Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.

ROYD FIELD FARM, CUBLEY.

MAP REF: SE 24797 02029.

ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT.

Ref No: **230836/EcIA/Rev 1.**

Date: **10th January 2025.**

Unit 34, The Business Village, Cudworth, S72 8RP.
info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk www.whitcher-wildlife.co.uk
Company No. 4401613.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. There are plans to submit a planning application to convert the existing buildings at Royd Field Farm into two new residences.

1.2. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) in support of that planning application was carried out by Whitcher Wildlife Ltd on 10th December 2024.

1.3. That report has now been converted into an Ecological Impact Assessment complete with full Biodiversity Net Gain calculations, calculated using the Statutory BNG Metric downloaded from the Government website and provided with this report.

1.4. Appendices I and II of this report provide additional information on specific species and are designed to assist the reader in understanding the contents of this report.

****

2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.

2.1. Prior to visiting the site, the survey area was cross referenced to maps and aerial photographs to give a general idea of the habitats and potential issues within the area and to identify potential access and walking routes.

2.2. The survey area was walked where access was agreed and public rights of way were used where no access was agreed. All habitats within and immediately around the survey area were documented and the dominant species within that habitat listed in line with the UK Habitat Classification methodology to identify the broad habitat types throughout the survey area.

2.3. The survey area and immediate surrounding area was thoroughly searched for evidence of badger (*Meles meles*) activity by looking for the following signs in line with Harris S, Cresswell P and Jefferies D (1989). *Surveying Badgers*. Mammal Society: -

* Badger setts.
* Badger latrines or dung pits.
* Badger snuffle holes and evidence of foraging.
* Badger paths.
* Badger prints in areas of soft mud.
* Badger hairs caught on fencing.

2.4. The survey area was searched for watercourses and where found all watercourses within the survey area and for approximately 50m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) activity by looking for the following signs, in line with Rob Strachan, Tom Moorhouse and Merryl Gelling (2011). *Water Vole Handbook: Third Edition*: -

* Water vole burrows.
* Water vole faeces and latrines.
* Water vole feeding stations.
* Water vole runs.
* Water vole prints in areas of soft mud.
* Water vole lawns.
* Predator field signs.

2.5. The survey area was searched for watercourses and where found all watercourses within the survey area and for approximately 50m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of otter (*Lutra lutra*) activity by looking for the following signs

in line with the P Chanin (2003). *Monitoring the Otter* and *Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers: Monitoring Series No10 Guidelines: -*

* Otter prints in soft mud.
* Otter spraints.
* Otter Holts.

2.6. The survey area was searched for watercourses and waterbodies. Where found, and where safe to enter the water, all were thoroughly searched for the presence of crayfish, for approximately 50m in each direction of the site, by searching under rocks and logs. Where stated, crayfish traps were also deployed into the watercourse. All survey work was carried out in accordance with the *Conserving Natural 2000 Rivers Monitoring Series No 1, Protocol for Monitoring the White Clawed Crayfish*.

2.7. The survey area was searched for mature trees and derelict buildings and where found these were checked for potential bat roosting sites in line with Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition)* by looking for the following signs: -

* Holes, cracks or crevices.
* Bat Droppings.

2.8. The land immediately adjacent to the survey area was assessed for bat roosting potential and bat foraging potential. Connective routes and flight lines were also assessed whilst on site and using maps of the area.

2.9. The area within 500m of the survey site was cross referenced to maps to highlight all ponds close to the site. Where possible, all ponds identified were accessed using agreed access or public rights of way to assess the potential for great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) to be present.

2.10. The survey area was assessed for the potential for reptiles and suitable reptile habitats. Where applicable the area was also searched for the presence of reptiles.

2.11. Where appropriate, the habitat within and surrounding the survey area was searched for species such as hazel, oak, honeysuckle, bramble and other species which may provide potential habitat for hazel dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*). Field signs such as feeding remains and nests were also searched for where possible, in line with P Bright, P Morris and T Mitchell-Jones *the Dormouse Conservation Handbook 2nd Edition*.

2.12. Where appropriate, the area within and surrounding the survey area was assessed for its potential to house habitat for red squirrels. Field signs of red squirrels were searched for at least every 50m, looking for any dreys, feeding signs or sightings of red squirrels.

2.13. All surveys were carried out in line with the Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management (CIEEM) survey standards and advice.

2.14. This document is prepared in line with The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This sets out the government policy on biodiversity and nature conservation and places a duty on Planning Authorities to give material consideration to the effect of a development on legally protected species when considering planning applications. The NPPF and the Planning Practice Guidance on "Natural Environment" also promote sustainable development by ensuring that developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity and that it is conserved and enhanced within the development.

2.15. This report is prepared in line with the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act that came into force on 1st Oct 2006. Section 41 (S41) of the Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.

2.16. This survey was carried out by Derek Whitcher who has over twenty years' experience of surveying for wildlife and has run his own wildlife consultancy since 1998. He has extensive experience of a wide variety of survey techniques for a variety of species of protected wildlife supplemented by attendance on a wide range of training courses through CIEEM, FSC and BCT. As a member of CIEEM he is committed to continuous professional development, a continual process of learning and career development, a condition of CIEEM membership. He holds current Natural England survey licences for barn owl, bat, great crested newt and white clawed crayfish.

****

3. ECOLOGICAL BASELINE.

3.1. Data Search Results.

3.1.1. A desktop data search request for existing records of protected species and designated sites within 2km of the surveyed area was submitted to Barnsley Biological Records Centre.

3.1.2. There are no international, national or locally designated sites within 2km of the survey area.

3.1.3. The bulk of the species records are for birds observed in the surrounding area. There is one historic record of a common frog and no other amphibian records.

3.1.4. There are no records of reptiles in the search area.

3.1.5. There are a small number of records of bats within the search area, predominantly pipistrelles and predominantly field records. There is one historic Pipistrelle roost record from 2001 on Gledhill Avenue, some 600m west of the survey area.

3.1.6. There are badger, brown hare and hedgehog records in the search area. The hedgehog records were mainly centred on a specific location 820m east of the survey area.

3.1.7. The data search results are available to the client on request but must not be placed in the public domain.

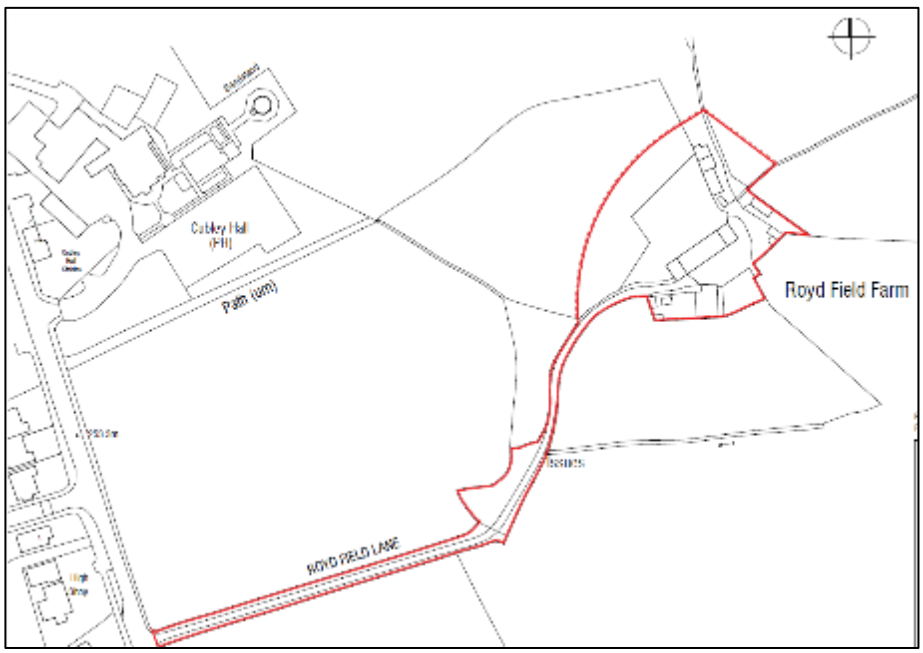
3.1.8. South Yorkshire Badger Group have records of badgers in the area surrounding the site but not within 200m of the site. Exact sett locations are available but are not to be placed in the public domain.

3.1.9. A data search request has been sent to South Yorkshire Bat Group. The response lists numerous records but many are historic and none are records of current bat roosts close to the survey area.

3.2. The Surveyed Area.

3.2.1. The aerial photograph below shows the location of the site marked with a red arrow and the surrounding area. The site is located in a rural area to the southeast of Penistone, surrounded by open grazing land.

3.2.2. The site is shown below outlined in red. It comprises Royd Field Lane and the farmhouse and barn at Royd Field Farm.



3.3. Description of Habitats.

3.3.1. Appendix II of this report contains an annotated map marked up with the varying habitats that are on the site. The primary habitats on and adjacent to the site are: -

- g3c – Other neutral grassland.
- u1 - Built up areas and gardens.
- u1b5 – Buildings.
- u1c – Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- u1e – Built Linear Feature.

3.3.2. Biodiversity calculations have been calculated using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, the current version at this time.

3.3.3. g3c – Other neutral Grassland.

There are various compartments of neutral grassland on the site. The plan below shows those areas and each has a separate reference number used below.

3.3.3.1. The Field – Areas 2, 3 and 9.

To the north of the barn there is a field that has been previously used for grazing sheep. The sward is approximately 150mm high and the species present include annual meadowgrass (*Poa annua*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) with white clover (*Trifolium repens*), greater plantain (*Plantago major*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), nettle (*Urtica dioica*), meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) dock (*Rumex* sp.) and foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*).


3.3.3.2. Drive between house and barn – Area 15.

In the yard between the farmhouse and the barn there are additional areas of grassland. These have been mown and have a shorter sward. Species present are similar to those above but with more short weeds including white clover (*Trifolium repens)* and daisy (*Bellis perennis*).


3.3.3.3. Drive sides – Area 6.

Along the side of the drive there are grass verges. These have been mown in some areas while others have been left to grow long. The species mix is again similar but with more tall weeds including nettle (*Urtica dioica*), fringed willowherb (*Epilobium ciliatum*), rosebay willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*) and cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*).


3.3.3.4. Offset area alongside the drive - Area 5.

Along the drive there is an area offset to the north. This area is also classed as neutral grassland although there are a lot of ruderals and bramble present. Species include nettle (*Urtica dioica*), fringed willowherb (*Epilobium ciliatum*), rosebay willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*), cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus).*


3.3.3.5. Old Pig Yard – Area 13.

At the eastern end of the site there is an area that contains a high level of ruderal vegetation, predominantly rosebay willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*), .


3.3.3.6. Around the Outbuildings – Area 4.

This area has been left to grow wild and contains a high level of ruderals including rosebay willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*), cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and nettles (*Urtica dioica*).


3.3.3.7. The condition assessments for these habitats are within the Statutory BNG Condition Assessment document that accompanies this report. The condition of all of the grassland areas is poor, passing three to six criteria but failing the essential criteria.

3.3.4. u1 – Built up areas and gardens.

3.3.4.1. There is a garden area around the farmhouse comprising lawned areas to front and rear and shrub borders to the front. Species present include annual meadowgrass (*Poa annua*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), stag horn sumach (*Rhus typhina*), weigela (*weigela hortensis*), rose (*Rosa* sp), honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), fuchsia (*Fuchsia* sp) and forsythia (*Forsythia* sp).

3.3.4.2. There is no condition assessment for this habitat.

3.3.4.3. Secondary code 200 – Tree.

There is one flowering cherry (*Prunus* sp(p))tree in the garden.

3.3.4.4. The condition assessment for this habitat is within the Statutory BNG Condition Assessment document that accompanies this report. The condition of the tree is good, passing five criteria.


3.3.5. u1b5 – Buildings.

3.3.5.1. There are a number of buildings on the site including the farmhouse, the barn, outbuildings, pig stye and timber sheds. These are classed as buildings and are dealt with in more detail later in this report.





3.3.5.2. There is no condition assessment for this habitat.

3.3.5.3. Secondary code 10 – Scattered scrub

There are elder (*Sambucus nigra*) bushes growing inside and in front of one of the outbuildings.


3.3.6. u1c – Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface.

3.3.6.1. The drive comprises two wheel tracks with grass in the centre and down either verge. The wheel tracks are classed as artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface.

3.3.6.2. There is no condition assessment for this habitat.

3.3.7. u1e – Built Linear Feature.

Secondary codes: 114 – Dry Stone Wall, 612 - Fence.

3.3.7.1. There are abundant dry stone walls all around the site.


3.3.7.2. There are post and barbed wire stock fences at various locations around the site.




3.3.7.3. There are no condition assessments for these habitats.

3.4. Description of Fauna.

3.4.1. There were no badger setts or field signs present on the site. Badgers are known to reside in the area surrounding the site but there was no evidence that they visit the survey area.

3.4.2. There is no watercourse close to the site and therefore no habitat for water voles, otters or white clawed crayfish.

3.4.3. The closest pond to the site is Castle Dam 660m to the east with abundant wildfowl present. This is unlikely to be suitable for amphibians and it is unlikely they will be present on the site.

3.4.4. There are four buildings present in the survey area.

3.4.4.1. The Farmhouse.

3.4.4.1.1. The house is a two storey, stone building that was originally two cottages but these have been combined to make one larger dwelling with a pebble dashed extension on the northern end. The stonework of the walls is in excellent condition with no cracks or crevices to provide a bat roosting opportunity.

3.4.4.1.2. The roof of the house is pitched and supports a Welsh slate roof that is in very good condition. The roof over the extension is covered with stone slates and there are visible gaps beneath some that provide bats an opportunity to roost.

3.4.4.1.3. There are two small loft spaces over the two cottages. There was no insulation on the loft floor and the floor was very clean with no bat field signs present. The lofts were also well sealed with no evidence of light showing through.

3.4.4.1.4. The stone roof slates in the single storey extension were well pointed and sealed and there were no bat field signs present.

3.4.4.1.5. Because there were gaps beneath the stone slates of the extension, but no lining beneath, the house was assessed to have a low potential for roosting bats in line with the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines.

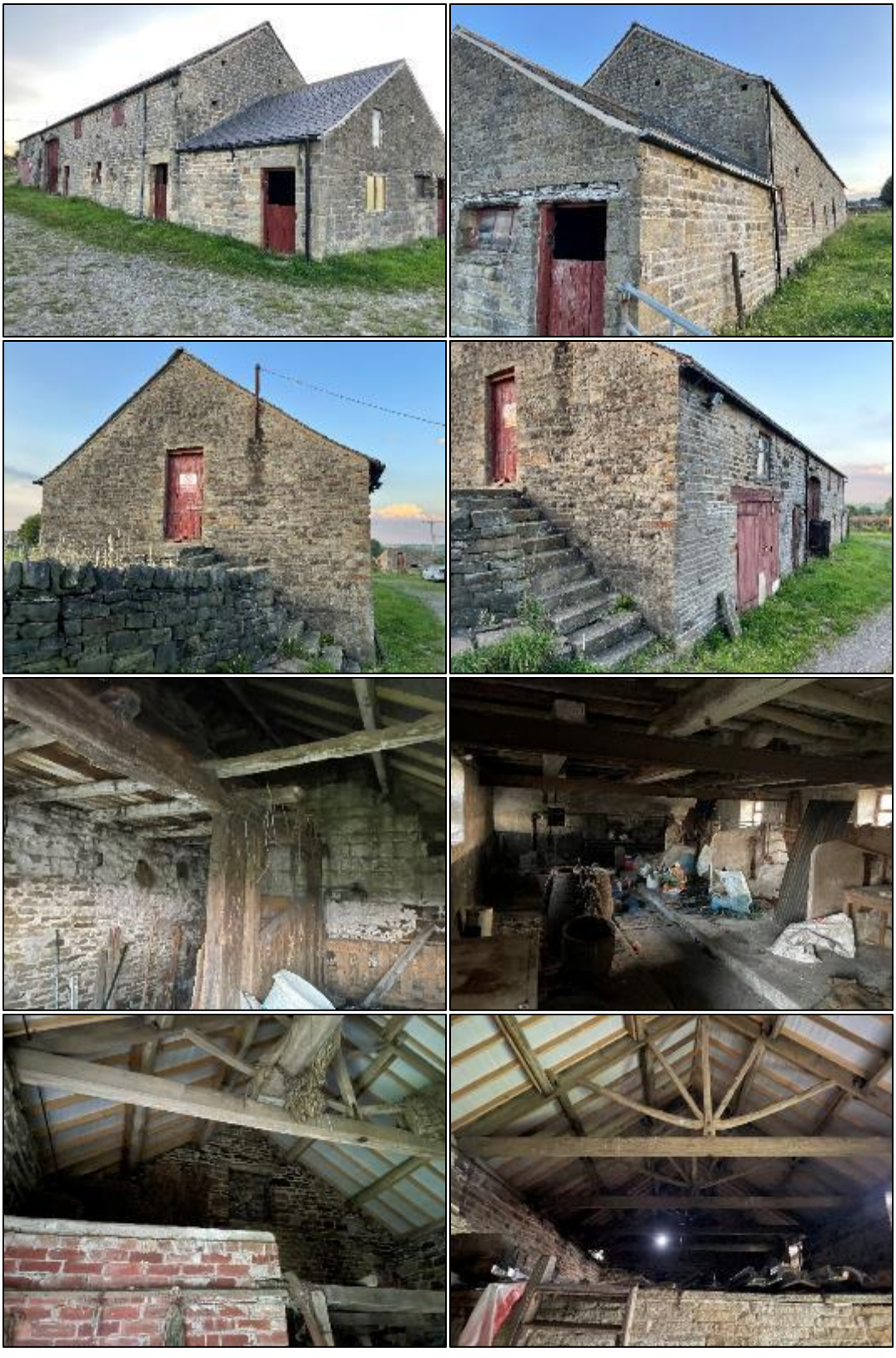
3.4.4.1.6. A dusk emergence survey carried out during 2023 identified only Common Pipistrelles foraging around the site and none roosting in the building.

3.4.4.2. The Barn

3.4.4.2.1. The barn is a two storey, stone building with a single storey extension on the eastern end. The ends of the barn have stables and storage rooms on the ground floor with a mezzanine landing above giving access from a central full height access door. This enabled storage of hay and straw bales on the upper floor.

3.4.4.2.2. The walls of the barn are generally well pointed and the roof is pitched and supports a Welsh slate roof that is in very good condition and does not look that old because there is a new membrane beneath the slates. There were a small number of holes in the outer walls but no bat field signs.

3.4.4.2.3. The photographs below show the barn.



3.4.4.2.4. The barn was assessed to have a low potential for roosting bats in line with the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines.

3.4.4.2.5. A dusk emergence survey carried out during 2023 identified only common pipistrelles foraging around the site and none roosting in the building.

3.4.4.3. Outbuildings

3.4.4.3.1. There are two outbuildings at the eastern end of the site, seen below looking east from the field.

3.4.4.3.2. The southern of these buildings has solid stone walls that have been well pointed and has a flat roof covered with corrugated cement sheets supported on timber beams.

3.4.4.3.3. This building is assessed to have a negligible potential for roosting bats in line with the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines.

3.4.4.3.4. The northern of these buildings comprises a flat roof covered with corrugated metal sheets supported on timber posts and containing scattered scrub species.


3.4.4.3.5. This building is assessed to have a negligible potential for roosting bats in line with the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines.

3.4.4.4. Outside toilet and pig stye.

3.4.4.4.1. This is a stone building with solid stone walls. The pointing on the walls has been maintained and is in good condition. The roof is a flat roof covered with stone slates. These are all in place and have no lining beneath them.




3.4.4.4.2. This building is assessed to have a negligible potential for roosting bats in line with the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines.

3.4.4.5. Garden sheds.

3.4.4.5.1. Within the rear garden of the farmhouse there are three timber sheds. These are all in a poor state of repair and all are assessed to be unsuitable for roosting bats.

3.4.4.5.2. All of these buildings are assessed to have negligible potential for roosting bats in line with the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines.

3.4.5. There is only one tree in the garden of the farmhouse and that contains no opportunities for roosting bats.

3.4.6. The site lies in an elevated position in open grazing fields assessed to have low foraging value. During the previous dusk emergence survey a small number of common pipistrelles were recorded foraging over the site.

3.4.7. The derelict buildings provide ideal opportunities for nesting birds during the nesting season, which extends from March to August each year. No nests were

identified during this survey, but swallows were identified nesting in the barn during the previous dusk emergence survey.

3.4.8. The site is assessed to have no potential for reptiles as the site provides little opportunity for shelter, the site is in an elevated location and the site comprises almost entirely open grazing land.

3.4.9. The site is assessed to be an unsuitable habitat for hazel dormouse as it lies well outside of their natural range.

3.4.10. The site is assessed to be totally unsuitable habitat for red squirrels, located outside the natural range for the species.

3.4.11. No alien, invasive plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act were found growing on the site.

3.4.12. The grassland on the site provides potential foraging for hedgehogs although there is little shelter on the site.

****

4. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS, MITIGATION AND RESIDUAL EFFECTS.

4.1. Designated Sites.

4.1.1. Assessment.

There are no international or nationally designated sites within the search area. There are a number of non-statutory sites within 2km of the survey area but none are close enough to be impacted by the proposed development.

4.1.2. Mitigation.

No mitigation measures are required.

4.1.3. Residual Effects.

The proposed development will have No Residual Negative Impact on designated sites.

4.2. Habitats.

4.2.1. Assessment.

4.2.1.1. Baseline biodiversity calculations have been carried out using the Statutory Metric tool, the current metric at the time of writing this report. The calculations have been completed for baseline area habitats. The condition assessments for each habitat are shown in the attached condition assessment document and the baseline biodiversity values are shown in the attached metric calculation tool as well as being listed below.

Habitat Type	Area in Ha	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment	Biodiversity Units.
Other neutral grassland	0.429	Medium	Poor	1.71
Artificial, unvegetated, unsealed surface	0.11	V.Low	N/A	0

Developed land, sealed surface	0.056	V.Low	N/A	0
Vegetated garden	0.034	Low	N/A	0.07
Individual trees	(0.0041)	Medium	Good	0.05
Total	**0.629**			**1.83**

4.2.1.2. There are no Linear Habitats present on the existing site.

4.2.2. Mitigation.

4.2.2.1. As much as possible of the existing grasslands will be retained or enhanced. The paddock area behind the barn will be retained while three areas will be enhanced. These will include the pocket of land north of the entrance track (5), and the two areas east of the site (9 and 13).

4.2.2.2. Five new trees will be plants within the site.

4.2.2.3. The post development biodiversity values are shown in the attached metric calculation tool as well as being listed below.

Habitat Type	Area in Ha	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment	Biodiversity Units.
Other neutral grassland enhanced	0.1	Medium	Moderate	0.87
Other Neutral grassland retained	0.23	Medium	Poor	0.92
Artificial, unvegetated, unsealed surface	0.16	V.Low	N/A	0
Developed land, sealed surface	0.066	V.Low	N/A	0
Vegetated garden	0.064	Low	N/A	0.12
Individual trees retained	0.0041	Medium	Good	0.05

Five new individual trees	0.0204	Medium	Moderate	0.06
Total				**2.02**

4.2.2.4. The post development Biodiversity units are 2.02Bu, an increase of 0.19Bu above the baseline 1.83Bu. This represents an increase of 10.64%.

4.2.2.5. There were no baseline linear habitats on the site but the planting of a new native species hedgerow with trees will provide additional linear biodiversity as outlined in the table below.

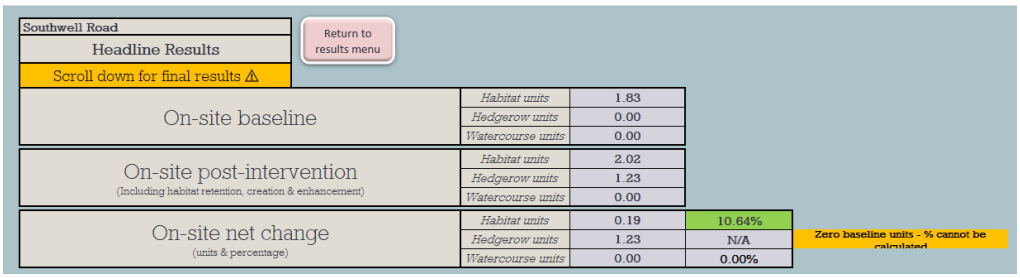
Linear Habitats.

Habitat Type	Length in Km	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment	Biodiversity Units.
Native hedgerow with trees.	0.219	Medium	Moderate	1.23
Total				**1.23**

4.2.2.5. The post development Biodiversity units are 1.23Bu. This cannot be expressed as a percentage increase as the baseline was value was 0Bu.

4.2.3. Residual Effects.

The provision of an additional 0.19Bu of are habitat, an increase of 10.64% and the provision of 1.23Bu of linear habitat in the form of a new native species hedgerow with trees represent a Moderate Residual Impact on Habitats. All trading rules have also been satisfied. The final results, taken from the statutory metric are shown below.



4.3. Species - Bats.

4.3.1. Assessment.

4.3.1.1. There are four buildings present in the survey area.

4.3.1.2. Two of the buildings, the farmhouse and the barn, were assessed to have a low potential for a small number of crevice dwelling bats to roost in line with the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines. A dusk emergence survey of each of these was carried out in late 2023 and no roosting bats were found in either building during that survey.

4.3.1.3. The remainder of the buildings are assessed to have negligible potential for roosting bats in line with the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines.

4.3.1.4. During the dusk emergence survey, only a small number of Common Pipistrelles foraged over the yard between the buildings during that survey but no bats emerged and no other species of bat was observed.

4.3.1.5. There are two existing trees on the site, within or close to the development areas. These will be retained, ensuring No Negative Residual Impact on bats roosting in trees.

4.3.2. Mitigation.

4.3.2.1. No mitigation measures are required.

4.3.2.2. However, a further dusk emergence survey will be undertaken prior to works commencing on the buildings as an additional precautionary measure.

4.3.3. Residual Effects.

The proposed development will have No Negative Residual Impact on bats.

4.4. Species – Nesting Birds.

4.4.1. Assessment.

The derelict buildings provide ideal opportunities for nesting birds during the nesting season, which extends from March to August each year. No nests were identified during this survey, but swallows were identified nesting in the barn during the previous dusk emergence survey. Development works between March and August have potential to have a high impact on nesting birds.

4.4.2. Mitigation.

4.4.2.1. As far as is possible, works to the buildings on site will be undertaken between the end of September and the end of March to avoid the nesting bird season.

4.4.2.2. Where works need to be carried out between April and September inclusive, all works will be preceded by a nesting bird survey carried out by a suitably experienced ecologist no more than three days prior to those works commencing. If any active nests are found, the nest and an agreed stand off around the nest will be left undisturbed until the young have fledged.

4.4.2.3. Alternative swallow nesting opportunities will be provided in appropriate areas of the outbuildings on the site. Swallow nest pots will be provided in open storage areas where the pots will be positioned underneath roofed sections of buildings, where open access for the birds will be available during the nesting season.

4.4.3. Residual Effects.

By following the above mitigation measures, there will be No Negative Residual Impact on nesting birds.

****

5. COMPENSATION AND ENHANCEMENT MEASURES.

5.1. It will be necessary to incorporate biodiversity enhancements in the dwellings on the site in line with the NPPF.

5.2. To achieve this, bat roosting opportunities will be provided in the two proposed new garage blocks on site. One integrated bat brick will be provided in the gable ends of each garage.

5.3. In addition, two integrated swift nest boxes will be provided in each of the garage blocks.

5.4. Further biodiversity enhancement will be provided by one bee brick built into the external walls of each garage block.

5.5. Replacement swallow nesting opportunities will be provided in the buildings on site as outlined in the nesting bird impact assessment outlined earlier in this report.

****

Prepared by:	
Derek Whitcher, BSc, MCIEEM, MCMI	Date: 10th January 2025.

Checked by:	
Alexandrea White BSc(Hons) MSc ACIEEM MIEnvSc CEnv.	Date: 10th January 2025.

6. REFERENCES.

Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the United Kingdom (2010) *ARG UK Advice Note 5: Great Crested Newt Habitat Suitability Index*. ARGUK.

Baker, J., Beebee T., Buckley, J., Gent, A. and Orchard, D. (2011). *Amphibian Habitat Management Handbook*. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bournemouth.

Bat Tree Habitat Key (2018) *Bat Roosts in Trees: a guide for identification and assessment for tree-care and ecology professionals*. Pelagic Publishing, Exeter

Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group (2023). *Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts, v.1.1.1*. Available at https://birdsurveyguidelines.org (Accessed 15/04/2024)

Bright, P., Morris, P. & Mitchell-Jones, T. (2006) *The Dormouse Conservation Handbook*. English Nature, Peterborough.

Chanin, P. (2003) *Ecology of the European Otter*. Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers Ecology Series No.10. English Nature, Peterborough.

Chanin, P. (2003) *Monitoring the Otter Lutra lutra*. Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers Monitoring Series No.10. English Nature, Peterborough.

CIEEM (2017) *Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd edition*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

CIEEM (2017) *Guidelines on Ecological Report Writing*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

Cresswell, P., Cresswell, W.J., and Woods, M. (1993) *The Country Life Guide to Artificial Badger Setts*. Country Life, London.

Collins J. (ed.) 2023. *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologist: Good Practice Guidelines (4th Edition)*. The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Dean, M., Strachan, R., Gow, D. and Andrews, R. (2016) *The Water Vole Mitigation Handbook* (Mammal Society Mitigation Guidance Series). Eds Fiona Mathews and Paul Chanin. Mammal Society, London.

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2024) *Biodiversity Net Gain*. Available at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides (Accessed: 15/04/2024).

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2024) *Statutory Net Biodiversity Metric User Guide*. Available at https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/biodiversity-net-gain (Accessed: 15/04/2024).

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2023) *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)*. Available at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2 (Accessed: 15/04/2024).

Edgar, P., Foster, J. and Baker, J. (2010) *Reptile Habitat Management Handbook*. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bournemouth.

English Nature (2001) *Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines*. English Nature, Peterborough.

Froglife (1999) *Froglife Advice Sheet 10: reptile survey*. Froglife, London.

Gurnell, J., & Lurz, P. (2012) *Red Squirrel. In: Cresswell, W.J., Birks, J.D.S., Dean, M., Pacheco, M., Trewhella, W.J., Wells, D. and Wray, S. (2012). UK BAP Mammals: Interim Guidance for Survey Methodologies, Impact Assessment and Mitigation*. The Mammal Society, Southampton.

Harris, S., Cresswell, P. and Jefferies D. (1989) *Surveying Badgers*. Occasional Publication No 9, The Mammal Society, London.

Langton, T.E.S., Beckett, C.L., and Foster, J.P. (2001), *Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook*, Froglife, Halesworth.

Mitchell-Jones, A.J. (2004) *Bat Mitigation Guidelines*. English Nature, Peterborough.

Natural England (2022) *Hazel Dormice: Advice for making planning decisions*. Available at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hazel-dormice-advice-for-making-planning-decisions (Accessed: 15/04/2024)

Natural England (2014) *Protected species and development: advice for local planning authorities.* (updated 2021) Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-species-how-to-review-planning-applications (Accessed: 05/03/2021).

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Available at https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2019/579/contents/made (Accessed: 15/04/2024). 29

Peay, S. (2003) *Monitoring the White-clawed Crayfish Austropotamobius pallipes*. Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers Monitoring Series No. 1. English Nature, Peterborough.
Stanbury, A. et al (2021) *The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. British Birds 114: 723-747*. Available at https://britishbirds.co.uk/content/status-our-bird-populations (Accessed 15/04/2024)
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2004). *Common Standards Monitoring Guidance for Birds***.** 2004 ed. JNCC, Peterborough.
The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 Available at https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2019/579/contents/made (Accessed: 15/04/2024).
The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 Available at https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/51/contents (Accessed: 15/04/2024).
The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Available at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69 (Accessed: 15/04/2024).
UKHab Ltd (2023) *UK Habitat classification Version 2.0* Available at https://www.ukhab.org.

JNCC, Peterborough.

Appendix I. NESTING BIRD INFORMATION.

Ecology

The nesting season will vary according to the weather each year but generally commences in March, peaks during May and June and continues until September. It is also worth remembering that some birds nest in trees and scrub, but others are ground nesting or prefer man- made structures or buildings.

Surveys

Nesting bird surveys search for potential nest sites in vegetation, buildings etc. Potential nesting sites are observed over a suitable period of time for bird movements or calling male birds that would indicate the presence of a nest. The presence of a nest can be identified from the field signs without the necessity to see the nest itself, thereby avoiding any disturbance of the nests. The best way to avoid this issue is to plan for vegetation clearance to be carried out outside the bird-nesting season.

Legislation

Nesting birds are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Part 1. -(1) Of the Act states that: - If any person intentionally: - kills, injures or takes any wild bird; takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird, he shall be guilty of an offence.

Part 1. -(5) of the Act states that: - If any person intentionally: - disturbs any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on, or near a nest containing eggs or young; or disturbs young of such a bird, he shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a special penalty.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 amends the above by inserting after “intentionally” the words “or recklessly”.

Appendix II. BAT INFORMATION.

Ecology

There are currently 18 species of bat residing in Britain, 17 of which of which are known to breed here. They are extremely difficult to identify in the hand and even more so in flight.

Many species appear to be diminishing in numbers, probably due to habitat change and shortage of food, caused by pesticides, as insects are their sole diet.

As their diet consists solely of insects, bats hibernate during the winter when their food source is at its most scarce. They will spend the winter in hollow trees, caves, mines and the roofs of buildings.

Certain species, particularly the pipistrelle (the commonest and most widespread British bat) can quickly adapt to man-made structures and will readily use these to roost and to rear their young.

Surveys

During walkover surveys, bat roosts can be identified by looking for:

- Suitable holes, cracks and crevices within any building, tree or other structure.
- Bat droppings along walls, window cills, or on the ground.
- Prey remains, such as insect wings.

Further investigations can be made using endoscopes, by carrying out aerial inspections of trees or by conducting bat activity surveys during dusk and dawn over summer months.

Legislation

Bats are protected under Appendix II and III of the Bern Convention (1982), Schedule 5 and 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), Annex IV of the Habitats Directive (some species under Annex II), Annex II of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) and EUROBATS agreement. Numerous species are also listed

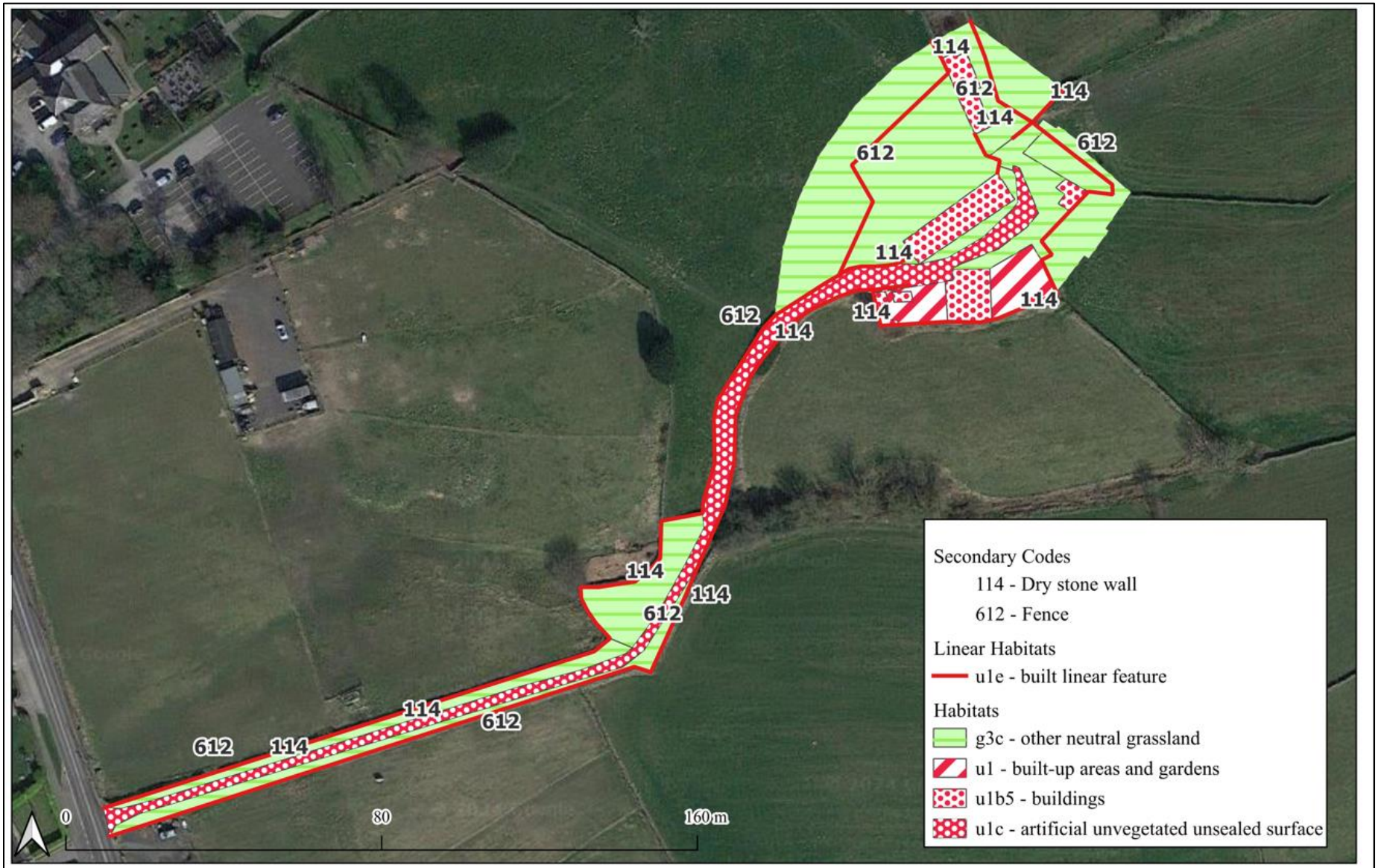
under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) making them species of principal importance.

All bats and their roosts are therefore protected in the UK. This makes it an offence to kill, injure or take any bat, to interfere with any place used for shelter or protection, or to intentionally disturb any animal occupying such a place.

The UK has designated maternity and hibernacula areas as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) under the Habitats Directive. Implementation of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan also includes action for a number of bat species and the habitats which support them.

Where development proposals are likely to affect a bat roost site, a licence is required from Natural England.

Appendix III. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA PRE DEVELOPMENT.



Site: Royd Field Farm, Cubley

Reference: 230836

Date: 10.01.2025

Produced by: Mitch Greenhalgh

Appendix IV. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA POST DEVELOPMENT.