Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) Survey Report	
For:	Mr Steven Warsop
Site:	Land off Norfield House, Bank End Lane, High Hoyland, S75 4BB
Report Date:	20th May 2025
Report Reference:	SQ-3199

Lead Ecologist:

Emily Southern BSc (hons)

Client:	Mr Steven Warsop
Site Name:	Land off Norfield House, Bank End Lane, High Hoyland, S75 4BB
Grid Reference:	SE 27176 09925
Report:	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
Date of Survey:	8th May 2025
Surveying Ecologists:	Emily Southern BSc (hons), Jo Toller BSc (hons)

Issue:	Revision:	Stage:	Date:	Prepared by:	Approved by:
-	-	Draft	19th May 2025	Emily Southern BSc (hons)-Estrada Ecology Ltd	Samuel Toon BSc (hons), Estrada Ecology Ltd
1	-	Final	20th May 2025	Emily Southern BSc (hons)-Estrada Ecology Ltd	Natasha Estrada BSc (hons), MRes, MCIEEM-Estrada Ecology Ltd

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The contents of this report have been produced with consideration of current best practice guidance, and in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's (CIEEM) Code of Professional Conduct.

This report should not be submitted as part of a planning application without any accompanying species-specific reports which may have been recommended herein.

Data within this report is valid for a maximum of eighteen months from the date of the survey. After this period, an updated site visit will be required to determine a new ecological baseline.

Site Summary

The site covers an estimated 0.2 hectares and is located within the South and West Yorkshire green belt. The development site lies directly adjacent to a priority habitat; deciduous woodland and the wider surroundings of the site are dominated by arable fields and compartments of woodland with some scattered residential properties.

Prior to survey the site had undergone some clearance works, including tree felling and vegetation cut back. Within the site boundaries at the time of survey, the site was dominated by modified grassland with scattered bracken and ruderal and ephemeral vegetation. The boundaries of the site are encompassed by lines of trees and native and ornamental hedgerows.

Findings

Potentially suitable habitats for breeding birds were recorded within the site. No evidence of historical or current nests were recorded within the site. Recommendations have been provided in the conclusion of this report.

The site was deemed to hold potential suitability for use by European Hedgehog *(Erinaceus europaeus)*. A precautionary method statement is recommended in the conclusion of this report. No further survey effort is required at this juncture.

Trees present on site were deemed negligible in suitability for bat roosts due to a lack of suitable roost features. Habitats within the immediate vicinity of the site have potential suitability for use by bats. Recommendations of a lighting scheme regarding these habitats are given in the conclusion of this report.

The site was deemed to hold residual suitability for use by European Badger *(Meles meles),* although no field signs were recorded. A precautionary method statement is recommended in the conclusion of this report. No further survey effort is recommended at this juncture.

The site was deemed to hold residual suitability for reptiles. A precautionary method statement is recommended in the conclusion of this report. No further survey effort is required at this stage.

The site was deemed to hold residual terrestrial suitability for amphibians. A precautionary

method statement is recommended in the conclusion of this report. No further survey effort is required at this stage.

No suitable habitats for riparian mammals were recorded within the site. No further survey effort is recommended.

One species listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 weas recorded within the site. Recommendations have been provided in the conclusion of this report.

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

The site was recorded to lack significant floral diversity and is unlikely to support important assemblages of invertebrates.

Contents:

Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this report and its contents in view of potential ecological constraints to development or the likely presence or absence of species it must only be viewed as a snapshot in time and not be viewed as definitive. Due to external factors, such as seasonality, weather etc having the potential to affect survey results, no liability can be assumed for omissions or changes that may or may not occur after the date this report was produced.

1 Introduction and Background to the Site

1.1 Estrada Ecology Ltd was commissioned to conduct a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the land at Norfield House, Bank End Lane, High Hoyland, S75 4BB.

1.2 The site consists of;

- Modified grassland with scattered bracken,
- Bramble scrub,
- Tall Forbs,
- Native hedgerow,
- Individual and felled trees.

1.3 It is understood that the current development proposal is redevelopment, subject to the necessary consents.

1.4 Report Objectives

- Present the findings of the ecological survey.
- Assess the potential of existing on-site habitats to support protected or notable species.
- Evaluate any likely ecological impacts on protected and notable species or habitats because of the proposed development.
- Provide recommendations for any further species-specific survey and mitigation measures that may be required; and
- Provide habitat enhancement recommendations in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024).

1.5 Site Location and Wider Area

1.5.1 The site is located in a rural area, characterised by open countryside and woodland. The site is flanked by residential housing and native deciduous woodland.

1.5.2 The survey site's central OS grid reference is SE 427129 409925.

1.5.3 The site is located 8 km from Barnsley town centre in a landscape that is an open mosaic of open countryside, arable land and native woodland. Together these habitats support a diverse array of flora and fauna, while its location offers a connection with nearby urban areas.

Figure 1: The survey site within its wider setting.

Google Earth 2025

2 Protected Species Legislation

2.1 Relevant legislation includes the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Species Amendment (EU Exit) Regulations which came into force on 31 December 2020.

2.2 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act came into force on 1 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. The list has been drawn up in consultation with Natural England, as required by the Act. The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when conducting their normal functions.

2.3 The UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework was developed in response to the Convention on Biological Diversity's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 - 2020. Its five strategic goals and twenty biodiversity targets supersede the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

2.4 Environment and Biodiversity

2.4.1 Under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024), local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance the natural environment when determining planning applications. Local planning authorities also have an obligation to seek opportunities to further enhance the conservation status of Species and Principal Habitats.

2.4.2 Species and Habitats of Principal Importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England (JNCC, 2009) are covered under section 41 of the Natural Environmental and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006). Species and habitats listed within Section 41 need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions, such as assessing planning applications.

2.4.3 Development proposals submitted after 12th February 2024, with some exceptions, will be expected to achieve a minimum of 10% net gain in site biodiversity value under The Environment Act 2021 (Commencement No. 8 and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2024.

2.5 Wildlife

2.5.1 European Protected Species, such as bats (all species) and great crested newt (Triturus cristatus), are afforded protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as well as under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000. It is an offence to:

- Deliberately or recklessly capture, injure, or kill any wild animal of a European protected species.
- Deliberately or recklessly disturb any such animal.
- Damage or destroy their breeding site or resting place.
- Keep, transport, or offer for sale / exchange any live or dead animal, or any part of, or anything from these species.

2.5.2 Disturbance of European Protected Species constitutes any activity which is likely to:

- To impair their ability to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young; or, in the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; and
- To significantly affect the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.

2.6 UK Legislation

2.6.1 **Breeding birds** (all species) are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird and to take, damage or destroy the nest (whilst being built or in use) or eggs. Schedule 1 species are afforded protection from disturbance at or near nest sites, including reckless disturbance under the Countryside Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000.

2.6.2 **Bats** (all native species) and their breeding sites or resting places (roosts) are fully protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). Bats are also protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) through their inclusion in Schedule 5. Under the Act, they are protected from: intentional or reckless disturbance (at any level); obstruction of access to any place of shelter, breeding, or rest; selling, bartering or exchange of these species, or parts of.

2.6.3 **Reptiles** (all native species) are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence to intentionally kill, injure and trade these animals.

2.6.4 **Amphibians** (all native species) are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). The sale, barter, exchange, transportation for sale, and advertising to sell or to buy are an offence.

2.6.5 **Eurasian Badgers** are protected by the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence: to wilfully, or attempt, to

kill, capture, ill-treat or injure any badger; to obstruct, destroy or damage a badger sett or to disturb a badger whilst within its sett; to sell or offer for sale a live badger, or have possession or control of a live badger; and marking a badger or attaching any ring, tag, or other marking device to a badger.

2.6.6 **Eurasian** Otters are a European Protected Species (EPS) and are also fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is against the law to capture, kill, disturb or injure otters (on purpose or by not taking enough care); damage or destroy a breeding or resting place (deliberately or by not taking enough care); obstruct access to their resting or sheltering places (deliberately or by not taking enough care); and possess, sell, control or transport live or dead otters, or parts of otters.

2.6.7 **European Water voles** are fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and is a priority conservation species. It is against the law to: Intentionally capture, kill, or injure water voles, damage, destroy or block access to their places of shelter or protection (on purpose or by not taking enough care), disturb them in a place of shelter or protection (on purpose or by not taking enough care), and possess, sell, control or transport live or dead water voles or parts of them (not water voles bred in captivity).

3 Survey Methodology

3.1 Desktop Survey

3.1.1 Due to the development site being located centrally between two district search radius, the biological data records search was commissioned from Sheffield Biological Records Centre for a 1 km radius from the central grid reference and West Yorkshire Ecology and West Yorkshire Bat Groups for a 2 km radius from the central grid reference.

3.1.2 Further inspection, using colour 1:25,000 OS base maps (www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk), MAGIC (www.magic.defra.gov.uk), aerial photographs from Google Earth (www.maps.google.co.uk), was also undertaken to provide additional context and identify any features of potential importance for nature conservation in the wider countryside.

3.1.3 Furthermore, consultation with MAGIC was undertaken to ascertain any European Protected Species Mitigation Licences granted within a 1 km radius from grid.

3.1.4 Natural England's Geoportal: England-wide data for great crested newts (GCN) was analysed for any records within a 1km radius from grid. The dataset contains eDNA pond surveys for district level licensing (England). When available for the location, the Risk Zones for GCN are considered for the site.

3.2 Field Survey

3.2.1 The survey area was investigated on foot to ascertain habitats on site and the potential of those habitats to support ecological diversity. The vegetation types present within the site were assessed by junior ecologist Emily Southern BSc (hons) and experienced ecologist Joanne Toller BSc (hons) using methodology based on that described in the UK Habitat Classification User Manual Version 2.0 (2023) and CIEEM's Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (2024).

3.2.2 Habitats and features with potential to support protected and / or conservation priority faunal species, together with any field signs of such species were recorded on the field map using target notes. A search was undertaken for the following key habitats and field signs for protected or conservation priority species highlighted in Table 1.

Table 1: Key habitats and field signs of protected and priority species.

Taxon	Indicative Habitats	Field Signs
Bats	Roosts - Trees, buildings, bridges caves etc. Foraging areas - e.g., parkland, water bodies and streams, wetlands, woodland edge, hedgerow Commuting routes - linear features (e.g., hedgerows).	In or on potential roost sites: Droppings stuck to walls; urine spotting in roof spaces; oil from fur staining around roost entrances; feeding remains (e.g., moth wings).
Great Crested Newts *(Triturus cristatus)*	Ponds within 500m of suitable habitat within the site boundary. Suitable (terrestrial) habitat includes rough grassland, scrub and woodland, log and rubble piles and other debris, animal burrows.	Eggs, Individuals of all life stages. Egg rolled plants.
Reptiles	Rough grassland, log and rubble piles, compost heaps.	Sloughed skins; eggs, individuals.
Birds	Trees, scrub, hedgerow, field margins, grassland.	Nests; droppings below nest sites (especially in buildings of trees); tree holes.
Badgers	Found in most rural and many urban habitats.	Excavations and tracks: sett entrances, latrines, hairs, well-worn paths; prints; snuffle holes.
Otter	Water bodies / water courses.	Holt entrances; prints; latrine / spraint sites; anal jelly / smears.
Water Vole	Water bodies / water courses.	Burrow entrances; prints; latrine areas; faeces; feeding stations.
BAP invertebrates	Each butterfly species has its own habitat requirements determined by the food plant of the caterpillar, the nectar source for the adult and the conditions needed for the caterpillar to survive and then pupate successfully.	Eggs, larva, Pupa, adult butterfly. Habitat type and presence of food plants.

3.3 Timing and Weather Conditions

3.3.1 The survey was conducted on the afternoon of 6th May 2025.

3.3.2 Weather conditions at the time of the site visit were sunny and clear with a light breeze and temperatures of 10°C.

3.4 Personnel

3.4.1 The survey was undertaken by junior ecologist Emily Southern BSc (hons) and ecologist Joanne Toller BSc (hons), Great Crested Newt Licence 2024-12049-CL08-GCN.

3.4.2 All surveying ecologists worked under the supervision and guidance of experienced ecologist Natasha Estrada BSc (hons), MRes, MCIEEM, who is a licensed bat ecologist (2015-12213-CLS- CLS) and the named ecologist on several Natural England European Protected Species Mitigation Licenses.

3.5 Preliminary Roost Assessment

3.5.1 Where present and access could be gained, trees and buildings were subject to an external inspection to determine their suitability to support roosting bats. The external inspections were conducted in accordance with current best practice guidance (Collins, 2023).

3.5.2 Potential bat roost features and field sign evidence of use of the site by bats include the presence of droppings, stain, or grease marks, feeding remains, or the observations of the bats themselves.

3.5.3 Where present, trees, buildings and the quality of on-site habitats were then categorised based on the classification criteria in 'Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists' (Collins, 2023). Classification criteria is presented below:

- **Negligible:** No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains as bats can use small and apparently unsuitable features on occasion.
- **Low:** A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically at any time of the year. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and / or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats.
- **Moderate:** A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions, and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status.
- **High:** A structure with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions, and surrounding habitat. These structures have the potential to support high conservation status roosts (e.g., maternity, or classic cool / stable hibernation site).

4 Ecological Constraints

4.1 It should be noted that this ecological appraisal provides baseline ecological data at the time of survey only and does not include flora or fauna which may be present at different times of the year.

4.2 An absence of species records from within a search radius does not provide confirmation that a species is absent from within the search area.

4.3 The site was considered fully surveyed during the site visit.

4.4 A survey of 30 meters outside of the site boundaries was unable to be undertaken due to there being no access to the adjacent woodland or private residential property gardens.

5 Survey Results

5.1 Field Survey Results

5.1.1 Habitat Overview

5.1.1.1 A summary of the habitats recorded during the site inspection are listed as follows:

Table 2: Recorded Habitats within the Site Boundaries.

Habitat	UK HABS Codes	
	Primary	Secondary
Modified grassland; Scattered bracken.	**g4**	**12**
Individual Trees	g	**32**
Bramble Scrub	**h3d**	-
Native Hedgerow	**h2a**	-
Tall Forbs	g	**16**

5.1.1.2 A list of all species recorded on the site during the survey can be found in Appendix Two.

5.1.2 Modified grassland; Scattered bracken

5.1.2.1 The vast majority of the site was recorded as modified grassland with scattered bracken. The habitat comprised unmanaged grass and bracken characterised by a mixture of tall grasses and dense stands of bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum)*.

5.1.2.2 The eastern part of the habitat has a coverage of bracken, this light canopy cover is deemed to provide some potential refuge from predators for small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Increasing the intrinsic ecological value of the habitat and creating a corridor for connectivity for the surrounding woodland habitats.

5.1.2.3 The remaining area of modified grassland was recorded to have slightly more diversity within the floral composition with species including perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne)* and bracken with scattered colonies of rosebay willowherb (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus),* broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*) and common dandelion *(Taraxacum officinale*).

5.1.2.4 Evidence of previous site clearance was recorded at the time of survey and throughout the modified grassland habitat, piles of chipped bark and vegetation are scattered up and down the middle of the habitat. The density of the chippings has suppressed vegetation growth and created potential refugia habitat for amphibian and reptiles. Precautionary methods have been recommended in the conclusion of this report.

Figure 2: Modified Grassland with Scattered Bracken

5.1.3 Individuals Trees

5.1.3.1 The north boundary of the site is defined by a line of native semi-mature, and mature trees. The tree line incorporates small and medium sized trees including sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus),* English oak (Quercus robur), European ash (Fraxinus excelsior) and alder (*Alnus glutinosa*).

5.1.3.2 At the time of survey, the trees appeared to be tall and unmanaged. The varying structure of the tree line will support a large array of invertebrate assemblages. At the time of survey, no current or historic evidence of use of the trees by breeding birds was recorded however, all trees were recorded to have potential suitability to support nesting birds. Recommendations have been provided for this habitat and its impacted species in the conclusion of this report.

5.1.3.3 Anthropogenic impacts were recorded on some trees on site, including tree works and felling. Overhanging trees that lie adjacent to the site boundary have been subject to recent tree works, removing some of the overhanging branches. At the time of survey 20 trees of varying sizes and species were recorded as being felled and removed from site.

5.1.3.4 The tree line onsite provides suitable habitat for use by commuting and foraging bats and connectivity to the wider landscape which provides further suitable habitat for bats. Recommendations have been provided in the conclusion of this report for this habitat.

Figure 3: Individual Trees

5.1.4 Bramble Scrub

5.1.4.1 The southern most area of the site was defined as an area of bramble scrub. This habitat was recorded to have much thicker vegetation, with limited impacts from previous site clearance. The scrub vegetation was limited in height and dominated by bramble. This habitat is deemed negligible in suitability for use by nesting birds.

5.1.4.2 This habitat is enclosed on three sides by woodland and ornamental hedgerow blocking light splay into the habitat and limiting the flora species able to colonise. Close proximity to the adjacent deciduous woodland has allowed for colonisation of woodland indicator species, English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), noted in schedule 8 of this wildlife and countryside act 1981 as a protected plant species.

5.1.4.3 Species found within this habitat include; English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta)* bramble, cleavers (*Galium aparine*), common hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*) and English ivy.

Figure 4: Bramble Scrub


5.1.5 Tall Forbs

5.1.5.1 Dominating the south of the site and encompassing the western boundary are tall forbs. The south of this habitat is overshadowed by the off-site woodland and ornamental hedgerow, blocking light splay into the habitat and limiting the flora species able to thrive within these conditions.

5.1.5.2 Evidence of previous site clearance was recorded on site, which includes felling of trees and strimming of the vegetation. The re-emergence of vegetation was recorded to include bramble, common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), cleavers and rosebay willowherb. Piles of shredded vegetation and wood chippings are scattered around the site, supressing vegetation growth within these areas and creating refugia habitat for amphibians and reptiles. Recommendation of precautionary methods have been provided in the conclusion of this report.

5.1.5.3 To the west of the habitat, an area of sealed surface was recorded. The feature was identified as a disused drain, with brick walls and a concrete slab top.

5.1.5.4 Just below the drain, a single mammal path was recorded crossing and leaving the site via the western boundary. The mammal path outside of the boundary was unable to be fully investigated due to access issues into the woodland habitats outside of the site boundary.

Figure 5: Ruderal and Ephemeral

5.1.6 Native hedgerow

5.1.6.1 The eastern boundary of the site is defined by a well-established hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) hedgerow. At the time of survey, the hedgerow appeared overgrown and unmanaged, with no evidence of recent flailing. The hedgerow's structure and composition suggest potential suitability for supporting nesting birds.

5.1.6.2 The understory of the hedgerow is sparsely vegetated, predominantly featuring common nettle, with occasional occurrences of forget-me-not (*Myosotis sylvatica*) and English ivy.

5.1.6.3 The eastern boundary lies adjacent to a non-native ornamental hedgerow comprising of Leyland cypress (*Cupressocyparis leylandii*). At the time of survey, this hedgerow was heavily managed and well-maintained. Heavy disturbance to the hedgerow limits the trees intrinsic ecological value and reduces its suitability for use by breeding birds. The hedgerow does provide potential suitability for use by foraging bats and creates a corridor of connectivity between the site and the adjacent deciduous woodland.

Figure 6: Native Hedgerow

5.2 Desktop Survey Results

5.2.1 Due to central location between districts consultation with Sheffield Biological Records Centre (SBRC) returned 2293 records from a 1km radius from the central grid reference and West Yorkshire Ecology (WYE) and West Yorkshire Bat Group (WYBG) returned 228 records from a 2 km radius from the central grid reference. The list of protected and notable species data records is available upon request. In summary, the following records were returned:

Table 3: Records found within the search radius.

Species	Total Number of Records (SBRC, WYE, WYBG)	Date	Notes
Bats	106	1986-2017	• 47 Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus)* • 7 Brown Long-Eared (*Plecotus auritus*) • 10 Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) • 26 Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) • 4 Natterer's (*Myotis nattereri*) • 12 Unknown Species
European Badger *(Meles meles)*	7	1975-2010	• The development site does not fall within an increased badger activity zone (WYE)
European Hare *(Lepus europaeus)*	1	N/A	• 1589m from central grid
Reptiles	1	1901	• Aged record of grass snake (*Natrix Helvetica)*
Hedgehog *(Erinaceus europaeus)*	4	1981-2019	• All records pertain to deceased individuals

5.2.2 Consultation with MAGIC maps returned no European Protected Species Mitigation Licences within a 1 km radius from grid.

5.2.3 No records for great crested newt presence were recorded within a 1km radius from grid via consultation with Natural England's eDNA pond surveys for District Level Licensing (England).

5.2.4 The site is located on the boundary of risk zones for Great Crested Newt, falling in both a Green and Amber risk zone for GCN when consulting with Natural England.

5.3 Designated Sites

5.3.1 Consultation with MAGIC Maps returned no Statutory Designated Site within the 1 km search radius from grid.

5.3.2 Consultation with Sheffield Biological Records Centre (SBRC) returned two Non-Statutory Designated sites within a 1km search radius from grid and consultation with West Yorkshire Ecology (WYE) returned three Non-Statutory Designated Site within the 2 km search radius from grid.

Table 4: Non-Statutory Sites within the Search Radius

Site Name	SBRC / WYE	Designation	Distance from Site
Cliffe Woods Park Quarry	WYE	Local Geological Site	1265m west
Deffer Wood	WYE	Local Wildlife Site	1100m southwest
Riding Wood	WYE	Local Wildlife Site	1300m west
Margery Wood	SBRC	Local Wildlife Site	235m southeast
Hoyland Bank Wood	SBRC	Local Wildlife Site	210m northwest

5.4 Priority Habitats and Priority Species

5.4.1 No priority habitats were recorded within the red line site boundary.

5.4.2 Two priority habitats were recorded outside the redline site boundary but within the search radius as displayed in table 5 below.

Table 5: Priority Habitats outside the Site Boundary but within the Search Radius

Habitat Type	Distance From Site
Deciduous Woodland	0 meters, directly adjacent to western boundary
Ancient Woodland	240 meters southeast

5.4.3 One protected species; English bluebell, is listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) was recorded within the site boundary. Recommendations have been provided in the conclusion of this report.

5.4.4 No non-native / invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) were recorded within the site boundary.

5.5 Protected Species

5.5.1 Breeding Birds

5.5.1.1 At the time of survey, no evidence of breeding birds was recorded within the site boundary. No historical evidence of breeding birds using the site was recorded within the site boundaries.

5.5.1.2 Within the site boundary the individual trees and native hedgerow has potential suitability to support breeding birds. Directly adjacent to the site boundaries, the overhanging trees and ornamental non-native hedgerow have further potential suitability for use by breeding birds.

5.5.1.3 Breeding birds may be impacted if works towards the trees and hedgerow onsite are proposed. Precautionary methods are recommended within the conclusion of this report.

5.5.2 Bats

5.5.2.1 Within the site boundaries, the trees were deemed negligible in suitability for use by roosing bats.

5.5.2.2 The trees and hedgerows within the site boundaries have potential suitability for use by foraging bats and provide potential commuting corridors to the wider area.

5.5.2.3 The immediate surroundings to the site constitute as a likely foraging or commuting ground, based on the habitat composition. The nearby area has been deemed to provide suitability for use by local bat populations for foraging and commuting. It is predicted that bats may be affected by disturbance levels.

5.5.2.4 A lighting scheme is considered for the development if additional lighting is proposed, with the aim of reducing light splay towards the mature trees adjacent to the site boundaries. The purpose of this scheme is to ensure a reduction in impacts towards the local bat population.

5.5.3 European Badger

5.5.3.1 No presence of badger was recorded within the site. No field sign evidence for badger was recorded within the site. Potential suitable habitat for use by badger was identified within the site boundaries.

5.5.3.2 The onsite modified grassland, trees and native hedgerow all provide suitable habitat for use by badgers. The soundings of the site provide further suitable habitat for use by badger and connectivity to the wider landscape.

5.5.3.3 Impacts towards badger are considered a possibility throughout the development of the site. Recommendation for precautionary methods are provided in the conclusion.

5.5.4 European Hedgehog

5.5.4.1 No presence of hedgehog was recorded within the site. No field sign evidence for hedgehog was recorded within the site. Potential suitable habitat for use by hedgehog was identified within the site boundaries.

5.5.4.2 Habitats on site provide suitable potential foraging habitat and refuge areas for hedgehog. The log piles and bark chippings scattered throughout the site provide refuge areas for hedgehog.

5.5.4.3 Impacts towards hedgehog are considered a possibility throughout the development of the site. Recommendation for precautionary methods are provided in the conclusion.

5.5.5 Riparian/Aquatic Mammals

5.5.5.1 No presence of aquatic mammals was recorded within the site. No field sign evidence for aquatic mammals was recorded within the site. The site is deemed negligible in suitability for use by aquatic mammals.

5.5.5.2 No terrestrial or aquatic habitat deemed suitable for use by aquatic mammals was recorded within the curtilage of the site or in the immediate environment.

5.5.5.3 No impacts towards aquatic mammals are anticipated for this development. No further surveys are recommended at this stage.

5.5.6 Amphibians

5.5.6.1 No presence of amphibians was recorded within the site. No field sign evidence for amphibians was recorded within the site. The site is deemed to offer potential suitability for use by amphibians.

5.5.6.2 On site, the hedgerows and line of trees provide suitable terrestrial habitat for use by amphibians. The piles of logs and bark chippings scattered through the side provide potential refugia areas for amphibians. The close proximity of the site to the deciduous woodland directly adjacent provides connectivity to the wider landscape.

5.5.6.3 The wider landscape incorporates compartments of woodland and hedgerows providing suitable terrestrial habitat and connectivity between habitat for use by amphibians. Ponds were detected outside the site, within a 500m radius from the central grid reference.

5.5.6.4 The site is noted to be within both a green and amber risk zone for great crested newt.

5.5.6.5 Impacts towards amphibians are considered a residual possibility throughout the development of the site. Precautionary methods have been recommended in the conclusion of this report.

5.5.7 Reptiles

5.5.7.1 No presence of reptiles was recorded within the site. No field sign evidence for reptiles was recorded within the site. The site is deemed to offer potential suitability for use by reptiles.

5.5.7.2 On site, the hedgerows and line of trees provide suitable terrestrial habitat for use by reptiles. The piles of logs and bark chippings scattered through the side provide potential refugia areas for reptiles. The close proximity of the site to the deciduous woodland directly adjacent provides connectivity to the wider landscape.

5.5.7.3 The wider landscape incorporates patches of woodland and hedgerows providing

suitable terrestrial habitat and connectivity between habitat for use by reptiles.

5.5.7.4 Impacts towards reptiles are considered a possibility throughout the development of the site. Precautionary methods have been recommended in the conclusion of this report.

5.5.8 Other species

5.5.8.1 The site does not support suitable habitat for any other protected or significant fauna, such as barn owl (*Tyto alba*), dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius)* or white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*). No impacts towards these species are anticipated.

6 Conclusions

6.1 Designated Sites

6.1.1 No Statutory Designated Site was recorded within the 1 km search radius.

6.1.2 Five Non-Statutory Designated Site was recorded within the 2 km search radius.

6.1.3 The site is recorded as being within three notable designated SSSI impact zones, namely Pye Flatts Meadows, Denby Grange Colliery Ponds and Dearne Valley Wetlands. Consultation with Natural England is not required for this site, as the predetermined impacts associated with the SSSI, as confirmed by Natural England, will not occur as a result of the proposed development.

6.2 Habitats and Vegetation

6.2.1 No priority habitats were recorded within the red line boundary.

6.2.2 Priority habitats recorded outside the site boundary included a deciduous woodland located directly adjacent to the site boundaries. Due to the close proximity a CEMP is recommended to mitigate any impacts to any protected species within the habitat.

6.2.3 No trees which are on the Ancient Tree Inventory were recorded on site.

6.2.4 One protected flora listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) was recorded during the survey, English bluebells. These species are protected against sale, advertising for sale, or uprooting for commercial purposes. However, destruction or damage resulting from redevelopment is not covered under the current legislation. It is recommended that every effort should be made to retain or replant the bulbs within the site boundaries wherever possible.

6.2.5 No non-native invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) were recorded during the survey.

6.3 Recommendations for Further Surveys / Mitigation

6.3.1 Birds

6.3.1.1 It is recommended that any onsite or overhanging trees proposed for removal or tree management works are subject to a breeding birds check prior to removal or further management. It is recommended any clearance of the vegetation suitable to support

breeding birds is conducted outside of the breeding bird season which is typically recognised as March to September (inclusive).

6.3.1.2 Should these timings not be feasible, then a walkover survey / breeding bird check prior to the commencement of works should be conducted in advance of the impactful works to ensure there are no impacts on breeding birds, their eggs or nests.

6.3.1.3 Should birds of any species be recorded nesting, breeding, or attempting to breed, then a suitable buffer should be erected as advised by a suitably qualified ecologist. The buffer should be retained until breeding has ceased and the young have fledged.

6.3.2 Bats

6.3.2.1 A lighting scheme is considered for the development if additional lighting is proposed, with the aim of reducing light splay towards the priority habitat deciduous woodland adjacent to the site boundaries and the onsite hedgerow and trees. The purpose of this scheme is to ensure a reduction in impacts towards the local bat population.

6.3.3 European Hedgehog, European Badger, Reptiles and Amphibians

6.3.3.1 Potential suitable habitat for use by badger was identified on site with a single mammal path, however no field sign evidence was identified including sett entrances, snuffle holes or latrines. Precautionary methods have been recommended to include a site walk over prior to commencement of works to ensure no encroachment of badger onto the site has occurred.

6.3.3.2 With respects to the site and its habitats, there is considered a residual potential for hedgehogs, reptiles and amphibians to be impacted during the works on site.

6.3.3.3 A precautionary method statement is recommended to mitigate any potential impacts towards any protected species, during the construction phase of the site.

6.3.3.4 Refugia piles of bark and logs on site are to be dismantled by hand and removed from site immediately to prevent further habitat being created.

6.3.3.5 If such species is encountered during the construction phase of development, works on site should cease and a suitably qualified ecologist consulted.

6.3.4 Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)

6.3.4.1 Due to the presence of sensitive ecological receptors within close proximity of the site, a CEMP is deemed necessary.

6.3.4.2 A Construction Environmental Management plan is considered to be required to mitigate for any impacts associated with the construction phase of development, namely dust, and water runoff. Any impacts via noise, vibration and light are also recommended to be addressed in a CEMP to mitigate the use of the adjacent priority habitat deciduous woodland and surrounding habitats for use by protected species, such as commuting / foraging local bat populations.

7 Biodiversity Enhancement & Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

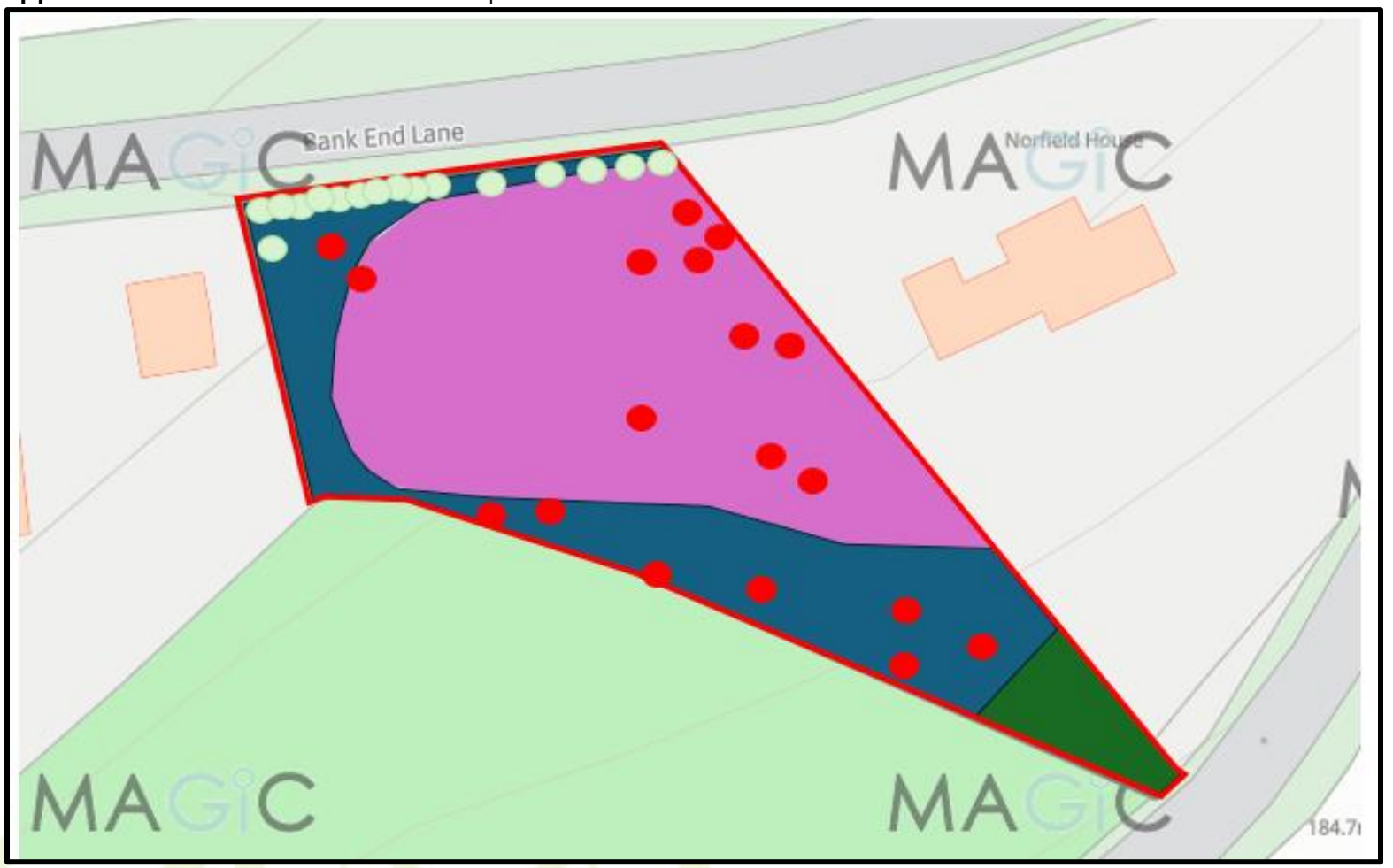
7.1 In line with the National planning Policy Framework (2024) the application should demonstrate biodiversity enhancements. Upon finalisation of plans, calculations can be compiled.

7.2 Due to the size of the site and location, applicable specific habitat enhancements could include:

- Bat and bird boxes are integrated into the scheme design on suitable buildings if proposed to enhance roosting provision over the wider site.
- A planting scheme should be implemented within the scheme to create a green space within the site. Plantings should comprise native species of high biodiversity value.
- Boundary features should be kept open and allow passage for small mammals such as hedgehogs.

7.3 In line with national policy, developments submitted for planning after the 12th of February 2024, with some exceptions, are expected to achieve a 10% net gain minimum increase in site biodiversity value from the existing baseline assessment.

Appendix One: Phase One Habitat Map



Phase One Habitat Map Key	
	Modified grassland with scattered bracken
	Bramble Scrub
	Tall Forbs
	Felled Tree
	Individual Tree

Appendix Two: Species list (on site)

Vernacular	Taxon
Flora	
Alder	*Alnus glutinosa*
Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*
Bracken	*Pteridium aquilinum*
Bramble	*Rubus fruticosus*
Broad-Leaved Dock	*Rumex obtusifolius*
Cleavers	*Galium aparine*
Common Dandelion	*Taraxacum officinale*
Common Nettle	*Urtica dioica*
Elder	*Sambucus nigra*
English Bluebell	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*
English Ivy	*Hedera helix*
Forget-me-not	*Myosotis sylvatica*
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*
Hogweed	*Heracleum sphondylium*
Holly	*Ilex aquifolium*
Honeysuckle	*Lonicera periclymenum*
Oak	*Quercus robur*
Perennial Rye Grass	*Lolium perenne*
Privet	*Ligustrum ovalifolium*
Rosebay Willowherb	*Chamaenerion angustifolium*
Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*

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