

# Preliminary Ecological Appraisal



**Liley Farm, Barnsley**  
**8th May 2024**



**Tyler  
Grange**

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## Summary

- S.1. This report has been prepared by Tyler Grange Group Ltd on behalf of Marsdens Farms Ltd. This report sets out the findings of a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal relating to an existing agricultural building located at Liley Farm, Millhouse Green, Barnsley (OS Grid Reference SE 21525 02304), hereafter referred to as 'the site'.
- S.2. This report describes: the important ecological features that could be affected by the proposed development, identified through desk study and a site survey of the site in question; known potential ecological constraints which may need to be considered at the time of any planning application for the site: and identifies the opportunities for ecological enhancements.
- S.3. **Protected Sites:** All statutory and non-statutory designated sites are considered to be a sufficient distance from the site and no physically or functionally linked to the site. As such, no impacts are expected on any designated sites, and no mitigation is required to this regard.
- S.4. **Habitats:** All habitats present on site are of **negligible ecological importance**, as the site comprises entirely artificial built form, which offers no biodiversity value. As such, no specific mitigation is required to this regard, and it is considered that a biodiversity net gain (BNG) assessment would not be required on account of the baseline biodiversity value of the site being 0.00 units.
- S.5. Potential effects on protected and priority species:
- **Bats:** The existing agricultural building on site is considered to offer low potential to support roosting bat species, and as such should be subject to a minimum of one nocturnal emergence survey within May-September (inclusive) prior to the commencement of internal alterations/refurbishment.
- S.6. It is considered that providing the mitigation measures detailed in this assessment are implemented successfully, there can be confidence that the development would be compliant with relevant legislation and local/national planning policy relating to nature conservation.



## Section 1: Introduction

### Introduction

- 1.1. This report has been prepared by Tyler Grange Group Ltd on behalf of Marsdens Farms Ltd. This report sets out the findings of a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal an existing agricultural building located at Liley Farm, Millhouse Green, Barnsley (OS Grid Reference SE 21525 02304), hereafter referred to as 'the site'. **Figure 1.1** illustrates the red line boundary, as well as the wider ownership boundary (shown in blue).



**Figure 1.1. Red line boundary (red), wider ownership (blue) (© Google Aerial Imagery 2024)**

- 1.2. Site proposals relate to the change of use of this existing agricultural building to a water bottling facility. Internal alterations will be necessary to accommodate the proposed use and permission for any associated external alterations will be obtained at the relevant time.
- 1.3. The wider area of land under ownership was originally surveyed as part of the ecological survey detailed within this report, however the report findings relate solely to the redline boundary illustrated above.

### Purpose

- 1.4. This report:



- Uses available background data and results of the field surveys to describe and evaluate the ecological features present within the likely “Zone of Influence”<sup>1</sup> (Zol) of potential development of the site; and
- With reference to relevant planning policy and legislation (**Appendix 1**), describes the actual or potential ecological issues and opportunities that might arise as a result of the site’s development, or identifies issues that could affect the principle or quantum of development the site could support.

1.5. This assessment and the terminology used are consistent with the Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal<sup>2</sup>.

## Methodology

1.6. Full methods for the data search, phase 1/UK Habitat Classification (UK Habs) survey, and Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment (PBRA) can be found in **Appendix 2**.

## Quality Control

1.7. All ecologists at Tyler Grange Group Limited are members of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) or are working towards membership and act under the direction of members, and abide by the Institute’s Code of Professional Conduct<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Defined by the CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment as the area over which ecological features may be affected by biophysical changes as a result of the proposed project and associated activities. This is likely to extend beyond the project site, for example where there are ecological or hydrological links beyond the site boundaries

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

<sup>3</sup> CIEEM (2022) Code of Professional Conduct, CIEEM, Winchester



## Section 2: Ecological Features and Potential Impacts, Mitigation, and Enhancement

### Designated Sites

- 2.1. The data search returned two Natura 2000 sites within 10 km of the site, and nine statutory and non-statutory designated sites within 2 km of the site. These are detailed in **Table 2.1** over the page, along with potential impacts and mitigation measures which may be required.



Table 2.1. Designated Sites

| Designated site                                                                                | Distance and direction from site | Ecological Importance | Potential Impacts and Requirement for Mitigation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC)                                         | 2.27km SW                        | International         | The site is a sufficient distance from this SAC, and is not physically or functionally linked in any way. As such, no impacts on the designation are expected, and no mitigation is required. None of the operations proposed are likely to result in emissions or abstraction that could adversely affect the SAC.              |
| Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase I) Special Protection Area (SPA)                | 2.27km SW                        | International         | The site is a sufficient distance from this SPA, and is not physically or functionally linked in any way. As such, no impacts on the designation are expected, and no mitigation is required.                                                                                                                                    |
| Spring Meadows, Alderman’s Head & Cow Croft Meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) | 1.09km SE                        | National              | The site is a sufficient distance from this SPA / SSSI, and is not physically or functionally linked in any way. As such, no impacts on the designation are expected, and no mitigation is required. None of the operations proposed are likely to result in emissions or abstraction that could adversely affect the SPA /SSSI. |
| Little Don Stream Section SSSI                                                                 | 1.81km SE                        | National              | The site is a sufficient distance from this SSSI, and is not physically or functionally linked in any way. As such, no impacts on the designation are expected, and no mitigation is required. None of the operations proposed are likely to result in emissions or abstraction that could adversely affect the SSSI.            |
| Does Hartcliff Hill Local Wildlife Site (LWS)                                                  | 520m E                           | County                | The site is a sufficient distance from this LWS, and is not physically or functionally linked in any way. As such, no impacts on the designation are expected, and no mitigation is required.                                                                                                                                    |
| Brock Holes LWS                                                                                | 1.13km SE                        | County                | The site is a sufficient distance from this LWS, and is not physically or functionally linked in any way. As such, no impacts on the designation are expected, and no mitigation is required.                                                                                                                                    |
| Westfield Lane Quarry LWS                                                                      | 1.43km NE                        | County                | The site is a sufficient distance from this LWS, and is not physically or functionally linked in any way. As such, no impacts on the designation are expected, and no mitigation is required.                                                                                                                                    |
| Thurlstone Bank LWS                                                                            | 1.47km N                         | County                | The site is a sufficient distance from this LWS, and is not physically or functionally linked in any way. As such, no impacts on the designation are expected, and no mitigation is required.                                                                                                                                    |
| Small Shaw and High Bank LWS                                                                   | 1.68km N                         | County                | The site is a sufficient distance from this LWS, and is not physically or functionally linked in any way. As such, no impacts on the designation are expected, and no mitigation is required.                                                                                                                                    |
| Hollin and Spring Woods LWS                                                                    | 1.84km SE                        | County                | The site is a sufficient distance from this LWS, and is not physically or functionally linked in any way. As such, no impacts on the designation are expected, and no mitigation is required.                                                                                                                                    |
| Western Moors LWS                                                                              | 1.92km W                         | County                | The site is a sufficient distance from this LWS, and is not physically or functionally linked in any way. As such, no impacts on the designation are expected, and no mitigation is required.                                                                                                                                    |





## Habitats and Protected Species

- 2.2. The habitats and presence of, or potential for, protected species that could be affected by the proposed development are summarised below in **Tables 2.2** and **2.3** respectively. Species which are considered likely absent from the site based on professional judgement following consideration of the habitats within the site, signs of species presence at the time of survey and data search records, are not discussed. The locations of habitats are shown on the Habitats Features Plan **16598/P01**.



Table 2.2. Habitats, their Importance, Potential Impacts and Mitigation/Enhancement Opportunities

| Habitats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority <sup>4</sup> species | Constraints                                                                                                                      | Potential Impacts and Mitigation/Enhancement Opportunities | Photograph                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Buildings (u1b5)</b></p> <p>A complex of agricultural buildings is present across the wider ownership totalling eight distinct units, with a single unit, Building 4 (B4), present within the red line boundary. A full description along with an assessment of this building’s suitability to support protected species is provided in <b>Table 2.3</b>.</p> | <p>Negligible</p>                                                             | <p>This habitat has no inherent biodiversity value, and therefore there are no ecological constraints for this habitat type.</p> | <p>No mitigation required.</p>                             |  |

<sup>4</sup> Priority species and habitats are those listed at Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2005. Section 40 of the NERC Act puts a duty on local authorities to have regard for the conservation of these species, including when considering planning allocations and applications.



Table 2.3. Fauna (including Protected/Priority Species) their Importance, Potential Impacts and Mitigation/Enhancement Opportunities

| Fauna (including Protected/Priority Species)                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority <sup>5</sup> species | Constraints                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Potential Impacts and Mitigation/Enhancement Opportunities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Photograph                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Roosting Bats</b></p> <p>Sheffield Biological Records Centre (SBRC) returned records of pipistrelle sp. <i>Pipistrellus</i>, Daubenton’s bat <i>Myotis daubentonii</i>, and unidentified bat <i>Chiroptera</i> within 2km of the site in the last 20 years.</p> | <p>Building 4 (B4) – <b>Low suitability</b> for roosting bat species</p>      | <p>Large rectangular barn. Lower walls are constructed from breezeblock with metal cladding above. Corrugated roof with clear panels. Solar panels are present on southern elevation. No internal access.</p> <p>Preliminary Roost Features (PRFs) were limited to small gaps beneath the corrugated roof offering access/egress to the inside of the building. No other PRFs were observed, and as such the building is considered to only offer potential to support individual bats on an occasional/opportunistic basis.</p> | <p>Prior to internal alterations, this building should be subject to a single nocturnal emergence surveys, carried out within the months of May-September inclusive.</p> <p>Should a bat roost be discovered in the building, two additional characterization nocturnal surveys would be required to inform a license application, which would have to be made to Natural England in order to properly mitigate the loss of a roost prior to the start of works.</p> |  |

2.3. None of the habitats within the site were deemed likely to provide resources for any other protected species.

<sup>5</sup> Priority species and habitats are those listed at Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2005. Section 40 of the NERC Act puts a duty on local authorities to have regard for the conservation of these species, including when considering planning allocations and applications.



## Section 3: Conclusions and Recommended Further Work

### Key Issues

3.1. The key impacts of the development are as follows.

- **Designated Sites:** All statutory and non-statutory designated sites are considered to be a sufficient distance from the site and not physically or functionally linked to the site. As such, no impacts are expected on any designated sites, and no mitigation is required to this regard.
- **Habitats:** All habitats present on site are of **negligible ecological importance**, as the site comprises entirely artificial built form, which offers no biodiversity value. As such, no specific mitigation is required to this regard, and it is considered that a biodiversity net gain (BNG) assessment would not be required on account of the baseline biodiversity value of the site being 0.00 units. The site would therefore fall under the de minimis exemption.
- **Bats:** The building on site is considered to have low potential to support roosting bats, and as such should be subject to a minimum of one nocturnal emergence survey within May-September (inclusive) prior to the commencement of internal alterations/refurbishment.

### Potential Further Work

3.2. Further surveys which will be required prior to the commencement of works on site are set out in **Table 3.1** below.

**Table 3.1. Further Surveys and Timing of Surveys.**

| Survey                         | Visits and timings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bat emergence/re-entry surveys | <p>Single visit within the months of May-September (inclusive) for the building on site, determined to provide 'low potential' for roosting bats.</p> <p>Should this survey determine the presence of a roost within the building, additional nocturnal survey effort would be required in order to characterize the roost and inform a license application to Natural England.</p> |

### Conclusion

3.3. It is considered that providing the mitigation measures detailed in this assessment are implemented successfully, there can be confidence that the development proposals would be compliant with relevant legislation and local/national planning policy relating to nature conservation.



# Appendix 1: Legislation and Planning Policy

## Legislation

- A1.1. Specific habitats and species receive legal protection in the UK under various pieces of legislation, including:
- The Environment Act 2021;
  - The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended);
  - The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended);
  - The Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000;
  - The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006;
  - The Hedgerows Regulations 1997; and
  - The Protection of Badgers Act 1992.
- A1.2. The European Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna, 1992, often referred to as the 'Habitats Directive', provides for the protection of key habitats and species considered of European importance. Annexes II and IV of the Directive list all species considered of community interest. The legal framework to protect the species covered by the Habitats Directive has been enacted under UK law through The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).
- A1.3. In Britain, the WCA 1981 (as amended) is the primary legislation protecting habitats and species. SSSIs, representing the best examples of our natural heritage, are notified under the WCA 1981 (as amended) by reason of their flora, fauna, geology or other features. All breeding birds, their nests, eggs and young are protected under the Act, which makes it illegal to knowingly destroy or disturb the nest site during nesting season. Schedules 1, 5 and 8 afford protection to individual birds, other animals and plants.
- A1.4. The CROW Act 2000 strengthens the species enforcement provisions of the WCA 1981 (as amended) and makes it an offence to 'recklessly' disturb a protected animal whilst it is using a place of rest or shelter or breeding/nest site.

### **Environment Act 2021: Upcoming Town and Country Planning Act**

- A1.5. The Environment Act gained Royal Assent in November 2022. Whilst the premise of BNG has been around prior to this, the Assent of the Act sets the Framework for future legislation to be changed. This will be in the form of the Town and Country Planning Act (TaCPA), specifically Schedule 14 of the TaCPA, which will make Biodiversity Net Gain a condition of planning (not a planning condition). The target 'gain' is currently set at 10% but the Secretary of State has the ability to change this.
- A1.6. The timescales for changes to the wording of the TaCPA are that it will be legally mandated and enforceable from November 2023.



## Natural Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) Circular 06/2005: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation - Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System

- A1.7. ODPM Circular 06/05 was prepared to accompany PPS9, however continues to be valid, and material in the consideration of planning applications since PPS9's replacement by the NPPF.
- A1.8. ODPM Circular 06/05 provides guidance on applying legislation in relation to nature conservation and planning in England. Part I considers the legal protection and conservation of internationally designated sites (namely candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs), SACs, potential Special Protection Areas (pSPAs), SPAs and Ramsar sites) and Part II considers the legal protection and conservation of nationally designated sites, namely Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).
- A1.9. Part III considers the protection of habitats and species outside of designated areas (particularly UK Biodiversity Action Plan species and habitats, which it states are capable of being a material consideration in the preparation of local development documents and the making of planning decisions.
- A1.10. Part IV considers species protected by law and states that the presence of a protected species is a material consideration in the consideration of a development proposal that, if carried out, would be likely to result in harm to the species or its habitat and that it is essential that the presence or otherwise of protected species, and the extent that they may be affected by the proposed development, is established before the planning permission is granted.

## National Planning Policy

### National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), updated December 2023

- A1.11. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was updated in July 2021 and sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It replaces the National Planning Policy Framework published in July 2019.
- A1.12. Paragraph 11 states that:
- “Plans and decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development.”*
- A1.13. Section 15 of the NPPF (paragraphs 180 to 188) considers the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment including habitats and biodiversity (paragraphs 185-188)
- A1.14. Paragraph 180 states that planning and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:
- *“protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);*
  - *recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland; and*



- *minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures”*

A1.15. Paragraph 181 states that *plans should distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.*

A1.16. Paragraph 185 states that *in order to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:*

- *“Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and*
- *promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.”*

A1.17. When determining planning applications, Paragraph 186 states that *local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by applying the following principles:*

- *“if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;*
- *development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;*
- *development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and*
- *development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.”*

A1.18. As stated in paragraph 187 the following should be given the same protection as habitats sites:

- *“potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;*
- *listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and*
- *sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.”*



- A1.19. Paragraph 188 states that *the presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where the planned project is likely to have a significant effect on a habitat site (alone or in combination with other plans or projects) unless an appropriate assessment has concluded the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the habitats site.*

## Local Planning Policy

### Barnsley Local Plan – Adopted January 2019

- A1.20. Policy GI1 Green Infrastructure

*We will protect, maintain, enhance and create an integrated network of connected and multi functional Green Infrastructure assets that:*

*Provides attractive environments where people want to live, work, learn, play, visit and invest;*

*Meets the environmental, social and economic needs of communities across the borough and the wider City Regions;*

*Enhances the quality of life for present and future residents and visitors;*

*Helps to meet the challenge of climate change;*

*Enhances biodiversity and landscape character;*

*Improves opportunities for recreation and tourism;*

*Respects local distinctiveness and historical and cultural heritage;*

*Maximises potential economic and social benefits; and*

*Secures and improves linkages between green and blue spaces;*

*At a strategic level Barnsley's Green Infrastructure network includes the following corridors which are shown on the Green Infrastructure Diagram:*

*River Dearne Valley Corridor.*

*River Dove Valley Corridor.*

*River Don Valley Corridor.*

*Dearne Valley Green Heart Corridor.*

*Historic Landscape Corridor.*

*The network of Green Infrastructure will be secured by protecting open space, creating new open spaces as part of new development, and by using developer contributions to create and improve Green Infrastructure.*

*We have produced a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Barnsley which is informed by the Leeds City Region and South Yorkshire Green Infrastructure Strategies.*





#### A1.21. Policy BIO1 Biodiversity and Geodiversity

*Development will be expected to conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geological features of the borough by:*

*Protecting and improving habitats, species, sites of ecological value and sites of geological value with particular regard to designated wildlife and geological sites of international, national and local significance, ancient woodland and species and habitats of principal importance identified via Section 41 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 (for list of the species and habitats of principal importance) and in the Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan.*

*Maximising biodiversity and geodiversity opportunities in and around new developments.*

*Conserving and enhancing the form, local character and distinctiveness of the boroughs natural assets such as the river corridors of the Don, the Dearne and Dove as natural floodplains and important strategic wildlife corridors.*

*Proposals will be expected to have followed the national mitigation hierarchy (avoid, mitigate, compensate) which is used to evaluate the impacts of a development on biodiversity interest.*

*Protecting ancient and veteran trees where identified.*

*Encouraging provision of biodiversity enhancements.*

*Development which may harm a biodiversity or geological feature or habitat, including ancient woodland and aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, will not be permitted unless effective mitigation and/or compensatory measures can be ensured.*

*Development which adversely effects a European Site will not be permitted unless there is no alternative option and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI).*

A1.22. Policies relating to ecology and nature conservation can be found in Chapter 8: Green Infrastructure and Natural Environment, which are summarised as follows:

#### **Barnsley Biodiversity Actions Plans<sup>6</sup>**

A1.23. Species Action Plans:

- |                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| • Farmland birds | • Reedbed birds        |
| • Birds of prey  | • Water birds          |
| • Upland birds   | • Birds & buildings    |
| • Woodland birds | • Shrubs & scrub birds |
| • Wetland birds  | • Bat species          |

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.barnsleybiodiversity.org.uk/biodiversityplan.html>



- Harvest mouse
- Hares
- Hedgehog
- Otter
- Water vole
- Common toad
- Great crested newt
- Grass snake
- Common lizard
- Brown trout
- European eel
- Atlantic salmon

A1.24. Habitat Action Plans:

- Woodland
- Grassland
- Arable field margins
- Hedgerow
- Heathlands
- Blanket bog
- Wetlands
- Running water
- Standing water
- Previously developed land
- Built-up areas



## Appendix 2: Methodology and Results

### Data Search

- A2.1. A desk-based study was conducted whereby records of designated sites and records of protected and priority species were purchased and interrogated for the site and the surrounding landscape. The aim of the data search is to collate existing ecological records for the site and adjacent areas. Obtaining existing records is an important part of the assessment process as it provides information on issues that may not be apparent during a single survey, which by its nature provides only a 'snapshot' of the ecology of a given site.
- A2.2. The following resources were consulted/contacted:
- Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the countryside (MAGIC) website<sup>7</sup>;
  - Sheffield Biological Records Centre (SBRC)<sup>8</sup>; (Data received March 2024);
  - Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council website<sup>9</sup>;
  - Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) website<sup>10</sup>,
  - Natural England (NE) designated sites website<sup>11</sup>,
  - Ordnance Survey mapping; and
  - Google Maps, including aerial photography.
- A2.3. The following areas of search around the boundary of the site boundary were applied:
- 2 km for bat records;
  - 2 km for protected and priority species, national statutory designated and non-statutory sites; and
  - 10 km for European statutory sites.

### 'Extended' Phase I Survey and UK Habs

- A2.4. An 'extended' Phase 1 survey was carried out on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 by Emily Macfarlan and Mike Bryant, both suitably experienced field ecologists and members of CIEEM. The methods used during the walkover survey broadly followed methods used in an 'extended' Phase I habitat survey<sup>12</sup> and entailed recording the main plant species and

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<sup>7</sup> Accessed March 2024

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/parks-sport-recreation/sheffield-biological-records-centre>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://jncc.gov.uk/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.natural-england.org.uk/>

<sup>12</sup>



classifying and mapping habitat types with reference to the Habitat Definitions provided by the UK Habitat Classification Working Group<sup>13</sup>.

- A2.5. Additionally, the habitats identified were evaluated for their potential to support legally protected and notable fauna species. Where access allowed, adjacent habitats were also considered in order to assess the site within the wider landscape and to provide information with which to assess possible impacts within the context of the site boundary.

## Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment (PBRA)

- A2.6. A PBRA was undertaken on all buildings of relevance to this assessment. The assessment was undertaken on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024, and was also conducted by Emily Macfarlan (Bat license ref. 2021-52065-CLS-CLS) and Mike Bryant (bat license ref. (2016-22617-CLS-CLS). The survey was a daytime inspection and the conditions for the survey was considered optimal. All buildings were inspected from the ground using binoculars and high-powered torch for accessible features.
- A2.7. The potential of each building at the site and immediately adjacent to the site to support roosting bats have been categorised against the criteria described in **Table A2.1**.

**Table A2.1. Roost Assessment Criteria**

| Suitability | Description of Roosting Habitats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Negligible  | Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Low         | A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically. 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 (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity or hibernation). |
| 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 long periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection conditions and surrounding habitat.                                                                                                                          |

- A2.8. Results of the PBRA are shown in **Section 2** of this report.

## Evaluation

- A2.9. The evaluation of habitats and species is defined in accordance with published guidance. The scale of importance of each ecological feature is assigned within a defined geographical context, namely international and European, national, regional, county, and local. Below these are features considered to be of negligible importance.
- A2.10. Consideration will also be given to legally protected or controlled species which are 'important features' in the context of this assessment, for which mitigation measures are required to ensure legal compliance, regardless of their



geographic scale of importance. Thus, it is possible for a feature of negligible ecological importance to be legally protected and hence require mitigation.

- A2.11. Evaluation is based on various characteristics that can be used to identify ecological features likely to be important in terms of biodiversity. These include site designations (such as Sites of Species Scientific Interest (SSSIs), or for undesignated features, the size, conservation status (locally, nationally or internationally), and the quality of the ecological feature. In terms of the latter, quality can refer to habitats (for instance if they are particularly diverse, or a good example of a specific habitat type), other features (such as wildlife corridors or mosaics of habitats) or species populations or assemblages.

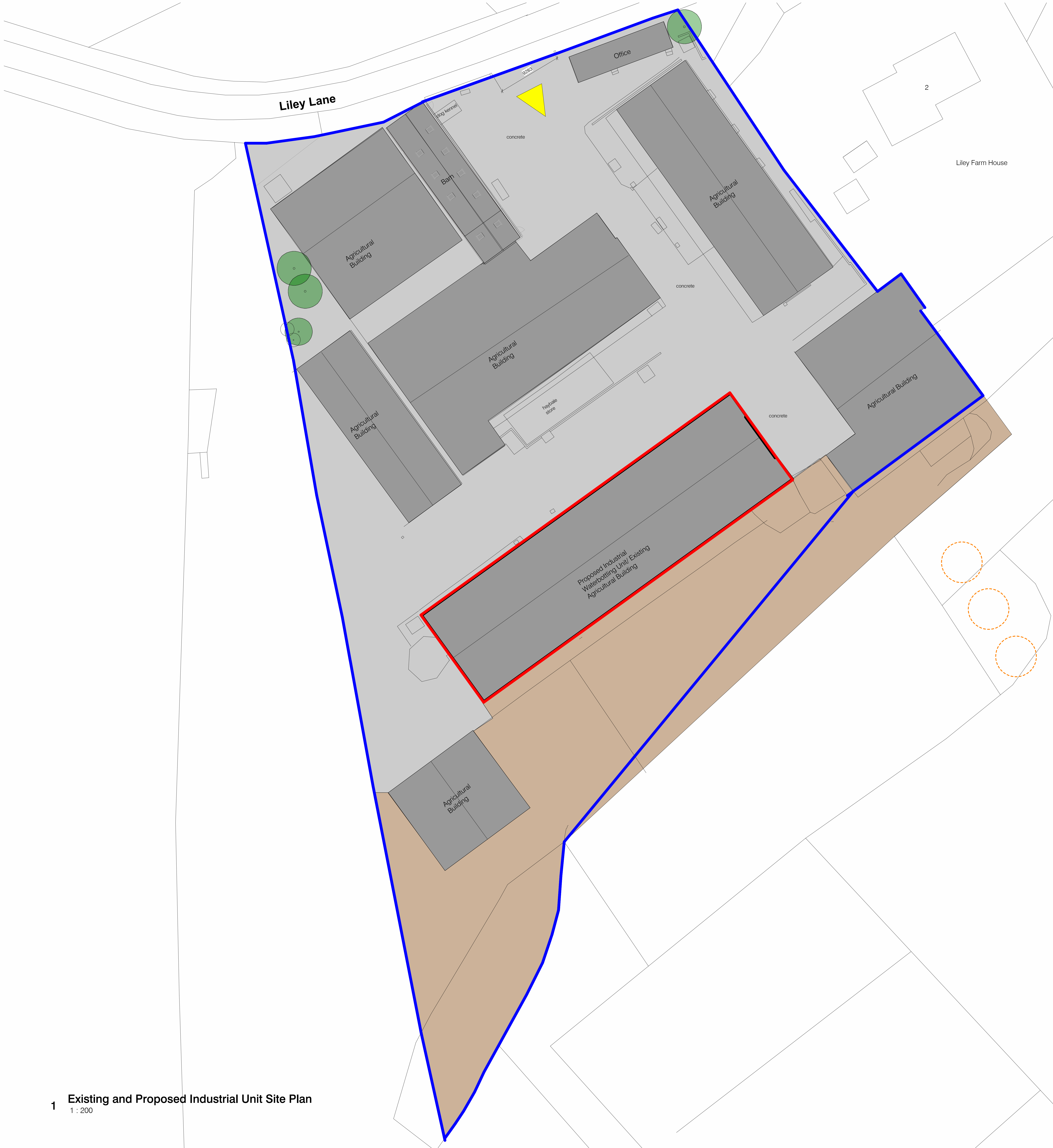


## Appendix 3: Site Proposals

22328-FSA-IU-SI-DR-A-1003\_P02 - Existing and Proposed Industrial Unit Site Plan







024816

Scale 1: 200

Status

PLANNING

Architects are to be notified of any discrepancies. Contractors must check all dimensions on site. This drawing is subject to copyright laws and is for use on this project only. This drawing is to be used solely for the information as titled only. For other information refer to the latest revision of any cross referenced drawings. To be read in conjunction with relevant design standards/protocols. This is a colour drawing. In order to ensure any subsequent reproduction is viewed correctly it should be printed in full colour. No Survey Information Available. Shown As Indicative Only. TBC On Site By Contractor

Key

Site Ownership

Site Boundary

Existing Hard-Landscaping to be retained

Existing Soft-Landscaping to be retained

Entrance

Borehole ( Borehole locations shown indicatively)

| Industrial Unit GIA     |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Name                    | Area   |
| Industrial Level 00 GIA | 820 m² |

| Industrial Unit GEA     |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Name                    | Area   |
| Industrial Level 00 GEA | 856 m² |

1

Existing and Proposed Industrial Unit Site Plan

1 : 200

P02 Issued for Planning 19.03.24 MT

P01 Preliminary Issue 14.03.24 MT

No. Revision Date RPS

JOB

LILEY FARM

Drawing

Existing and Proposed Industrial Unit Site Plan

Client

MARSDEN DEVELOPMENTS

FRANK SHAW ASSOCIATES LIMITED ARCHITECTS

www.frankshawassociates.co.uk

Chesterfield 01246 233 255

Cambridge 01223 838 100

Leeds 0113 512 7510

Scale

1:200@A0

Drawn/Checked

MT/HC

Job Number

22328

Date

MAR 2024

Drawing Number

22328-FSA-IU-SI-DR-A-1003

Rev

P02



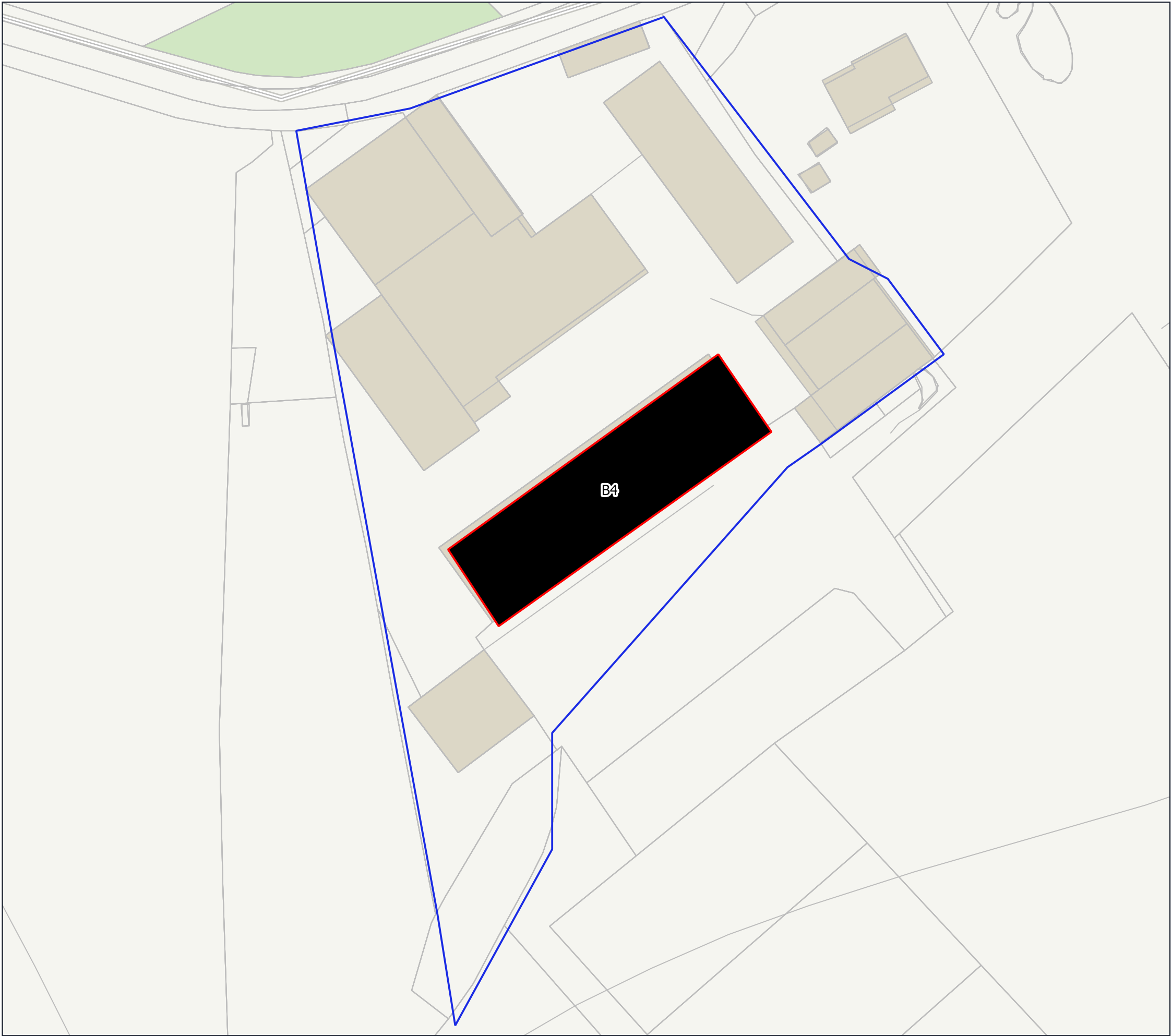
## Plans:

Plan 1: Habitat Features Plan **16598/P01**

Plan 2: PBRA Results Plan **16598/P02**







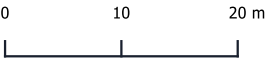
Legend

Boundaries

-  Application Redline Boundary
-  Land Under Applicant's Control

Baseline - Polygon Habitats

-  Buildings

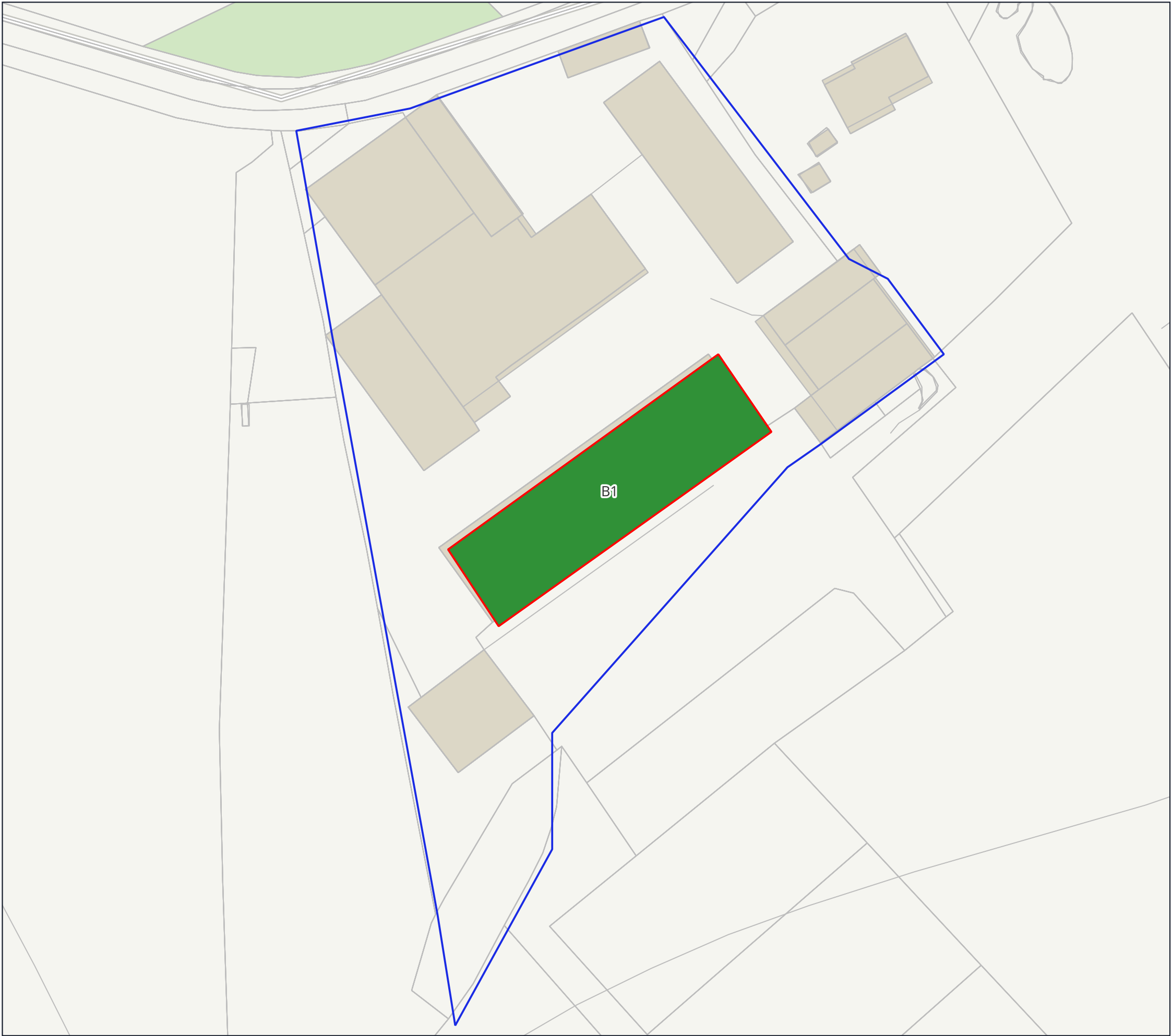


|               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Project       | Lley Farm, Barnsley    |
| Drawing Title | Habitat Features Plan  |
| Scale         | As Shown (Approximate) |
| Drawing No.   | 16598/P01              |
| Date          | March 2024             |
| Checked       | DP/JM                  |



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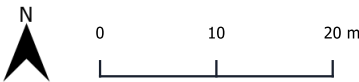
Legend

Boundaries

- Application Redline Boundary
- Land Under Ownership

PBRA Results

- Building - Negligible Potential
- Building - Low Potential
- Building - Moderate Potential
- Building - High Potential



|               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Project       | Lley Farm, Barnsley    |
| Drawing Title | PBRA Results Plan      |
| Scale         | As Shown (Approximate) |
| Drawing No.   | 16598/P02              |
| Date          | March 2024             |
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