 2—Risk Assessment for Trees

Low Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk
No cracks or crevices	Few small cracks and crevices	Woodpecker holes
No flaking bark	Deadwood in canopy or stem	Cracks/crevices
Low/no Ivy cover	Low/medium Ivy cover	Loose or flaking bark
Coniferous species	Small clusters of trees	Medium-dense Ivy cover
Single isolated trees	Hedgerow Trees	Deadwood in canopy or stem
		Snagged branches
		Hollow core, stem or limb
		Hole between buttresses
		Woodland or woodland edge location

3.4.3. Emergence and Transect Surveys

3.4.3.1. Three bat emergence surveys were completed in suitable weather during June, July and August 2012.

3.4.3.2. The emergence surveys commenced prior to the emergence of bats at dusk with continued observation of potential exit points until the emergence period had passed. Following this a short survey route taking in the site boundary was walked to record any feeding bat activity.

3.4.3.3. Any bat activity was recorded using a handheld heterodyne bat detector (BatBox Duet).

3.4.3.4. Table 4 below provides details of the survey effort for the emergence surveys undertaken.

Table 3—Bat Emergence Survey Inputs

Survey Date	Start Time	Finish Time	Staff	Temp (^{0}C)	Notes
27/06/2012	20.45	23.15	2	Max 19^{0}C Min 17 ^{0}C	Mild, dry evening with light south easterly wind.
30/07/2012	20.15	23.00	2	Max 11^{0}C Min 10^{0}C	Cool dry evening with light westerly breeze
22/08/2012	19.30	22.00	2	Max 13^{0}C Min 12^{0}C	Mild dry evening with light south westerly breeze

3.5. Other Groups

3.5.1. During the course of the extended phase 1 habitat survey incidental notes of birds and other wildlife within the study area were made.

3.6. Limitation of Field Survey

3.6.1. The whole of the study area was examined during the field survey and the work was completed during the optimum survey period for plants and given the simplicity and artificial nature of most of the habitats encountered it is unlikely that any significant species were overlooked during the survey and that this report will provide an accurate description of the ecological features of the study area.

4. SURVEY RESULTS

4.1. General Description

4.1.1. The site comprises of areas of hard standing with two buildings and the former coal drops along with associated areas of developing neutral grassland/ruderal vegetation and scrub. In the north west corner of the study area is established woodland.

4.2. Desk Top Study

4.2.1. Statutory Designated Sites

4.2.1.1. The desktop study indicated that there are no sites protected by a statutory designation within 1.5km of the proposed development site. The nearest sites are Spring Meadows, Alderman's Head & Cow Croft Meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which lies approximately 2.9km south west of the study area and Pye Flatts Meadows SSSI which lies approximately 3.4km north east of the study area.

4.2.2. Non-Statutory Designated Sites

4.2.2.1. Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are the best examples of the different habitat types found in the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough and are only designated after an extensive survey of the semi-natural vegetation.

4.2.2.2. The development site is not covered by any non-statutory nature conservation designations and there is only a single LWS within 1.5km of the development site boundary which is Scout Dike Reservoir LWS (Ref 618) which lies approximately 1.3km north west of the study area.

4.2.2.3. The location of Scout Dike LWS is shown in Figure 2 in Appendix 2.

4.2.3. Protected Species

4.2.3.1. The desktop study did not reveal any protected species or Local Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species records relating to the study area.

4.2.3.2. Information provided by the Barnsley Biological Records Centre indicates that the nearest records for European Protected Species were of a number of bat species recorded within Penistone. The nearest being for unidentified bat records from various locations on Keats Grove and Shelley Close approximately 250-300m north east of the development site. There were other limited records of unidentified bats and Pipistrelle *(Pipistrellus sp.)* bats within Penistone ranging from 400-600m away from the development site.

4.2.3.3. Kingfisher *(Alcedo atthis)*, a species protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) was recorded from various locations along the River Don and particularly from bridges at Water Hall Bridge (470m north east) and the main Barnsley Road Bridge (250m north).

4.2.3.4. There was a single record for Peregrine Falcon *(Falco peregrinus)* from the 1km grid square SE2302.

4.3. Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Results

4.3.1. Large parts of the site comprised bare ground and hard standing used for car parking. The semi-natural habitats recorded during the field survey are described below.

4.3.1. Neutral Grassland and Tall Ruderal vegetation Mosaic

4.3.1.1. Main habitat within the proposed development site comprised areas of neutral grassland with variable levels of invading ruderal vegetation.

4.3.1.2. These grassland areas generally comprised a variable coarse tussocky sward containing False Oat-grass *(Arrhenatherum elatius)*, Cock's-foot *(Dactylis glomerata)* and Yorkshire Fog *(Holcus lanatus)* along with a range of other grasses including Common Bent *(Agrostis capillaris)*, Creeping Bent *(Agrostis stolonifera)*, Meadow Foxtail *(Alopecurus pratensis)*, Common Couch *(Elytrigia repens)*, Red Fescue *(Festuca rubra)*, Perennial Rye-grass *(Lolium perenne)* and Smooth Meadow-grass *(Poa pratensis)*.



Photograph 1—Bare ground with fringing areas of neutral grassland and ruderal vegetation

4.3.1.3. Broad-leaved species included Yarrow *(Achillea millefolium)*, Cow Parsley *(Anthriscus sylvestris)*, Daisy *(Bellis perennis)*, Common Mouse-ear *(Cerastium fontanum)*, Smooth Hawk's-beard *(Crepis capillaris)*, Hogweed *(Heracleum sphondylium)*, Cat's-ear *(Hypochaeris radicata)*, Black Medick *(Medicago lupulina)*, Ribwort Plantain *(Plantago lanceolata)*, Creeping Cinquefoil *(Potentilla reptans)*, Creeping Buttercup *(Ranunculus repens)*, Dandelion *(Taraxacum officinale agg.)*, Red Clover *(Trifolium pratense)*, White Clover *(Trifolium repens),* Tufted Vetch (Vicia cracca) and Hairy Tare *(Vicia hirsuta)*. Less frequently encountered species included Mugwort *(Artemisia vulgaris)*, Common Knapweed *(Centaurea nigra)*, Perforate St John's-wort *(Hypericum perforatum)*, Meadow Vetchling *(Lathyrus pratensis)*, Meadow Buttercup *(Ranunculus acris)* and Bladder Campion *(Silene vulgaris)*.

4.3.1.4. Ruderal and robust perennial species were encountered through the grassland forming more dominant stands in localised areas. Species here included Mugwort, Cow Parsley, Rosebay Willowherb *(Chamerion angustifolium)*, Creeping Thistle *(Cirsium arvense)*, Spear Thistle *(Cirsium vulgare)*, Hogweed *(Heracleum sphondylium)*, Broad-leaved Dock *(Rumex obtusifolius)*, Common Ragwort *(Senecio jacobaea)*, Prickly sow-Thistle *(Sonchus asper)*, Colt's-foot *(Tussilago farfara)* and Common Nettle *(Urtica dioica)*. Bramble *(Rubus fruticosus agg.)* underscrub was present in variable, but increasing amounts within the vegetation.

4.3.2. Amenity Grassland

4.3.2.1. A strip of mown amenity grassland ran along the southern boundary of the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT). Species here were limited by the regular mowing and included Common Bent, Red Fescue *(Festuca rubra)* and Perennial Rye-grass along with occasional Yorkshire Fog and Cock's-foot along with Daisy, Common Cat's-ear Ribwort Plantain, Creeping Buttercup, Dandelion White Clover and Red Clover.

4.3.2.2. The grassland was also intermittently present along the northern boundary along with areas of garden encroachment containing a range of non-native garden shrubs and plants.

4.3.3. Scrub

4.3.3.1. At the eastern end of the site an area of Silver Birch *(Betula pendula)* and Goat Willow *(Salix caprea)* scrub with occasional Hawthorn *(Crataegus monogyna)* had developed adjacent to and above the former coal drops.

4.3.3.2. The ground vegetation comprised an impoverished version of the adjacent grassland areas with an increased abundance of coarse grasses such as Yorkshire Fog, Cock's-foot and False Oat-grass and a reduction in finer grasses and broad-leaved species.



Photograph 2—Birch and Willow Scrub above coal drops with adjacent grassland

4.3.3.3. A small area of Gorse *(Ulex europaeus)* scrub is present in fence line along the southern boundary of the Trans Pennine Trail.

4.3.4. Broad-leaved Woodland

4.3.4.1. A small area of woodland was present in the north west corner of the study area with a mixed canopy of Sycamore *(Acer pseudoplatanus)*, Pedunculate Oak *(Quercus robur)*, Horse Chestnut *(Aesculus hippocastanum)* and Silver Birch with occasional Ash *(Fraxinus excelsior)*.

4.3.4.2. The understorey was poor and comprised a very small number of Silver Birch and Ash saplings along with occasional Hawthorn saplings.



Photograph 3—Trans Pennine Trail with area of woodland on the right

4.3.4.3. The woodland canopy was quite dense and limited the ground vegetation which comprised a limited range of more shade tolerant coarse grasses

and broad leaved species including False Oat-grass, Cock's-foot, Yorkshire Fog, Common Couch, Perennial Rye-grass and Smooth Meadow-grass along with Garlic Mustard *(Alliaria petiolata)*, Cow Parsley, Mugwort, Cleavers *(Galium aparine)*, Hogweed and Creeping Buttercup. There were also some stands of Common Nettle and Bramble underscrub.

4.4. Bat Survey Results

4.4.1. Buildings Surveys

4.4.1.1. Two buildings were surveyed. These were an old stone industrial building with a corrugated steel roof and the adjacent Regency House.

4.4.1.2. The larger building was of stone construction with a corrugated steel single skin roof and two large steel shutter doors in the western and eastern building elevations. The windows were boarded up and there was a small flat roofed porch on the western elevation.



Photograph 4—Western elevation of the commercial building

4.4.1.3. The stonework pointing was in reasonably good order and provided few access points for roosting bats. However there were some gaps in the pointing high up on the walls under the guttering along the southern and northern elevations.



Photograph 5—Pointing gaps under guttering on southern elevation

4.4.1.4. No evidence of roosting bat activity was recorded for this building.

4.4.1.5. The Regency House building is a stone built two storey property with recently refurbished flat slate roof that has been used as offices.



Photograph 6—Southern elevation of Regency House

4.4.1.6. The stonework pointing of this building was in good order provided few access points for roosting bats.

4.4.1.7. No evidence of roosting bats was recorded during the survey.

4.4.1.8. The coal drops were also examined for evidence of roosting bats. These comprise a series of 6 stone arches with collapsing roof timbers.



Photograph 7—The coal drop arches

4.4.1.9. The arches are open to the elements and well lit. The rear walls are retaining the former railway line foundations to the north and were very damp at the time of the survey indicating that they would have little value for roosting bats. Elsewhere the walls were damp limiting their value to roosting bats. The stonework along the front of the arches was in good condition and provided very few access points for roosting bats. However there were some gaps in the pointing around the damaged lintel structure along the top of the arches.

4.4.1.10. No evidence of roosting bats was recorded during the survey.

4.4.2. Tree Surveys

4.4.2.1. The development site does not contain any mature trees of value to roosting bats with those present being too young and having no recognised features of value to roosting bats.

4.4.3. Emergence Surveys

4.4.3.1. The daylight visit and building inspection indicated that both buildings and the coal drop arches offered some limited potential for roosting bats due to the nature of the buildings and their location close to suitable feeding habitat. As a consequence it was considered appropriate to undertake further emergence surveys to look for any bats emerging from potential roost locations identified during the building survey

4.4.3.2. Three emergence surveys were completed to look for bats emerging from potential roost access points identified during the daylight survey.

4.4.3.3. No bats were recorded emerging from the buildings during the emergence surveys.

4.4.3.4. A small number of Common Pipistrelle *(Pipistrellus pipistrellus)* bats were recorded on two evenings feeding along the Trans Pennine Trail north of the buildings and these were clearly seen arriving to the site from the east along the Trans Pennine Trail. Full details are provided in Appendix 4.

4.5. Other Groups

4.5.1. During the field survey incidental records of birds were made. The majority of the records were from the scrub area above the coal drops and the woodland area and associated scrub to the north west of the site and the gardens along the northern boundary of the study area. Species recorded included Wren *(Troglodytes troglodytes)*, Robin *(Erithacus rubecula)*, Blackbird *(Turdus merula)* and Blue Tit *(Cyanistes caerulea)*.

4.5.2. No reptiles were seen during the field survey although a number of pieces of steel corrugated roof material discarded on site were examined for any resting reptiles.

5. EVALUATION OF SURVEY RESULTS

5.1. Overall Approach to Assessment

5.1.1. The overall approach to assessment adopted by the study team is based upon the guidelines for Ecological Impact published by the Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management Assessment (Terrestrial and Freshwater and Coastal (IEEM 2006) and Marine, Coastal and Estuarine (IEEM 2010) and can be summarised as below:

1. To identify the likely zone of influence (study area) arising from the whole lifespan of the project;
2. To identify and value the features of nature conservation interest within the ecological study area in a systematic way by establishing levels of interest for ecological features measured against definable criteria. The term Valued Ecological Receptor (VER) is used to describe the species, communities, habitats or sites selected for detailed study during the process of ecological impact assessment.
3. To identify the biophysical changes attributable to the project that are likely to affect valued ecological features and resources;
4. To assess whether these biophysical changes are likely to give rise to a significant ecological impact, defined as an impact on the integrity of a defined site or ecosystem and/or the conservation status of habitats or species within a given geographical area, including cumulative and in-combination impacts;
5. To consider appropriate refinement of the project to avoid or reduce identified negative impacts and incorporate mitigation measures and/or compensation measures for any residual significant negative impacts and ecological enhancement measures to improve the wider environment;
6. To undertake an assessment of the ecological impacts of the refined project and definition of the significance of these impacts, including cumulative and in-combination impacts;
7. To provide advice on the consequences for decision making of the significant ecological impacts, based on the value of the resource, feature or function; and

8. Where appropriate to make recommendations for monitoring the implementation and success of mitigation and compensation measures and ecological outcomes, including feedback in relation to predicted outcomes.

5.2. Determining Value

5.2.1. The IEEM guidelines advocates an approach to the valuation of ecological features using a geographical framework (full details in Appendix 3) based upon the following:

- International;
- National; (i.e. England/Northern Ireland/Scotland/Wales)
- Regional;
- County/Metropolitan
- District/Unitary Authority/City or Borough
- Local/Parish
- Within zone of influence only

5.2.2. The thorough evaluation of the ecological importance of the features of a site is essential in order to assess the significance of the ecological effects of the development proposals.

5.2.3. The evaluation criteria are given in detail in Appendix 2. Their aim is to consider the habitats, communities and species present on site in relation to the following:

1. The legislative framework (e.g. the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the EC Directive on the Conservation of Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC) for the presence of protected species and habitats).
2. Nature conservation designations, including national site designations (Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves etc), local designations (Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, Local Nature Reserves, County Wildlife Sites etc).
3. Accepted criteria for species rarity and declining populations, and rarity of habitat types or communities, including species and habitats identified in the British Red Data Books, national biodiversity action plan, and species and habitats identified in regional or local biodiversity action plans where available.
4. Accepted criteria for overall site evaluation (including rarity, diversity, naturalness, historical factors and issues relating to landscape ecology).

5.3. Evaluation of Survey Results

5.3.1. Designations

5.3.1.1. The site is not covered by any statutory or non-statutory nature conservation designations. The nearest sites covered by a statutory designation are Spring Meadows, Alderman's Head & Cow Croft Meadows SSSI which lies approximately 2.9km south west of the study area and Pye Flatts Meadows SSSI which lies approximately 3.4km north east of the study area. Neither of these sites would not be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed development.

5.3.1.2. There are no LWS within 1km of the study area and no LWS would be affected by the proposed development.

5.3.2. Habitats

5.3.2.1. The habitats recorded within the development site include areas of coarse neutral grassland with ruderal vegetation, young birch and willow scrub and a small area of broad-leaved woodland along with extensive areas of bare ground used as a car park. All of the habitats are of fairly recent origin with the grassland developing on areas of disused car park and the scrub having developed on the top of the neglected coal drops area.

5.3.2.2. The grassland and scrub areas support a low-moderate species diversity which reflects their recent origins and the dominance of a range of coarse grasses and in some areas ruderal species. The woodland area supports a low species diversity due to its young age and dense canopy growth and erosion of ground vegetation.

5.3.2.3. None of the habitats are considered rare or unusual in Barnsley Metropolitan Borough. Whilst the Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) lists open mosaic habitats on previously developed land as one of its priority habitats and whilst this primarily relates to sparse, open and developing vegetation on derelict industrial sites such as former colliery sites, disused railways, mineral and clay extractions it also includes urban gardens, allotments and public open space and would therefore potentially include the grassland habitats within proposed development site it is assessed that the habitats present on site do not represent good examples of this type of habitat being relatively species poor and supporting common and widespread species.

5.3.2.4. The habitats present with the site are assessed to be of value at the Parish/neighbourhood level.

5.3.3. Species

5.3.3.1. No notable or protected species were recorded during the field survey and the desktop study and data search did not reveal any protected species records for the proposed the site which has low potential for supporting protected species.

5.3.3.2. However there are a number of records of roosting bats in Penistone within 500m of the proposed development site, which also contains two buildings and the coal drops which were assessed to be of low-medium risk for supporting roosting bats.

5.3.3.3. Consequently the buildings and coal drops were examined for roosting bats by internal and external inspections followed by three dusk emergence surveys in accordance with the most recent Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) survey guidelines (BCT 2012).

5.3.3.4. The daylight survey indicated that the buildings were of low-medium risk for roosting bats the subsequent emergence surveys did not record any bats emerging from the buildings. Bats were recorded on 27 June and 22 August 2012 but these were feeding bats moving along the Trans Pennine Trail corridor to the north of the development site and were recorded arriving at this location from the Trans Pennine trail to the east. These bats did forage briefly within the development site on 22 August 2012 but did not approach the buildings.

5.3.3.5. The buildings on the whole provide few access opportunities for roosting bats with the stonework pointing g being generally in good order. The corrugated roof structure of the workshop building was unsuitable for roosting bats being single skinned, whilst the slate roof of the adjacent Regency House was in good order and has been recently refurbished.

5.3.3.6. It is therefore concluded that the buildings do not currently contain roosting bats.

5.3.3.7. The desktop study did not identify any records for reptiles within 1.5km of the study area. The site is generally unsuitable for reptiles with extensive areas of bare ground that are used for car parking and therefore subject to heavy traffic usage.

5.3.3.8. The only habitat areas of potential value to reptiles are the margins of the site outside of the development footprint alongside the Trans Pennine Trail and the small area of scrub on top of the coal drops. However in both cases the habitat is considered to be sub-optimal due to the management of the grassland alongside the Trans Pennine Trail, which is regularly mown and the shaded nature of the scrub and grassland at the

coal drops. The site is therefore assessed to be of no significant value for reptiles.

5.4. Evaluation Summary

5.4.1. The table below summarises the value of the ecological resource of the proposed development site.

Table 4—Evaluation Summary Table

Resource	Importance	Reasons
Habitats		
Neutral grassland/ruderal vegetation mosaics	Parish/neighbourhood	Coarse, species poor, grass dominated grassland with ruderal vegetation supporting a limited range of common and widespread species.
Scrub	Parish/neighbourhood	Young developing scrub supporting a limited range of common and widespread species and of limited value to breeding birds.
Woodland	Parish/neighbourhood	
Amenity grassland/gardens	Negligible	
Bare Ground	Negligible	
Species		
Bats	Negligible	No evidence of roosting bats was recorded during the field surveys and there was only very limited use of the site by feeding bats
Reptiles	Negligible	The majority of the site is assessed to be unsuitable for reptiles and the small areas of grassland and scrub were assessed to be sub-optimal habitat
Birds	Negligible	The survey recorded very low levels of bird activity, with only a few common species recorded.

6. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS

6.1. Impact Assessment Methodology

6.1.1. Effect Magnitude and Significance

6.1.1.1. Effects may be negative or positive. The characteristics of an effect involve several factors such as magnitude (e.g. number of individuals killed, total or partial loss of habitat structure and function), extent (the area over which it occurs), duration (the time over which the effect occurs), reversibility (whether the effect is temporary or permanent) and its timing/frequency. A level of confidence (e.g. certain/probable/unlikely) should be attached to both the occurrence of a predicted impact and the assessment of its ecological effect in accordance with the following:

Table 5—Impact Predication Confidence Levels

Probability of Impact occurring	Confidence Level
Certain/near-Certain	Probability estimated at 95% chance or higher.
Probable	Probability estimated above 50% but below 95%.
Unlikely	Probability estimated above 5% but less than 50%.
Extremely Unlikely	Probability estimated at less than 5%.

6.1.1.2. Consideration of the above characteristics leads to a determination of the significance of the effect and the probability of it occurring. The IEEM (2006) guidance defines a significant impact as an effect "(negative or positive) on the integrity of a defined site or ecosystem and/or the conservation status of habitats or species within a defined geographical area". The importance level of the ecological feature concerned then defines the geographical level at which the effect is significant, although it may also be the case that the effect could be considered significant at a lower geographical level than that at which the feature is important, depending on the magnitude of the effects.

6.1.1.3. The concept of integrity is applied principally to site/ecosystems and is defined as follows. "The integrity of a site is the coherence of its ecological structure and function across its whole area, that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of species for which it was classified" (Scottish Executive 2000). A site that achieves this coherence is said to be in favourable condition. Effects on the integrity of a site/ecosystem will move it towards (positive) or away from (negative) favourable condition by, for instance, changing or removing ecosystem processes; changing the nature, extent, structure and function of component habitats; or by changing the average

population size or viability of component species. Sites with international designations (SACs, SPAs) frequently have conservation objectives (or similar) against which likely changes (and hence potential effects on the site's integrity) should be assessed. SSSIs may also have similar criteria.

6.1.1.4. Guidance on considering a development proposal that might affect a European site is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and *ODPM Circular 06/2005* (Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation—Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System)

6.1.1.5. Where a proposal is not directly connected with or necessary to site management for nature conservation and the proposal is unlikely to have a significant effect on the internationally important interest features of the site, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, planning permission may be granted without the need for an appropriate assessment. The decision on whether an appropriate assessment is necessary should be made on a precautionary basis and an appropriate assessment is required where there is a probability or a risk that the plan or project will have significant effects on a site.

6.1.1.6. The IEEM (2006) guidance also recommends that the concept of conservation status is used to determine whether effects are likely to be ecologically significant, using the following definitions:

- "for habitats, conservation status is determined by the sum of the influences acting on the habitat and its typical species, that may affect its long-term distribution, structure and functions as well as the long-term survival of its typical species within a given geographical area;
- "for species, conservation status is determined by the sum of the influences acting on the species concerned that may affect the long-term distribution and abundance of its populations within a given geographical area".

6.1.1.7. Potential effects on conservation status should be considered in the same way as potential effects on integrity.

6.1.1.8. The assessment process used determines the unmitigated impacts and their significance, considers appropriate mitigation, enhancement and compensation and finally makes an assessment of the significance of the residual impacts.

6.2. Selection of Features to be Assessed

6.2.1. The habitats directly affected by the proposed development include the areas of developing grassland and tall ruderal vegetation and the scrub above the coal drops area. The development will result in the loss of all of these habitats along with the demolition of the workshop building. The habitats being lost are assessed to be of value at the parish/neighbourhood level.

6.2.2. After consideration of the baseline descriptions and the potential zone of influence of the proposed development the ecological features selected for assessment are:

- Loss of grassland and scrub habitat

6.3. Predicted Ecological Effects of the Development Proposals

6.3.1. The development will result in the loss of areas of neutral grassland with tall ruderal vegetation that has established around the margins of the car park areas and also of the birch and willow scrub that is establishing on the ground above the coal drops.

6.3.2. The existing workshop building will be demolished to accommodate the proposed development and the Regency House will be refurbished and converted into consulting rooms.

6.3.3. The coal drops will be restored and re-developed into shops and offices with an area of green roof above to replace the scrub whose roots are damaging the stonework of the coal drops

6.3.4. Without mitigation, the potential ecological effects of the development proposals shown on YourSpace Architecture drawing RBC0225C dated 13 September 2012 can be summarised as follows:

- Loss of neutral grassland with tall ruderal vegetation
- Loss of birch and willow scrub above the coal drops area

6.4. Significance of the Effects

6.4.1. Loss of neutral grassland with tall ruderal vegetation

Unmitigated Impacts and significance

6.4.1.1. The development as proposed will result in the loss of all areas of neutral grassland and scrub within the development footprint.

6.4.1.2. It is **certain** that the unmitigated effects of the development would have a **negative effect** upon the habitats of Parish/neighbourhood value that would be lost in the course of implementing the development.

Mitigation, Enhancement and Compensation

6.4.1.3. The development will result in the loss of all semi-natural habitats within the development footprint, however areas of grassland and woodland outside of the development footprint would be retained.

6.4.1.4. In light of this the following mitigation is proposed:

- To mark up areas of habitat and trees to be retained prior to works commencing on site.
- To install fences around features to be protected to prevent accidental damage to these areas during the construction phase.
- To ensure that the need for the habitat protection forms part of any on site briefing for construction staff to re-enforce the need to avoid damage to these areas.
- To use native trees, shrubs and wildflower seed mixes of local or UK provenance in the final landscape scheme to create new areas of sheltered woodland edge along the northern boundary of the development site adjacent to the Trans Pennine Trail

Residual Significance of Impacts

6.4.1.5. After implementation of the proposed mitigation it is **certain** that the development would have a **negative effect** upon the habitats of Parish/neighbourhood value that would be lost in the course of implementing the development.

6.4.2. Loss of birch and willow scrub above the coal drops area

Unmitigated Impacts and significance

6.4.2.1. The development as proposed will result in the loss of all areas of birch and willow scrub above the coal drops area within the development footprint.

6.4.2.2. It is **certain** that the unmitigated effects of the development would have a **negative effect** upon the habitats of Parish/neighbourhood value that would be lost in the course of implementing the development.

Mitigation, Enhancement and Compensation

6.4.2.3. The development will result in the loss of all semi-natural habitats within the development footprint, however areas of grassland and woodland outside of the development footprint would be retained.

6.4.2.4. In light of this the following mitigation is proposed:

- To mark up areas of habitat and trees to be retained prior to works commencing on site.
- To install fences around features to be protected to prevent accidental damage to these areas during the construction phase.
- To ensure that the need for the habitat protection forms part of any on site briefing for construction staff to re-enforce the need to avoid damage to these areas.
- To use native trees, shrubs and wildflower seed mixes of local or UK provenance in the final landscape scheme to create new areas of sheltered woodland edge along the northern boundary of the development site adjacent to the Trans Pennine Trail

Residual Significance of Impacts

6.4.2.5. After implementation of the proposed mitigation it is **certain** that the development would have a **negative effect** upon the habitats of Parish/neighbourhood value that would be lost in the course of implementing the development.

Table 6—Summary Impact Table

Proposed Activity	Characterisation of Unmitigated impact on Feature	Significance without mitigation and confidence level	Mitigation and Enhancement	Residual Significance and Confidence Level
Loss of Habitat	The development as proposed will result in the loss of areas of species poor neutral grassland and Birch/willow scrub.	It is **certain** that the unmitigated effects of the development would have a **negative effect** upon the habitats of Parish/neighbourhood value that would be lost in the course of implementing the development.	The compact nature of the development makes the provision of mitigation and compensation difficult and there will still remain a net loss of habitat after completion of the development.	After implementation of the proposed mitigation it is **certain** that the development would have a **negative effect** upon the habitats of Parish/neighbourhood value that would be lost in the course of implementing the development.

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Barnsley UDP

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8. APPENDICES

8.1. Appendix 1—List of Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Grassland/Ruderal Vegetation	Scrub	Woodland
Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*		R	R
Yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*	O	O	
Horse Chestnut	*Aesculus hippocastanum*			O
Common Bent	*Agrostis capillaris*	F	F	O
Creeping Bent	*Agrostis stolonifera*	O	R	
Garlic Mustard	*Alliaria petiolata*	R	O	O-LF
Cow Parsley	*Anthriscus sylvestris*	O	O	O
False Oat-grass	*Arrhenatherum elatius*	F-LA	F	O
Mugwort	*Artemisia vulgaris*	O	O	O
Daisy	*Bellis perennis*	O	O	
Silver Birch	*Betula pendula*	O (Saplings)	F	O
Common Knapweed	*Centaurea nigra*	O	R	
Rosebay Willowherb	*Chamerion angustifolium*	R-LF	LF	
Creeping Thistle	*Cirsium arvense*	O-LF	O	
Spear Thistle	*Cirsium vulgare*	O	R	
Hemlock	*Conium maculatum*	R		
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*	R (Saplings)	F	O
Cock's-foot	*Dactylis glomerata*	F	F	O
Common Couch	*Elytrigia repens*	F	F	O
Field Horsetail	*Equisetum arvensis*	R	R	
Red Fescue	*Festuca rubra*	F-LA	F	R
Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*	R (saplings)	O	O
Cleavers	*Galium aparine*	O	O	O
Herb Robert	*Geranium robertianum*		R	R-O
Hogweed	*Heracleum sphondylium*	O	O	R
Yorkshire fog	*Holcus lanatus*	F	F	O-LF
Perforate St John's-wort	*Hypericum perforatum*	R-LF	R	
Common cat's-ear	*Hypochaeris radicata*	O	O	R
Meadow Vetchling	*Lathyrus pratensis*	R	R	
Perennial Rye-grass	*Lolium perenne*	F-A	F	O
Pineappleweed	*Matricaria discoidea*	R	R	
Black Medick	*Medicago lupulina*	O	O	
Ribwort Plantain	*Plantago lanceolata*	F	F	R
Smooth Meadow-grass	*Poa pratensis*	O	O	R
Creeping Cinquefoil	*Potentilla reptans*	O-LF	O-LF	O
Pedunculate Oak	*Quercus robur*			O
Meadow Buttercup	*Ranunculus acris*	R	R	
Creeping Buttercup	*Ranunculus repens*	O-LF	O	O
Dog Rose	*Rosa canina agg.*	R	O	R
Bramble	*Rubus fruticosus agg.*	O	O-LF	O
Curled Dock	*Rumex crispus*	R	R	
Broad-leaved Dock	*Rumex obtusifolius*	O	O	
Goat Willow	*Salix caprea*	R (Saplings)	O-F	O
Elder	*Sambucus nigra*		R	R
Ragwort	*Senecio jacobaea*	O	O	
Bladder Campion	*Silene vulgaris*	R		

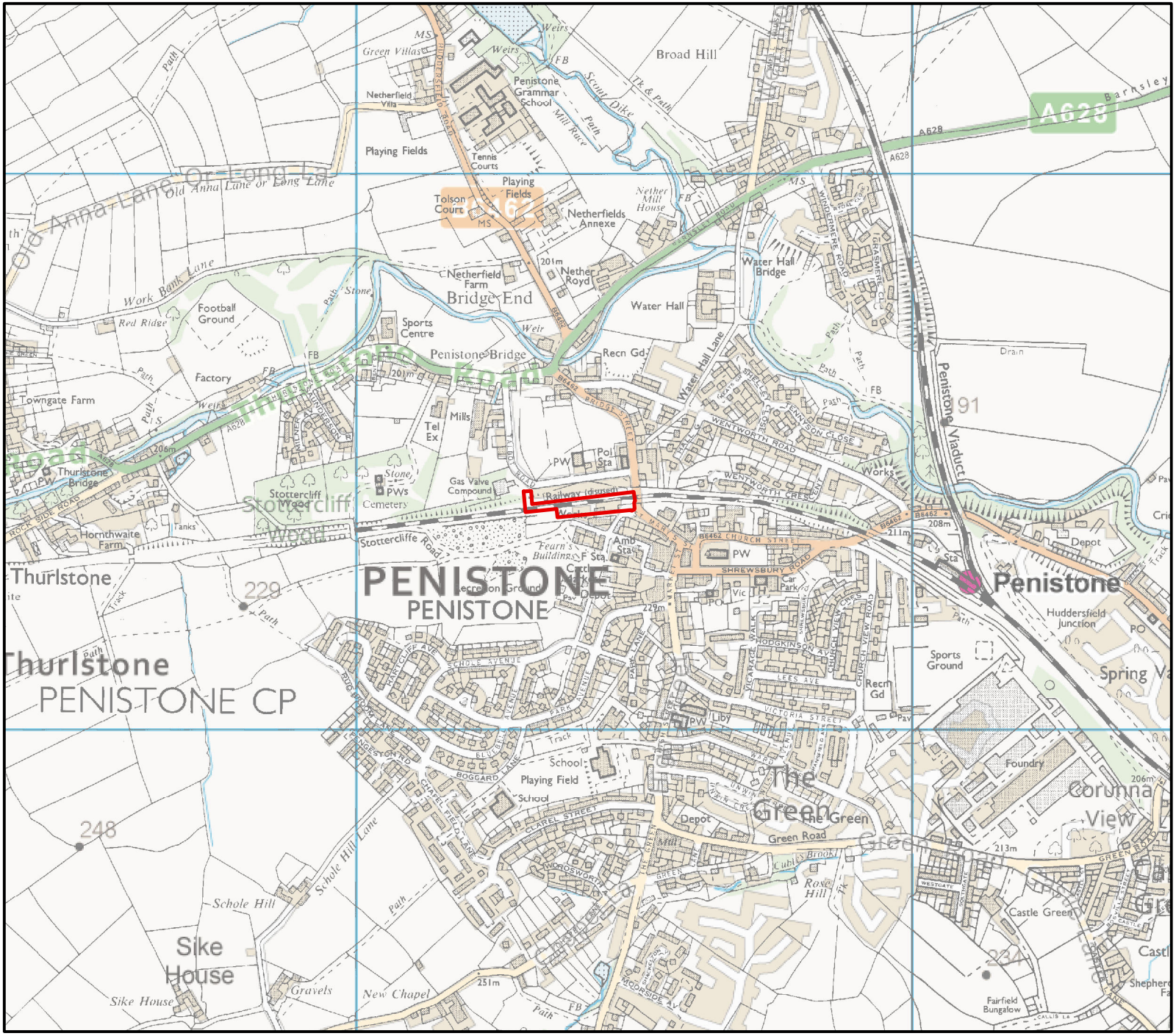
Common Name	Scientific Name	Grassland/Ruderal Vegetation	Scrub	Woodland
Hedge mustard	*Sisymbrium officinale*	R	R	
Prickly Sow-thistle	*Sonchus asper*	O	O	R
Dandelion	*Taraxacum officinale*	F	O	
Red Clover	*Trifolium pratense*	A	O	R
White Clover	*Trifolium repens*	A	F	O
Colt's-foot	*Tussilago farfara*	O	R	
Common Nettle	*Urtica dioica*	O-LF	O-LF	O-LF
Tufted Vetch	*Vicia cracca*	LF	LF	
Hairy Tare	*Vicia hirsuta*	O	R	
Bush Vetch	*Vicia sepium*	R	R	
Totals				

8.2. Appendix 2—Figures

Figure 1—Location Plan

Figure 2—Nature Conservation Designations

Figure 3—Phase I Habitats



St Mary's Street Residential Development

KEY

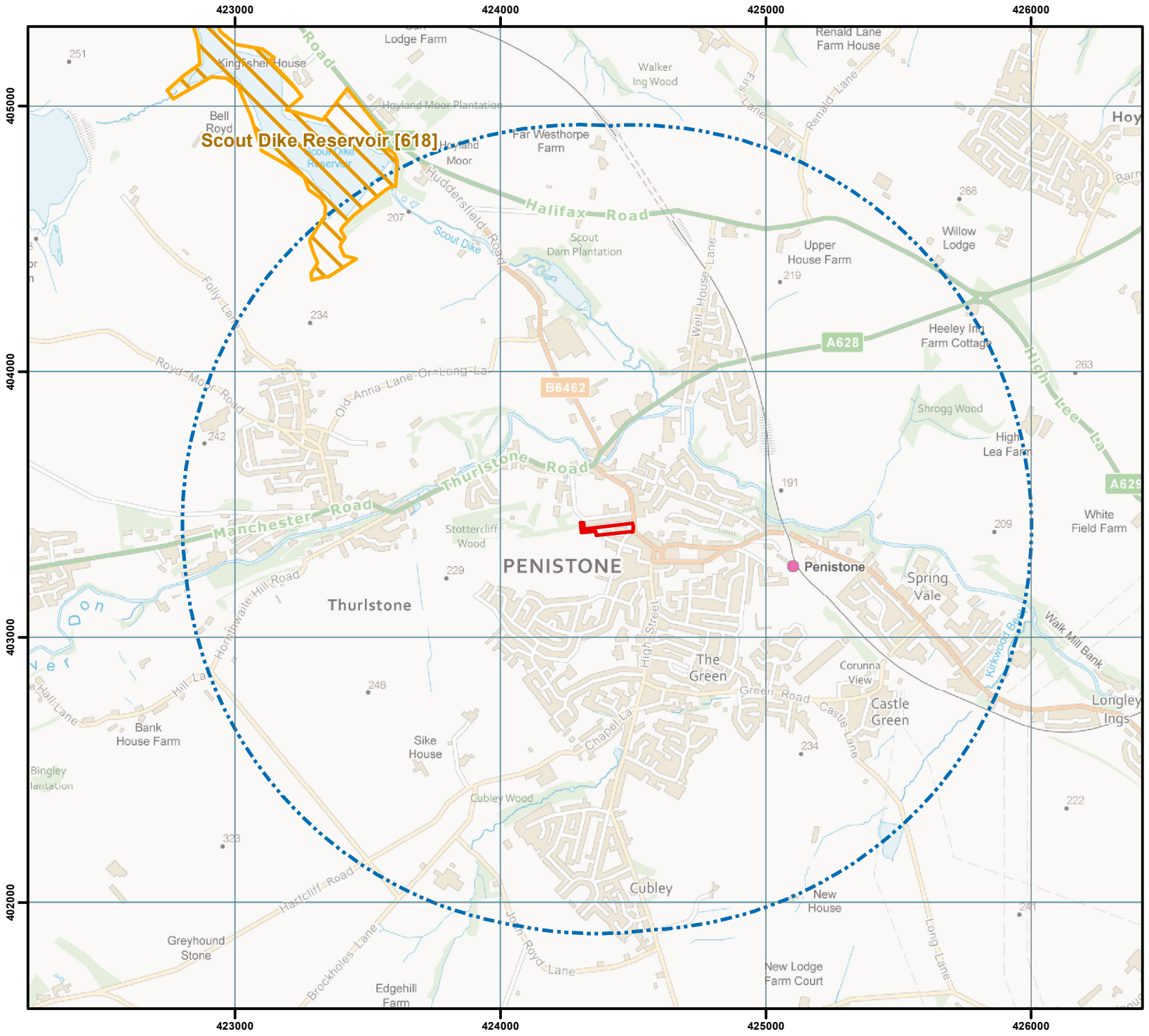
Site Boundary

Scale 1:10,000

N

RDF ecology
Consultant Ecologists
3 Bramble Close
Wickersley
Rotherham
South Yorkshire
S66 1FH
Tel 01709 531 868
e-mail enquiries@rdfecology.co.uk

Fig: 1 Location Plan



St Mary's Street Residential Development

KEY

- Site Boundary
- 1.5km Buffer Zone
- Local Widlife Sites

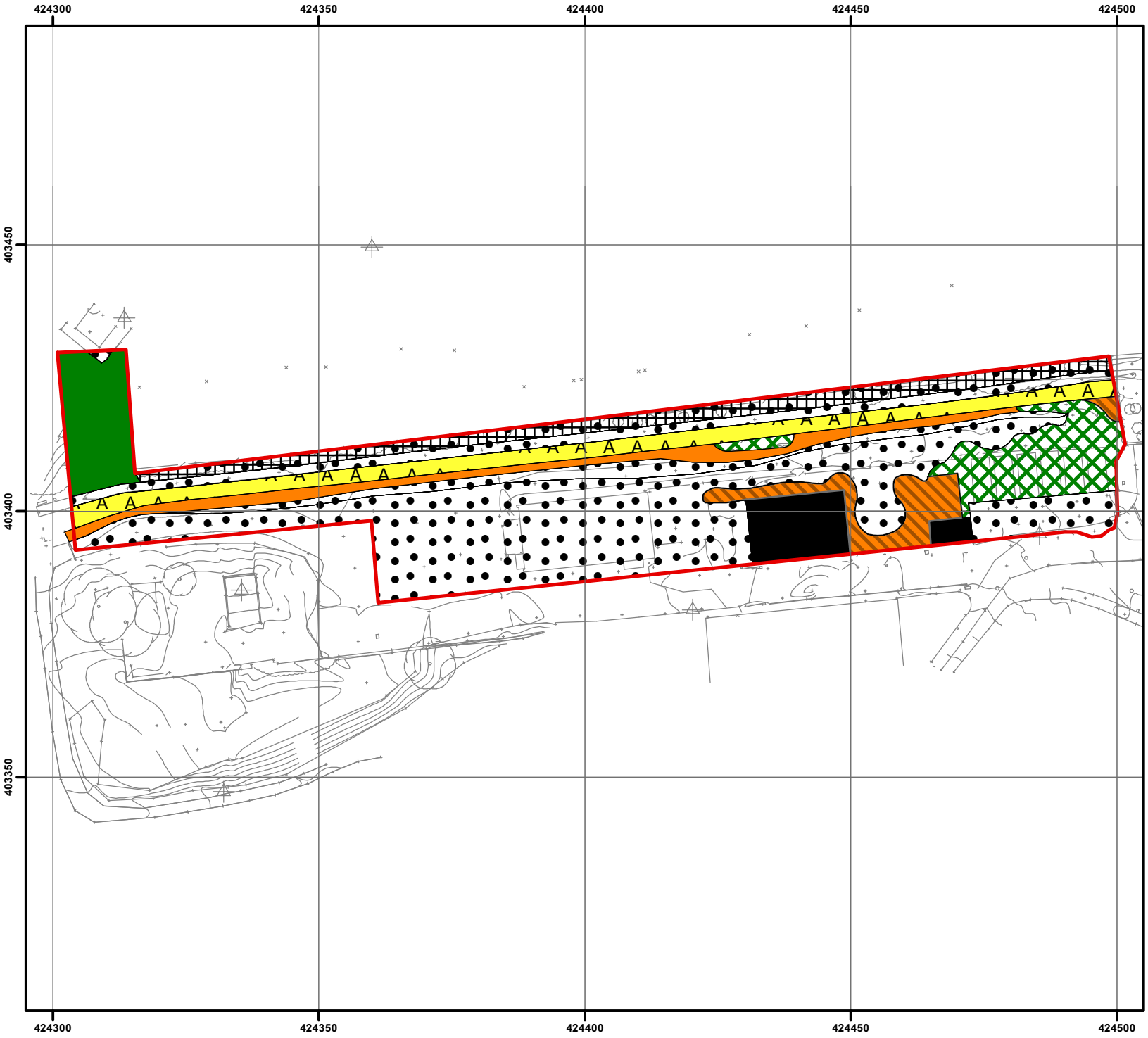
Scale 1:20,000

N

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Fig: 2 Designations



St Mary's Street Residential Development

KEY

Site Boundary

Woodland and Scrub

Broadleaved woodland semi-natural

Scrub dense/continuous

Grassland and Marsh

Neutral grassland unimproved

Unimproved neutral grassland tall ruderal mosaic

Miscellaneous

Cultivated/disturbed land amenity grassland

Garden

Bare ground

Buildings

Scale 1:1,000

N

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Fig: 3 Habitats

8.3. Appendix 3—Valuation Criteria

8.3.1. Guidelines for ecological evaluation and the assessment of impacts have been published by Institute of Environmental Assessment (1995) and the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM 2006 and 2010).

8.3.2. The value that is attached to an ecological resource influences:

- whether, as part of screening, potentially affected features or resources are considered sufficiently valuable that there could be a significant effect that would trigger an EIA;
- whether, as part of scoping, ecological features or resources are considered for inclusion in the EcIA—this is influenced by their value in relation to a 'threshold' level of value that should be defined during scoping;
- deciding what mitigation is appropriate and
- considering legal and policy implications.

8.3.1. Legislative Framework

8.3.1.1. Species, communities or habitats receiving legal protection under UK or EC law have high importance on national and international scales.

8.3.1.2. Internationally important sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites. In the UK candidate SACs, potential SPAs and proposed Ramsar sites should be given the same consideration as designated sites in accordance with country specific policies and supporting guidance.

8.3.1.3. Species, communities or habitats requiring protection under EC law are listed on schedules I and II (whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation), IV (species in need of strict protection) and V (species whose exploitation may be subject to management measures) of the EC Directive on the Conservation of Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC). The enabling legislation for the UK is the Conservation (Natural Habitat, &c) Regulations 2010. Species may also be scheduled under Appendix 1 of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Heritage 1979 (Bern Convention).

8.3.1.4. Other sites of international importance designated under international obligations include Biosphere Reserves (UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme), Ramsar Sites (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Wildfowl Habitat 1971) and Special Protection Areas (EC Wild Birds Directive 79/409).

8.3.1.5. Species with special protection under UK law are listed on the schedules of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and amendments. The act also gives rise to statutory site designations i.e. National Nature Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Areas of Special Protection for Birds, and orders e.g. Limestone Pavement Orders.

8.3.2. UK Site Designations

8.3.2.1. Sites of national importance include the statutorily designated Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSI) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs).

8.3.2.2. Lower levels of importance attach to locally designated sites such as those non-statutory site designations applied by Local Authorities or Wildlife Trusts e.g. Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC's or equivalent) or Local Nature Reserves designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. Such sites may be considered to be of High Local Importance i.e. important at the county or metropolitan level (IEEM 2006).

8.3.3. Rarity of Species and Habitats

8.3.3.1. The British Red Data Book for vascular plants (Perring and Farrell 1983) lists 317 species or subspecies as extinct, endangered, vulnerable and rare. Nationally rare species are defined as occurring in 1–15 10km squares of the national grid in Britain, nationally scarce species occurring in 16–100 10km squares. The presence of a breeding population of any nationally rare species is of national importance whereas a breeding population of a nationally scarce species is of regional importance. Assemblages of 2 or more species may increase the importance of a site further.

8.3.3.2. Regional rarities are defined as occurring in 15 or fewer localities or 1km squares in a former Nature Conservancy Council region (NCC 1989).

8.3.3.3. Biodiversity: The UK Steering Group Report contains a "Long List" of key species in the UK that fall into 1 or more of the following categories: threatened endemics or globally threatened; where the UK holds greater than 25% of the world population; where numbers or range have declined by more than 25% in the last 25 years; nationally rare species; and statutorily protected species. Presence of viable populations of such species may be of high importance.

8.3.3.4. County floras and biodiversity action plans, or district action plans may identify species that are rare at the county or district level. Viable populations will therefore have conservation importance in these contexts.

8.3.3.5. Further information on species rarity may be found in Scarce Plants in Britain (Stewart et al 1994) and the Atlas of the British Flora (Perring and Walters 1962) and subsequent revisions.

8.3.3.6. Biodiversity: The UK Steering Group Report has identified a number of key habitats under the following criteria: those for which the UK has international obligations; rare habitats or those with high rates of decline; functionally critical habitats (marine areas); and habitats that are important for key species. Sites containing good examples of viable areas of any key habitat may be considered nationally important.

8.3.3.7. Importance may be attached to plant community types defined in the National Vegetation Classification (Rodwell 1991 etc) that are also described as rare, declining or with restricted distributions or are identified as being of particular botanical importance (NCC 1989).

8.3.4. Criteria for Overall Site Evaluation

8.3.4.1. The accepted criteria for site evaluation are set out by Ratcliffe (1977) in a Nature Conservation Review and are also explained in Guidelines for the Selection of Biological SSSI's (NCC 1989). The principal criteria are briefly outlined below:

8.3.4.2. **Naturalness.** Truly natural habitats are valued highly but are rare in Britain and most sites are modified and semi-natural at best. Physical habitat modifications vary greatly in their impact, some being beneficial whilst others are harmful. A greater degree of conformity of a particular community or site with semi-natural rather than highly modified vegetation types in the National Vegetation Classification and the absence of species indicating disturbance are likely to lead to attachment of higher importance. However, note that communities that appear to be intermediate between semi-natural NVC types are not necessarily of lesser quality.

Size. The area of a site or habitat judged to be viable varies greatly between different habitat types and with factors such as the condition of the habitat, the shape of the habitat area and surrounding land use. In addition, the territorial requirements of particular species within the site/habitat and habitat management factors may need consideration.

In general, larger sites or areas of habitat tend to be valued more highly because of the greater population sizes and hence more robust populations of the species within them; the potential for increased site or habitat diversity and hence greater species-richness over a larger area; and a reduced importance of edge effects (pollution drift, habitat

degradation/change for other reasons at the site edge) if the site is block rather than ribbon shaped. Small sites become increasingly important in areas of little semi-natural habitat.

Rarity. Criteria for rarity of species and habitats are outlined above. The scarcer the habitat or species then the higher the level of importance attached.

Diversity. Diversity tends to be valued positively as it increases. At the phytosociological level, some habitats are more species-rich than others and so have a higher value, provided that the richness does not involve non-native species. Some plant communities are intrinsically more species-rich than others so comparisons should only be made between the same community type.

The standard of floristic diversity is guided by the floristic tables within the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) (Rodwell 1991 etc). A community having more than 75% of the total plant species list for its type in the NVC would be rated very highly. Diversity of different communities within a vegetation formation (e.g. woodland) may also be rated highly as may structural diversity (e.g. rides, glades and differing age structures or canopy layering in woodland). Habitat diversity across a site may also increase its importance.

Fragility. Fragility is a measure of the intrinsic sensitivity of nearly all natural and semi-natural habitats and species to human impact. It is the fragility of such habitats and species which causes them to be more highly valued than any of the artificial substitutes which replace them through human activity; and the greater their fragility the greater their value. Fragility is therefore clearly related irreplaceability or non-recreatability. Re-creation of habitats that have taken centuries to develop, sometimes with centuries of traditional management, is impossible to the full extent of their former complexity.

Typicalness. Typicalness is an indication of how characteristic the features of a site are compared to its particular ecosystem. It is intended as a guard against designation of those sites with unusual features as being always the most important.

Position in an Ecological/Geographical Unit. This is a landscape ecological criteria designed to identify sites or habitats which may be important to maintaining the viability of a larger group thereof; or which is essential in maintaining the population of a species with a large territory spanning several sites; or is one of a number of sites important to a

metapopulation of a species in fragmented landscapes; or may be important in a wildlife corridor or network of habitat patches.

8.3.5. Amenity Value

8.3.5.1. The amenity value of a site in ecological terms is generally seen as its value for the study or quiet enjoyment of wildlife. Sites with high intrinsic appeal and good access are therefore regarded as important in this context. Also important are issues such as site safety, proximity to schools and population centres and site management difficulties. Less emphasis is placed on the criteria outlined in section 9.1.4 in such situations.

8.3.6. Ecological Importance Summary Table

8.3.6.1. The following table has slightly modified from Regini (2000). Its definitions are adopted in this report. Where species, habitats or sites occur in more than one category, the highest level of importance is applicable. Sites that meet the criteria for a particular designation are afforded the level of importance corresponding to that designation whether or not they are actually designated.

Table 7—Ecological Importance Summary Table

Level of Value	Examples
International	An internationally designated site or candidate site (SPA, pSPA, SAC, cSAC, pSAC , Ramsar site, Biogenetic Reserve). A viable area of a habitat type listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive, or smaller areas of such habitat which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole. Any regularly occurring population of an internationally important species, which is threatened or rare in the UK. i.e. it is a UK Red Data Book species or listed as occurring in 15 or fewer 10km squares in the UK (categories 1 and 2 in the UK BAP) or of uncertain conservation status or of global conservation concern in the UK BAP. A regularly occurring, nationally significant population of any internationally important species. Also a regularly occurring and nationally significant number of an internationally important species during a critical phase of its life cycle.
National	A nationally designated site (SSSI, ASSI, NNR, Marine Nature Reserve) or a discrete area, which meets the published selection criteria for national designation (e.g. SSSI selection guidelines). A viable area of a priority habitat identified in the UK BAP, or of smaller areas of such habitat which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole. Any regularly occurring population of a nationally important species which is threatened or rare in the region or county (see local BAP). A regularly occurring, regionally or county significant population of any nationally important species. Also a regularly occurring and regionally or county significant number of a nationally important species during a critical phase of its life cycle.

Level of Value	Examples
Regional	Viable areas of key habitat identified in the Regional BAP or smaller areas of such habitat which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole; Viable areas of key habitat identified as being of Regional value in the appropriate Natural Area profile; Any regularly occurring, locally significant population of a species listed as being nationally scarce which occurs in 16-100 10km squares in the UK or in a Regional BAP or relevant Natural Area on account of its regional rarity or localisation; A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a regionally important species during a critical phase of its life cycle; Sites which exceed the County-level designations but fall short of SSSI selection guidelines, where these occur.
County / Metropolitan	Semi-natural ancient woodland greater than 0.25 ha; County/Metropolitan sites and other sites which meet the published ecological selection criteria for designation, including Local Nature Reserves selected on County / metropolitan; A viable area of habitat identified in County BAP; Any regularly occurring, locally significant population of a species which is listed in a County/Metropolitan "red data book" or BAP on account of its regional rarity or localisation; A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a County/Metropolitan important species during a critical phase of its life cycle.
District / Borough	Semi-natural ancient woodland smaller than 0.25 ha; Areas of habitat identified in a sub-County (District/Borough) BAP or in the relevant Natural Area profile; Local Nature Reserves selected on District/ Borough criteria Sites/features that are scarce within the District/Borough or which appreciably enrich the District/Borough habitat resource; A diverse and/ or ecologically valuable hedgerow network; A population of a species that is listed in a District/Borough BAP because of its rarity in the locality or in the relevant Natural Area profile because of its regional rarity or localisation; A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a District / Borough important species during a critical phase of its life cycle.
Parish / Neighbourhood	Areas of habitat considered to appreciably enrich the habitat resource within the context of the Parish or neighbourhood, e.g. species-rich hedgerows. Local Nature Reserves selected on Parish criteria.
Negligible	Low grade, widespread and common habitats.

8.4. Appendix 4—Confidential Protected Species Annex

Figure 4—Protected Species Locations

NB: This figure contains sensitive data regarding the locations of protected species records and is only to be supplied to appropriate and trusted organizations and individuals

Bat Emergence Survey Results

Survey Results—27 June 2012

Project	Residential Development	Site	St Mary's Street, Penistone, South Yorkshire
Start Time	20.45	End Time	23.15
Start Temp	19⁰C	End Temp	17⁰C
Date	27/06/2012	Surveyor	R Frith, D Frith
Weather	Mild, dry evening with light south easterly wind.	Notes Some flying insects noted, particularly around the scrub adjacent to the coal drops. Bats feeding briefly over site before leaving to the west along the Trans Pennine Trail.	

No:	Time	Species	Notes	Bat Passes	Feeding Buzzes
1	22.05	Pip	Two short passes along Trans Pennine Trail. Bat appeared from east of site	2	No
2	22.18	Pip	Single pass along Trans Pennine Trail	1	No
3	22.25	Pip	Short single unseen pass over development site	1	No
4	22.37	45kHz pip	Short feeding pass over scrub area adjacent to the coal drops	1	Yes

Survey Results—30 July 2012

Project	Residential Development	Site	St Mary's Street, Penistone, South Yorkshire
Start Time	20.15	End Time	23.00
Start Temp	11⁰C	End Temp	10⁰C
Date	30/07/2012	Surveyor	R Frith, D Frith
Weather	Cool dry evening with light westerly breeze	Notes: Some flying insects noted, particularly around the scrub adjacent to the coal drops.	

No:	Time	Species	Notes	Bat Passes	Feeding Buzzes
			No bats recorded		

Survey Results—22 August 2012

Project	Residential Development	Site	St Mary's Street, Penistone, South Yorkshire
Start Time	19.30	End Time	22.00
Start Temp	13⁰C	End Temp	12⁰C
Date	22/08/2012	Surveyor	R Frith, D Frith
Weather	Mild dry evening with light south westerly breeze	Notes: Some flying insects noted, particularly around the scrub adjacent to the coal drops. Bats feeding briefly over site before leaving to the east	

No:	Time	Species	Notes	Bat Passes	Feeding Buzzes
1	20.25	45kHz pip	Two short feeding passes along Trans Pennine Trail. Bat appeared from east of site	2	Yes
2	21.07	45kHz pip	Single feeding pass along Trans Pennine Trail with bat leaving to the east	1	Yes