

FPCR PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL REPORT

Homes by Honey

Wooley Colliery Road

January 2026

SITE INFORMATION	
Site Name:	Wooley Colliery Road
Survey Date:	05.11.2025
Summary Site Description:	<p>The Site occupies an area of approximately 4.1ha and is situated to the north of the village of Darton, Barnsley, South Yorkshire.</p> <p>A survey of the Site was conducted by a FPCR ecologist on 5th November 2025.</p> <p>The Site comprises three unmanaged fields of other neutral grassland bounded by unmanaged native hedgerows, located in the west, north-central and south-east of the Site. An area of hardstanding colonized by ruderal vegetation is located in the south-east of the Site adjacent to west of an access road and Manor House (previously shown on historical maps as part of a farm complex at Manor House). Some areas of the Site, particularly within the eastern area, have become colonised by bramble and other scrub.</p> <p>The Site is bound by Bloomhouse Lane to the north beyond which is land in agricultural usage. Immediately north-west is a small industrial property (engineering works) and a public house (The Wooley). To the east of the Site is Manor House, a large residence and an area of woodland and scrub. Further east is the residential area of Maplewell. To the south is an area of residential development associated with the village of Darton. To the west is Wooley Colliery Road, beyond which is a sports field and beyond which is an area of scrub and woodland. Further to the west is a Railway Line (115m south-west), the River Dearne (200m south-west) and the M1 motorway (415m west).</p>
HABITATS	
Summary of Habitats Present Onsite	<p>Other Neutral Grassland (UKHab g3c5) – ONG habitat dominated by false oat-grass was present in the three fields on-site. Grassland G1 also contained substantial coverage of scrub species. Grassland G3 exhibited lower species diversity than G1 and G2.</p> <p>Mixed scrub – Scrub was present in the east of the Site, mostly comprising abundant hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>, but with other woodland canopy species present. This habitat was assessed as being in Poor condition.</p> <p>Blackthorn scrub – An area of scrub dominated by blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> was present in the north of the Site.</p>

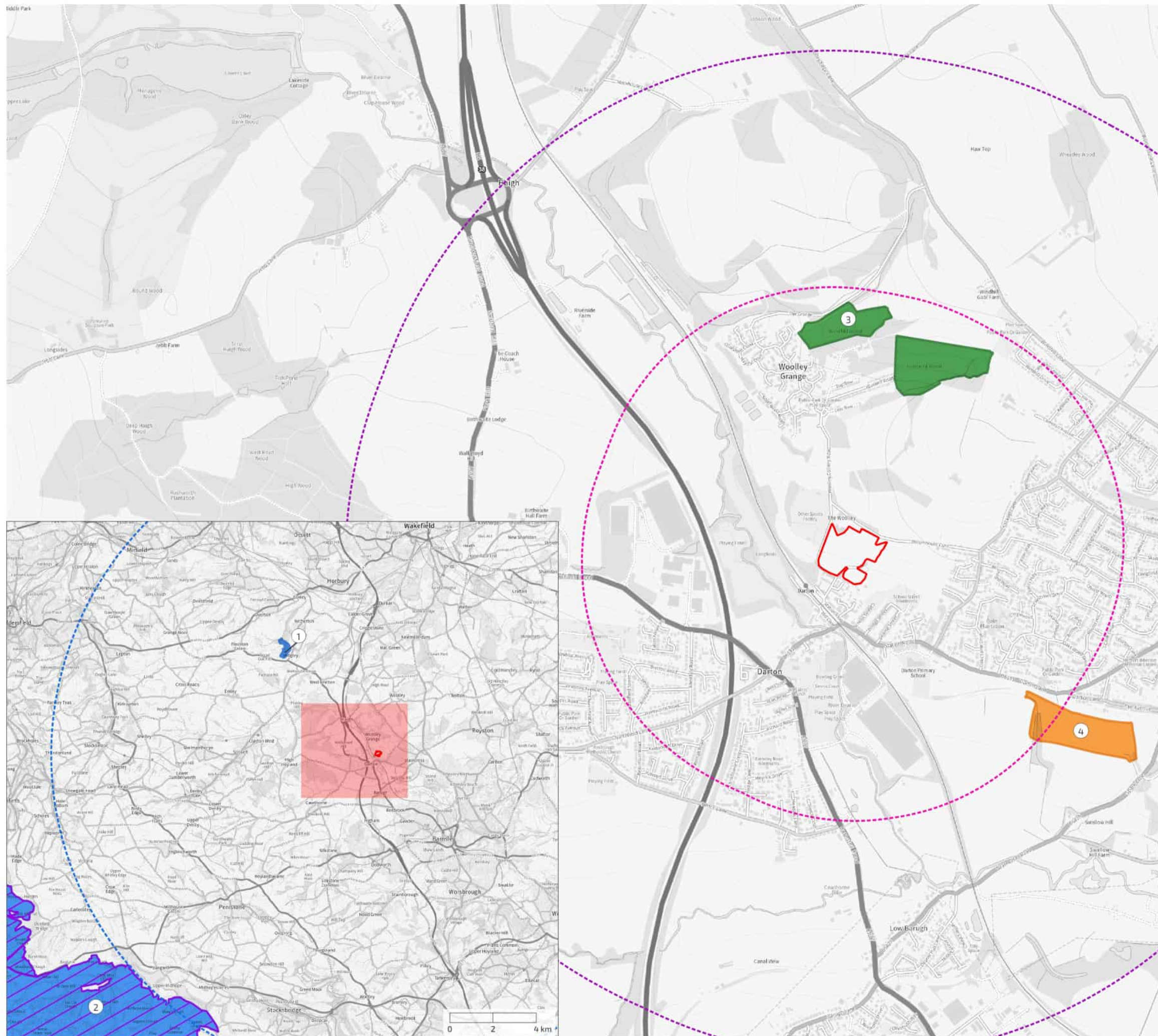
	<p>Ruderal / Ephemeral – The area of hardstanding present in the east of Site had been colonised by a variety of ruderal species and was considered to be relatively botanically diverse.</p> <p>Hedgerows – There are eight native hedgerows on-site. These are mostly unmanaged and overgrown, reaching over 4m in height.</p> <p>Full habitat descriptions, condition assessments and species lists will be provided in the Biodiversity Net Gain Report.</p>		
Are further habitat surveys recommended?	Yes	Rationale:	<p>Due to the assessment being carried out outside the optimum season, all grassland fields were assessed as being in Moderate condition (as a precaution). It is recommended that an updated survey be carried out in the optimum season of April – September 2026 to ensure the accuracy of these condition assessments.</p> <p>Although no Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) (dead stems or live plants) were noted during the survey, a further check for any growth of INNS is recommended during the optimal growing season (April- July) due to the desk study returning records of Japanese knotweed and Himalayan Balsam in the local area.</p>
DESIGNATED SITES			
Are there any internationally designated sites within 15km of Site Boundary?	Yes	If Yes, these include:	<p><u>Special Protection Areas (SPA)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Derby Grange Colliery Ponds (6.07km NW) - South Pennine Moors (14.38km SW) <p><u>Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - South Pennine Moors (14.38km SW)
Are there any Nationally Designated Sites within 2km of the Site Boundary?	No	If Yes, these include:	N/A
Are there any Nationally Designated Non-statutory Sites within 1km of the Site?	Yes	If Yes, these include:	<p><u>Ancient Woodland (AW)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Windhill Wood (595m N)
Are there any Locally Designated Non-statutory Sites within 1km of the Site?	Yes	If Yes, these include:	<p><u>Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mapplewell Tip (860m SE)
Does the Site Fall within any SSSI Impact Radius Zones?	No	If Yes, these include:	N/A

Designated Sites Initial Constraints and Opportunities:	Given the distance and intervening land-use present it is not anticipated that there will be any impacts on these designated sites.		
PRELIMINARY PROTECTED SPECIES ASSESSMENT			
Badgers			
Relevant Desk Study Records:	Two records of badgers were returned. The first, from 2010, was c80m to the east of the Site boundary. A second from 2016 was recorded within the western area of the Site.		
Was any evidence of Badgers Observed onsite or nearby?	No	If further survey recommended?	Yes - Badger Walkover Survey
Badgers Initial Constraints and Opportunities:	<p>No evidence of badgers or their setts were noted during the initial survey. However, the two badger records returned indicate that this species are present in the wider area.</p> <p>There is substantial scrub on-site which would provide suitable habitat for sett creation. It is therefore recommended that a full badger walkover survey be carried out once the vegetation has died back in winter (winter 2025/26).</p> <p>Badgers are highly mobile species and it is also recommended that an update survey be carried out before the commencement of any works to clear the Site for construction to ensure no badgers have created setts since the initial walkover.</p>		
Bats			
Relevant Desk Study Records:	Records of five individual bats were returned, dated from between 2011 and 2022. One of these, a common pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> , was recorded along the woodland edge to the east of the Site.		
Does the Site Provide suitable Foraging and/or Commuting Habitat?	Yes	Description:	The hedgerows provide suitable habitat for potential commuting routes for bats and link to surrounding habitats. The scrub and hedgerows on-site also provide potential foraging resources.
Level of Suitability for Foraging and Commuting Bats:	Moderate	Level of Further Survey Recommended:	Monthly Static Detector Surveys (between April and October) and Seasonal Night-time Bat Walkover Surveys (Apr-May, Jun-Aug and Sept-Oct)
Are there any Buildings Present onsite?	No	Description:	N/A
Buildings Level of Suitability:	Negligible	Level of Further Survey Required:	None - No impacts anticipated on buildings

Are there any Trees Present onsite that support suitable roosting features for bats?:	No	Description:	Trees on-site were not sufficiently mature to support features suitable for roosting bats.
Trees Initial Level of Suitability:	NONE	Level of Further Survey Required:	None - No suitable trees present onsite
Bats Initial Constraints and Opportunities:	<p>The Site provides a moderate suitability for foraging and commuting bats and so it is recommended that static detectors are deployed monthly, and nighttime bat walkovers are carried out seasonally.</p> <p>It is recommended that hedgerows and scrub are retained where possible, as this habitat is suitable bat foraging and commuting habitat. It is also recommended that a sensitive lighting scheme is provided within the proposals.</p>		
Birds			
Relevant Desk Study Records:	The desk study returned an assemblage of widespread generalist species within the Site boundary, with assemblages of arable and wetland species being recorded in the wider landscape.		
Does the Site provide suitable habitats for a Notable Breeding Bird Assemblage?	Yes	Description:	There are a number of hedgerows, trees and scrub on-site which provide suitable breeding habitat for a variety of generalist bird species. The grassland could also provide breeding opportunities for ground-nesting birds, though the fields are relatively small.
Are Further Surveys Recommended for Breeding Birds?	Scoping Survey Between Mid-March and July (inclusive)		
Does the Site provide suitable habitats for a Notable Wintering Bird Assemblage?	Yes	Description:	During the scoping Winter Bird survey undertaken in November 2025 a range of common and widespread generalist species were recorded, primarily within the scrub, hedgerows and trees. Species included several notable species such as bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i> , song thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i> , redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i> and sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Are Further Surveys Recommended for Wintering Birds?	It is recommended that three further Winter Bird surveys are undertaken during the period November – February		
Birds Initial Constraints and Opportunities:	<p>A full suite of winter bird surveys is required to assess the potential impacts on notable species of the proposed significant loss of scrub and hedgerows.</p> <p>The grassland, hedgerows, scrub and trees are valuable to a variety of generalist bird species, and it is recommended that this habitat is retained wher possible.</p>		

Great Crested Newts			
Relevant Desk Study Records:	None.		
Are there any ponds onsite or within 250m of the Site?	No	Description/Level of Suitability:	N/A
Does the Site Provide Suitable Terrestrial Habitats for GCN	Yes	Description/Level of Suitability:	The roots of scrub and hedgerows on-site have the potential to act as suitable habitat for hibernating GCN, as well as the rubble and brash piles to the west of Manor House.
Is District Level Licencing (DLL) in effect in LPA?	No	Implications of DLL:	N/A
Are Further Surveys for Recommended for GCN?	No - Limited Suitability		
GCN Initial Constraints and Opportunities:	There are no ponds within 250m of the site and no GCN records within 1km. As such, GCN are considered to be likely absent from the Site and do not represent a constraint to development.		
Reptiles			
Relevant Desk Study Records	There are three records of common lizard c. 800m to the north of the Site.		
Does the Site Provide suitable habitat for reptiles?	Yes	Description/Level of Suitability:	The tussocky grassland in all fields could act as valuable hibernation habitat for reptiles, as well as the rubble and brash piles to the west of Manor House.
Are further surveys recommended for Reptiles?	Yes - 7 Presence/Likely Absence Surveys between April and September (inclusive)		
Reptiles Initial Constraint and Opportunities:	<p>Presence and absence survey are recommended due to the Site's suitability for reptiles.</p> <p>It is recommended that Site clearance is undertaken outside of the reptile hibernation period (October – March). Should any clearance be required during this period, no clearance should be undertaken prior to a thorough check of suitable habitats and features by a suitably qualified ecologist. Hibernating animals should not be handled or moved. Where any reptiles are identified or are thought to be present no clearance would be undertaken until outside of the hibernation period and after the animals have become active and dispersed from the area.</p>		
Riparian Mammals (Otter and Water Voles)			
Relevant Desk Study Records	None.		

Does the Site Provide suitable habitat for Otter/Water Voles?	No	Description/Level of Suitability:	There are no watercourses onsite.
Are further surveys recommended for Riparian Mammals?	No - No impacts anticipated		
Riparian Mammals Initial Constraint and Opportunities:	There are no watercourses onsite so no further surveys are required.		
Invertebrates			
Relevant Desk Study Records:	Records of dingy skipper <i>Erynnis tages</i> , small heath <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i> , shaded broad-bar <i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i> , cinnabar moth <i>Tyria jacobaeae</i> and small blue <i>Cupido minimus</i> were returned from within 1km of the Site boundary, all of which are butterflies/moths. Small blue, which is included in Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan and is a Species of Principal Importance under the NERC Act 2006, was recorded within the most western field of the Site (G1).		
Does the Site Provide suitable habitat for Invertebrates?	Yes	Description/Level of Suitability:	Small blue
Are further surveys recommended for Invertebrates?	Yes - Invertebrate Surveys between April and September		
Invertebrates Initial Constraint and Opportunities:	<p>Further assessment of the habitats present for the suitability to support small blue and other recorded notable butterflies and moths is recommended during optimal period (earliest April). This would include a survey for suitable habitat including food plants and suitable breeding sites/plants.</p> <p>Should the habitats be considered to be suitable further survey for invertebrates may be required to assess the potential impacts and inform any mitigation proposals.</p>		



N

0 500 1,000 m

	Red Line Boundary		1km Buffer
	2km Buffer		15km Buffer
	Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)		Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
	Ancient Woodland (AW)		Special Protection Areas (SPA)

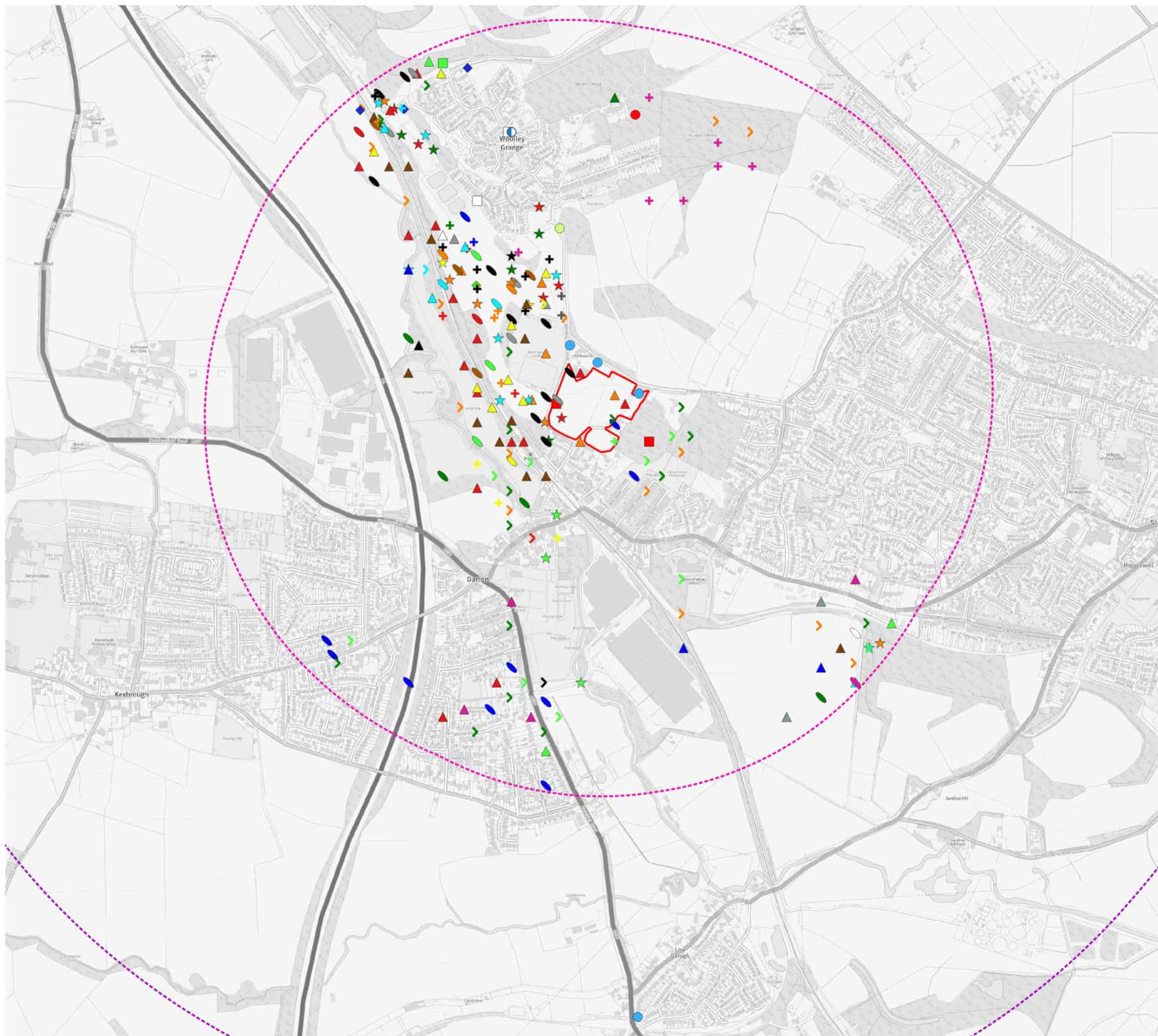
Ref	Name	Designation
1	Denby Grange Colliery Ponds	SAC
2	South Pennine Moors	SAC & SPA
3	Windhill Wood	AW
4	Mapplewell Tip	LWS

date 20/11/25 drwn/chld
 IDS/SAM

client
Homes by Honey
 project
**Woolley Colliery Road,
 Darton**

title
**CONSULTATION PLAN -
 DESIGNATED SITES**
 number
FIGURE 1a

scale
 1:16,000 @ A3
 rev
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date 20/11/25 drwn/chld
 IDS/SAM

client
Homes by Honey
 project
**Woolley Colliery Road,
 Darton**

title **CONSULTATION PLAN - SPECIES RECORDS** scale 1:11,000 @ A3

number **FIGURE 1b** rev -

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