Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.

BACK LANE – GARDEN HOUSE CLOSE, BARNSLEY.

OS REF: SE 36263 08089

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL.

Ref No: **180757.**

Date: **8th September 2018.**

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. There are plans to demolish the existing buildings on the site off Back Lane and Garden House Close, Barnsley and to construct new houses on the site.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd has been commissioned to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the site in support of a planning application for the site.

1.3. The initial site survey was carried out on 3rd September 2018 and this recommended a further dusk emergence survey for roosting bats. That dusk emergence survey was carried out on 4th September 2018. This report outlines the findings of both surveys and makes appropriate recommendations.

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

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2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.

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

2.2. The survey area was walked where access was agreed and public rights of way were used where no access was agreed. All habitats within and immediately around the survey area were documented and the dominant species within that habitat listed in line with the JNCC Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat surveys.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.7. The survey area was searched for mature trees and derelict buildings and where found these were checked for potential bat roosting sites in line with Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edition)* by looking for the following signs: -

* Holes, cracks or crevices.
* Bat Droppings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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3. SURVEY RESULTS.

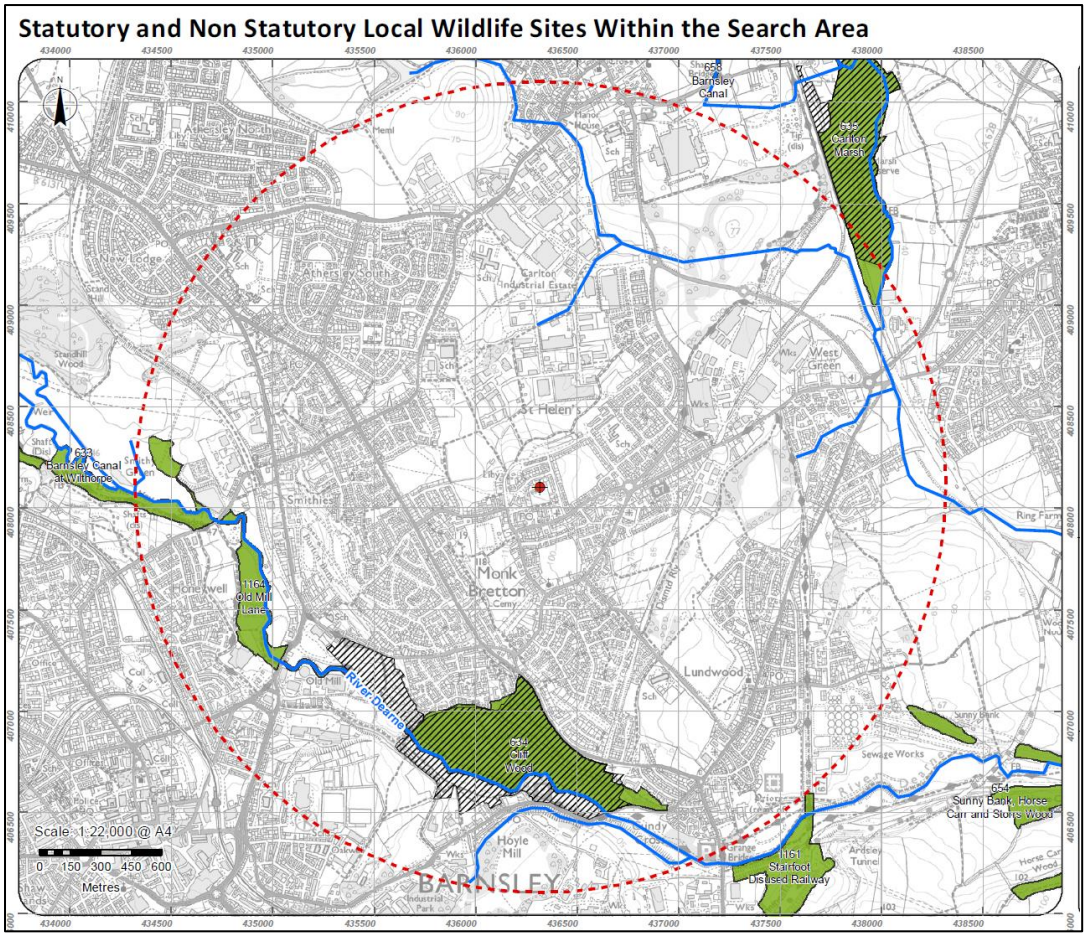
3.1. Data Search Results.

3.1.1. Three data searches were carried out in line with the Barnsley Council requirements.

3.1.2. Barnsley Biological Records Centre provided the following map showing designated sites within 2km of the survey area. The closest sites are Cliff Wood, a Local Nature reserve and Local Wildlife Site some 0.9km south of the site and Carlton Marsh LNR and LWS some 1.8km northeast of the site.

3.1.3. The species list provided included abundant species records, mainly for the locally designated sites but none relevant to the site.

3.1.4. The full data search is confidential and extensive. A copy is available on request.



3.1.5. South Yorkshire Bat Group provided numerous records of foraging bats and injured bats. The records include a significant Daubenton's roost in the town but no roost records close to the survey area.

3.1.6. South Yorkshire Badger Group hold no records for the area. The e-mail response is shown in the Appendices of this report.

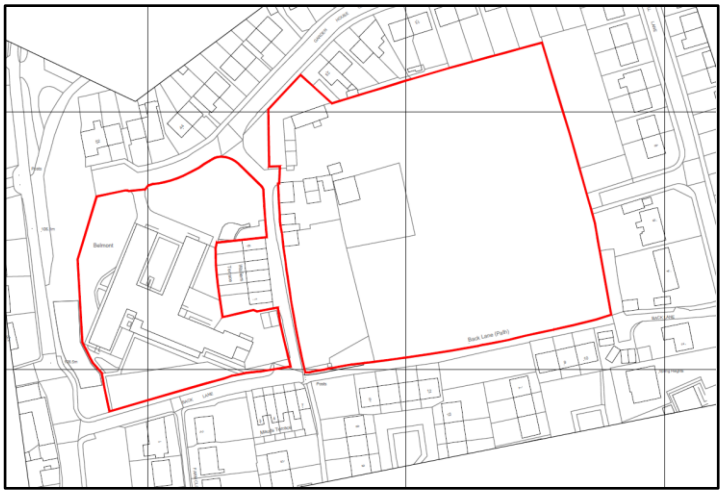
3.2. The Surveyed Area.

3.2.1. The aerial photograph below shows the location of the site shown by the yellow arrow, and the surrounding area.

3.2.2. The site lies to the northeast of Barnsley town centre surrounded by residential areas and with commercial and industrial units to the north.



3.2.3. The site comprises two distinct sections. The western section is an old nursing home that is no longer used. The eastern section is an old farm, with farmhouse, farm buildings and a field.



3.3. Description of Habitats.

Appendix III of this report contains annotated maps marked up with the varying habitats that are cross referenced to target notes in Appendix IV of this report. The habitats on and adjacent to the site are: -

- Dense Scrub.
- Parkland Scattered Trees – Broadleaved.
- Improved Grassland.
- Tall Ruderals.
- Introduced Shrubs.
- Fence.
- Wall.
- Buildings.
- Bare Ground.

3.3.1. Dense Scrub.

3.3.1.1. There are extensive areas of scrub across the site, most comprising dense bramble (*Rubus fruticosus)* that is encroaching onto the site from all site boundaries.



3.3.1.2. The photograph below is typical and shows bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) scrub encroaching onto the northern site boundary of the grassland.



3.3.2. Scattered Scrub.

The main area of scattered scrub is within the farm area where there is bare ground, most used to keep pigs but with areas of buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*) scrub, as shown below.



3.3.3. Parkland Scattered Trees – Broadleaved.

3.3.3.1. There are a number of individual trees on the site. In the farm area there is a row of six poplar trees *(Populus × canadensis*) shown below.



3.3.3.2. There are also a number of isolated, semi-mature sycamore (*Acer pseudoplantus*) trees across the site, a typical example shown below.



3.3.4. Improved Grassland.

3.3.4.1. The eastern end of the site is a large grazing field that has become neglected. The range of species is very limited with the predominant species present being false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), with creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus Repens*), nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus).*



3.3.4.2. The grassland around the nursing home at the western end of the site contains a greater variety of species including false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), dock (*Rumex sp*.), thistle (*Cirsium sp(p))* and nettle (*Urtica dioica*).



3.3.5. Tall Ruderals.

3.3.5.1. There is an area of tall ruderals in the area adjacent to the old farm and in part beneath the poplar trees. Species present include perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), dock (*Rumex sp*.), thistle (*Cirsium sp(p))*, nettle (*Urtica dioica*), weld (*Reseda luteola*), poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*), hedge mustard (*Sisymbrium officinale*), speedwell (*Veronica spp.)* and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*).



3.3.5.2. There is another area of tall ruderal along the top of the grassland adjacent to the area where the pigs are housed. The comprises predominantly nettle (*Urtica dioica)* and thistle (*Cirsium sp(p)).*



3.3.6. Introduced Shrubs.

There is a small area adjacent to the old farm house that comprises garden shrubs interspersed with bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplantus*). Ornamental shrub species present include ornamental conifers, variegated holly (*Ilex aquifolium 'Argenteo marginata'*), spotted laurel (*Aucuba japonica*).



3.3.7. Fence.

3.3.7.1. There are timber fences and palisade fences around the site boundaries.



3.3.7.2. There are also timber fences separating the various animal pens in the farm area.



3.3.8. Wall.

3.3.8.1. There are various stone walls around the site boundaries. The one adjacent is around the northern side of the old farmhouse.





3.3.8.2. The wall shown left runs along the southern boundary of the improved grassland field, adjacent to the public footpath.

3.3.8.3. There are also a number of brick walls within the nursing home site that provide level changes.



3.3.9. Buildings.

3.3.9.1. There are two main complexes of buildings present on the site. One is the old farm house in the eastern end of the site along with various outbuildings.



3.3.9.2. The other is the old nursing home in the western end of the site, as shown below. All buildings will be described in more detail in the bat survey section of this report.



3.3.10. Bare Ground.

3.3.10.1. There are areas of bare ground in the parking areas, service areas and the paths around the nursing home.





3.3.10.2. There are areas of bare ground within the farm complex where the pigs have destroyed all ground vegetation.

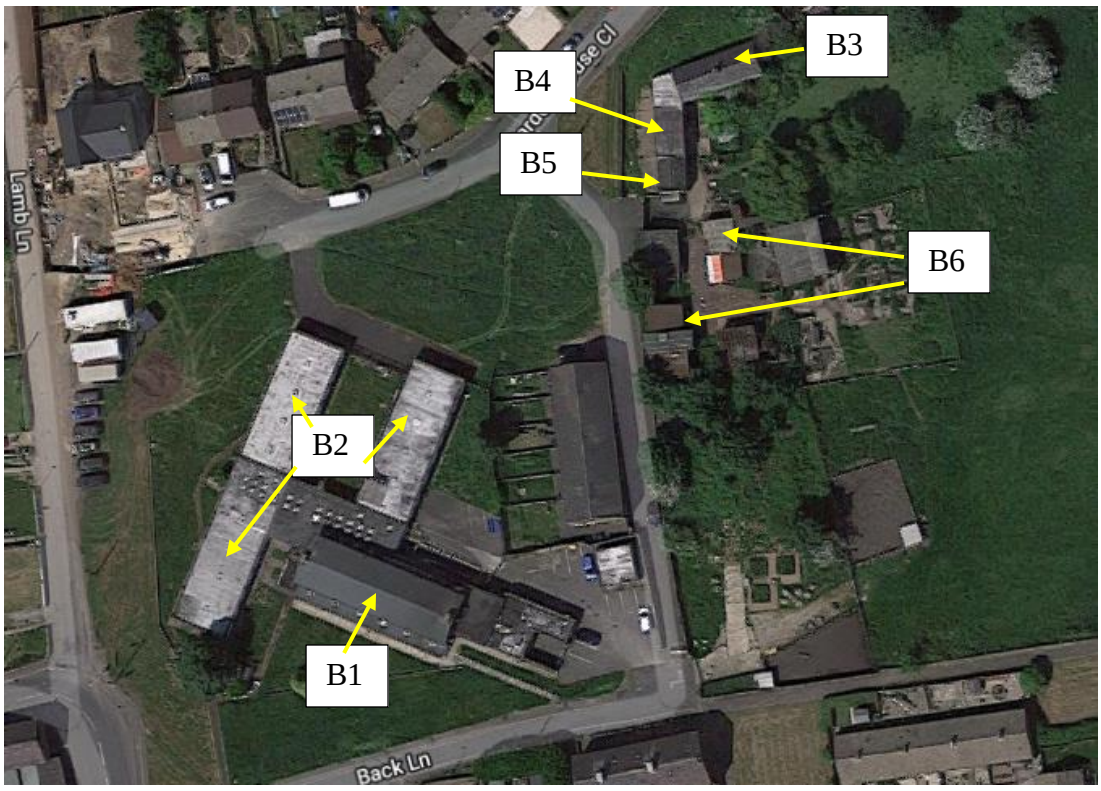
3.4. Description of Fauna.

3.4.1. No badger setts or badger field signs were identified anywhere on the site and there are no existing records anywhere near the site.

3.4.2. There ae no watercourses in the immediate surrounding area to provide habitat for water voles otters or white clawed crayfish.

3.4.3. There are no ponds on site or in the immediate surrounding area to provide habitat for breeding amphibians.

3.4.4. The buildings on the site comprise two separate and distinct groups. The western group of buildings comprise the nursing home while the eastern buildings comprise the farm house and associated buildings. These are all shown and separately labelled on the aerial photograph below and are described separately in the following text.



3.4.4.1. B1 - The Two storey Nursing Home Block.

3.4.4.1.1. The main block of the nursing home comprises a long two storey building, as shown in the photograph below. The building has brick cavity walls with uPVC window and door frames. Most of the ground floor windows have been boarded up for security reasons and the glass in some of the upper floor windows is broken. uPVC soffit boards are also close fitting and well-sealed.



3.4.4.1.2. There is a strip of hanging tiles between the first and second floors. These are all in place and provide no opportunities for roosting bats.



3.4.4.1.3. The roof of the building is pitched and is covered with felt.

3.4.4.1.4. Inside there is one large and open loft space over the whole building. The roof is supported on a metal frame and internally comprises close fitting tongue and grooved timber boards.



3.4.4.1.5. The loft is clean and extremely well sealed with no opportunities for roosting bats.

3.4.4.1.6. The building is well sealed throughout and no bats or bat field signs were identified anywhere inside or outside of the building. This building has **no** potential for roosting bats

3.4.4.2. B2 - The Single storey Nursing Home Blocks.

3.4.4.2.1. The remaining blocks of the nursing home comprises long single storey buildings, as shown in the photograph below. These blocks all have brick cavity walls with uPVC window and door frames. Some of the ground floor windows have been boarded up for security reasons. uPVC soffit boards are also close fitting and well-sealed.





3.4.4.2.2. The roofs are all flat, felt covered roofs as can be seen from the windows of the two storey block.



3.4.4.2.3. No bats or bat field signs were identified anywhere inside or outside these buildings. These buildings have **no** potential for roosting bats.

3.4.4.3. B3 - The Main Farm House.

3.4.4.3.1. The farmhouse is the main building in the eastern section of the site. This is a two storey stone building with a pitched, slate covered roof. The house has not been occupied for a long time and had a very damp feel to it.



3.4.4.3.2. The walls are constructed from cut and coursed stone that is well pointed throughout the building although some parts are partly concealed by dense scrub and ivy growing over the front of the house.



3.4.4.3.3. The picture above shows the back of the farmhouse and shows the slate covered roof to generally be in good condition, with no loose or missing slates and

well pointed ridge tiles. There are both slipped slates and missing ridge tile pointing on the east side of the building.

3.4.4.3.4. There are two loft spaces, one at either end of the farmhouse separated by a dividing wall. Both lofts have a timber purlin design of roof support frame with no lining underneath the slates. Both loft spaces were airy and damp although there were abundant cobwebs throughout.





3.4.4.3.5. No bats or bat field signs were found anywhere inside or outside of this building, but the building was assessed to have a low potential for roosting bats, in part due to the dense ivy concealing part of the building.

3.4.4.4. B4 – Brick Outbuilding.

3.4.4.4.1. Connected to the western end of the farmhouse there is a brick building. The large window on the western side suggests this may have been a shop of some sort in the past, single storey on the western side but two storey on the eastern side.



3.4.4.4.2. The walls are solid brick walls and the roof is a flat, felt covered roof. This building has no potential or roosting bats and no bat field signs were found.



3.4.4.5. B5 – Stone Outbuilding.

3.4.4.5.1. This is located on the southern end of B4 and comprises a stone outbuilding with a pitched, slate covered roof.



3.4.4.5.2. The building, and a small lean-to on the end, are constructed from coursed stone with a stone roof. The walls are all in good order with no missing pointing although the roof is in a poor state of repair with slipped and missing stone slates.



3.4.4.5.3. The inside of the building is plastered and the underside of the roof lined with plaster and laths. The poor state of the roof has allowed damp into the building and part of the roof lining has fallen away, as can be seen in the photograph below.



3.4.4.5.4. No bats or bat field signs were identified inside or outside of this building. The building is assessed to have a low Potential for roosting bats.

3.4.4.6. B6 – Farm Outbuildings and Sheds.

3.4.4.6.1. There is a group of farm sheds and outbuildings on the site, some unused, some used to house pigs and geese. These vary in design and condition. They include the building shown below, with solid brick walls and a sloping roof covered with corrugated cement sheets.



3.4.4.6.2. Some buildings are timber constructions, some have blockwork repaired areas some have corrugated sheet roofs. One is a large and open shelter with no walls.





3.4.4.6.3. None of these has any potential to provide bat roosting opportunities.

3.4.5. The row of poplar trees on site includes one with a large open gash down the trunk. This was inspected with a bright torch and an endoscope and no bat field signs were found to indicate use by roosting bats. This tree was also covered during the subsequent dusk emergence survey.



3.4.5.1. The remainder of the poplar trees have no potential bat roosting features and nor do the other, immature trees, largely sycamore, scattered around the site.

3.4.6. The habitat on site and in the surrounding area is very low value bat foraging habitat with no connectivity to other foraging habitat.

3.4.7. The vegetation on the site and the buildings provide opportunities for nesting birds during the nesting season, which extends from March to September each year.

3.4.8. The site is assessed to be unsuitable habitat for reptiles as it is isolated from other suitable habitat. The large area of grassland provides neither basking opportunities or shelter and the farm area is disturbed by pigs.

3.4.9. The site is assessed to be totally unsuitable habitat for hazel dormouse and is located outside the natural range for the species.

3.4.10. The site is assessed to be totally unsuitable habitat for red squirrels.

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

3.5. **Dusk Emergence Survey Results.**

3.5.1. Four surveyors carried out a dusk emergence survey of the house and attached outbuildings on the site on the evening of 4th September 2018. Two surveyors hold a current Natural England class licence for surveying bats and two are experienced assistants.

3.5.2. The surveyors were positioned to cover all aspects the buildings during the survey. All surveyors were equipped with Batbox Duet detectors and each had a two-way radio for communications. In addition, six static Anabat recorders were deployed to record bat activity for subsequent computer analysis using Analook software. The positions of the surveyors (S) and the Anabat recorders (A) were as shown below with Anabats 5 and 7 placed into each of the two loft spaces.



3.5.3. The evening was fine and mild with light cloud, a temperature of 17ºC was recorded at 19:45 and there was no wind. Sunset was at 19:49.

3.5.4. The following are the observations of the surveyors: -

3.5.4.1. Surveyor 1.

- 20:00 – Common Pipistrelle heard pass, not seen.
- 20:08 – Common Pipistrelle heard pass, not seen.
- 20:17 – Common Pipistrelle flew from south to north over the site.
- 20:21 – Common Pipistrelle foraging overhead.
- 20:31 – Common Pipistrelle flew from northwest to southeast over the site.
- 20:43 – Common Pipistrelle heard pass, not seen.

Anabat 6, with Surveyor 1, recorded twenty-eight Common Pipistrelle calls between 20:08 and 20:43. No other species of bat were recorded during the survey.

3.5.4.2. Surveyor 2.

- 19:59 – Common Pipistrelle flew from northeast, foraged over the garden then flew north.
- 20:04 – Common Pipistrelle flew from south to north over the site.
- 20:08 – Common Pipistrelle flew from the north then flew west off site.
- 20:21 – Common Pipistrelle heard in the distance, not seen.
- 20:31 – Common Pipistrelle heard pass, not seen.
- 20:43 – Common Pipistrelle heard pass, not seen.
- 20:49 – Common Pipistrelle heard pass, not seen.

Anabat 4, with Surveyor 2, recorded ten Common Pipistrelle calls between 19:59 and 20:49. No other species of bat were recorded during the survey.

3.5.4.3. Surveyor 3.

- 20:03 – Common Pipistrelle flew from south to north over the site.
- 20:08 – Common Pipistrelle heard pass to the east, not seen.
- 20:17 – Common Pipistrelle can see bat foraging over house in area of Surveyor 1.
- 20:19 – Common Pipistrelle flew from the west then flew north over site.
- 20:21 – Common Pipistrelle flew from south then west over Surveyor 4.
- 20:27 – Common Pipistrelle hear pass, not seen.
- 20:37 – Common Pipistrelle heard pass in the distance, not seen.
- 20:38 – Common Pipistrelle flew from the south, foraged over yard by buildings then flew west.

- 20:40 – Common Pipistrelle flew from south then west over Surveyor 4.
- 20:41 – Common Pipistrelle flew from south, foraged briefly, then west over Surveyor 4.
- 20:43 – Common Pipistrelle flew from south then west over Surveyor 4.
- 20:55 – Common Pipistrelle flew from south, foraged briefly, then west over Surveyor 4.
- 20:57 – Common Pipistrelle flew from south then west over Surveyor 4.
- 20:58 – Common Pipistrelle flew from south, foraged briefly, then west over Surveyor 4.

Anabat 8, with Surveyor 3, recorded ten Common Pipistrelle calls between 20:03 and 21:05. No other species of bat were recorded during the survey.

3.5.4.4. Surveyor 4.

- 20:04 – Common Pipistrelle heard pass, not seen.
- 20:19 – Common Pipistrelle heard pass, not seen.
- 20:21 – Common Pipistrelle flew from west, circled overhead then flew south.
- 20:24 – Common Pipistrelle heard in the distance, not seen.
- 20:27 – Common Pipistrelle heard pass, not seen.
- 20:37 – Common Pipistrelle heard pass, not seen.
- 20:38 – Common Pipistrelle flew from the east, foraged then flew west.
- 20:40 – Common Pipistrelle flew from the east, foraged then flew west.
- 20:41 – Common Pipistrelle flew from the east, foraged then flew west.
- 20:43 – Common Pipistrelle flew from the east, foraged then flew west.
- 20:53 – Common Pipistrelle heard pass, not seen.
- 20:57 – Common Pipistrelle flew from east to west.
- 20:58 – Common Pipistrelle heard pass, not seen.

Anabat 2, with Surveyor 4, recorded nineteen Common Pipistrelle calls between 20:18 and 21:05. No other species of bat were recorded during the survey.

3.5.4.5. Anabat 7 was placed in the western loft space of the house and Anabat 5 in the eastern loft space. No bats were recorded on either Anabat during the survey.

3.5.5. No bats emerged from any of the buildings during the survey.

3.5.6. The main activity was Common Pipistrelle bats flying from the south and foraging in the yard by the buildings and to the west and north of the site. No other species of bat was recorded during the survey and no bat activity was recorded in the loft spaces of the house during the survey.

3.5.7. Whilst on site the Poplar tree with the large hole in the trunk was thoroughly inspected using an endoscope and no bats or bat field signs were identified within the tree. No bats emerged from the tree.

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4. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.

4.1. There are no statutory designated sites or local nature reserves in the immediate area surrounding the site. Therefore, the proposed development will have **No Negative Impact** on such sites.

4.2. There are no Priority Habitats as listed under the NERC Act 2006 on the site and therefore there will be **No Negative Impact** on NERC Priority Habitats.

4.3. The habitat to be lost to the development is predominantly redundant buildings and improved grassland. There will therefore be a **Low Negative Impact** as a result of losing these Habitats.

4.4. The site has been assessed to be totally unsuitable for badgers and therefore there will be **No Negative Impact** on the species.

4.5. There are no watercourses in the area around the site. There will therefore be **No Negative Impact** on water voles, otters or white clawed crayfish as a result of the proposed development.

4.6. There are no ponds on site or in the surrounding area to provide habitat for breeding amphibians and there are no records of great crested newts in the immediate surrounding area. There will therefore be **No Negative Impact** on amphibians.

4.7. Most of the buildings on the site, including the old nursing home buildings and the assortment of sheds and outbuildings in the farm yard, are unsuitable for roosting bats. The farm house and stone outbuilding were originally assessed during the day time survey to have a Low potential for roosting bats. During the subsequent dusk emergence survey no bats were seen to emerge from these buildings and the level of bat activity observed was very low and confined to Common Pipistrelle only. There is one tree that provides potential for roosting bats and an endoscope survey identified no roosting bats. Therefore, development of the site will have a **No Negative Impact** on any roosting bats.

4.8. The habitat in the surrounding area is assessed to be low value foraging habitat for bats and the observations during the dusk emergence survey clearly indicated a very low level of foraging bats around the site. The proposed development of the site will have **No Negative Impact** on foraging bats.

4.9. The vegetation within the survey area provides nesting habitat for birds during the nesting season, which extends from March to September each year. Clearance of the vegetation within the site and demolition of the buildings during the nesting season will potentially have a **Major Negative Impact** on any nesting birds present.

4.10. The site is assessed to be unsuitable habitat for reptiles. There will be **No Negative Impact** on reptiles.

4.11. The site is assessed to be totally unsuitable habitat for hazel dormouse, with no suitable habitat present on the site. The development will cause **No Negative Impact** on the species.

4.12. The site is assessed to be totally unsuitable habitat for red squirrels, with no suitable habitat present on the site. There will be **No Negative Impact** on the species.

4.13. No alien, invasive plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act were identified on the site during the survey. There is therefore no potential for the works to cause such plants to spread in the wild and therefore there will be **No Negative Impact.**

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5. RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1. This Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report is designed to advise the client of the initial survey results so that they may be considered within the site development plan.

5.2. Once the development plans have been finalised, the report should be converted into an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) where details of further survey results, mitigation and biological enhancements are included, to arrive at an assessment of the residual impact of the proposed development. This format will be suitable to submit to the Local Authority.

5.3. During the dusk emergence survey, no bats emerged from the house. Therefore there is no need for a mitigation strategy or a Natural England licence in connection with the proposed works. Nevertheless, individual bats can seek temporary refuge almost anywhere and therefore all demolition works should be undertaken with due care. In the unlikely event that a bat is found, the bat must be protected from harm, work should cease at that location and the undersigned should be contacted for further advice.

5.4. It is recommended that removal of vegetation on site, and the demolition of the buildings, are carried out outside the nesting bird season. Alternatively, these should be preceded by a nesting bird survey, carried out by a suitably experienced person and in the event of an active nest being found, this must be left undisturbed until the young have fledged.

5.5. It is recommended that biodiversity enhancements be incorporated into the design of the new buildings on the site. These should take the form of:

- Additional native species planting on site.
- Nesting bird boxes on trees and in the new buildings on the site.
- At least two bat bricks installed in the new building on the site.

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Prepared by:	
Derek Whitcher, BSc, MCIEEM, MCMI	Date: 8th September 2018.

Checked by:	
Jenny Whitcher Roebuck MCIEEM.	Date: 10th September 2018.

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Appendix I. NESTING BIRD INFORMATION.

Ecology

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

Surveys

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

Legislation

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

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

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

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

Appendix II. BAT INFORMATION.

Ecology

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

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

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

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

Surveys

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

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

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

Legislation

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

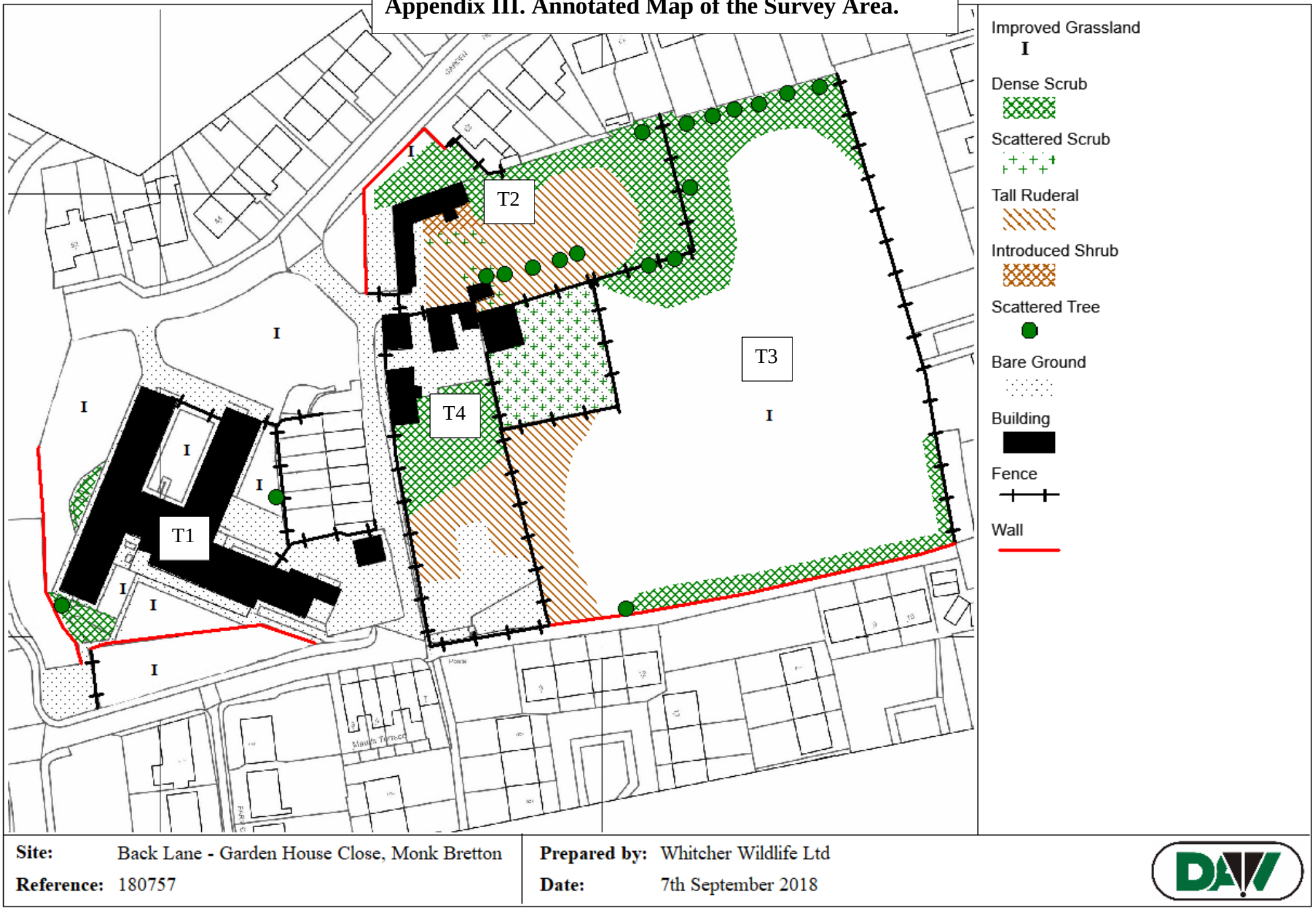
also listed under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) making them species of principal importance.

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

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

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

Appendix III. Annotated Map of the Survey Area.



Site: Back Lane - Garden House Close, Monk Bretton

Reference: 180757

Prepared by: Whitcher Wildlife Ltd

Date: 7th September 2018

Appendix IV. TARGET NOTES.

T1. Nursing Home Buildings surrounded by old lawns, now assessed to be improved grassland.

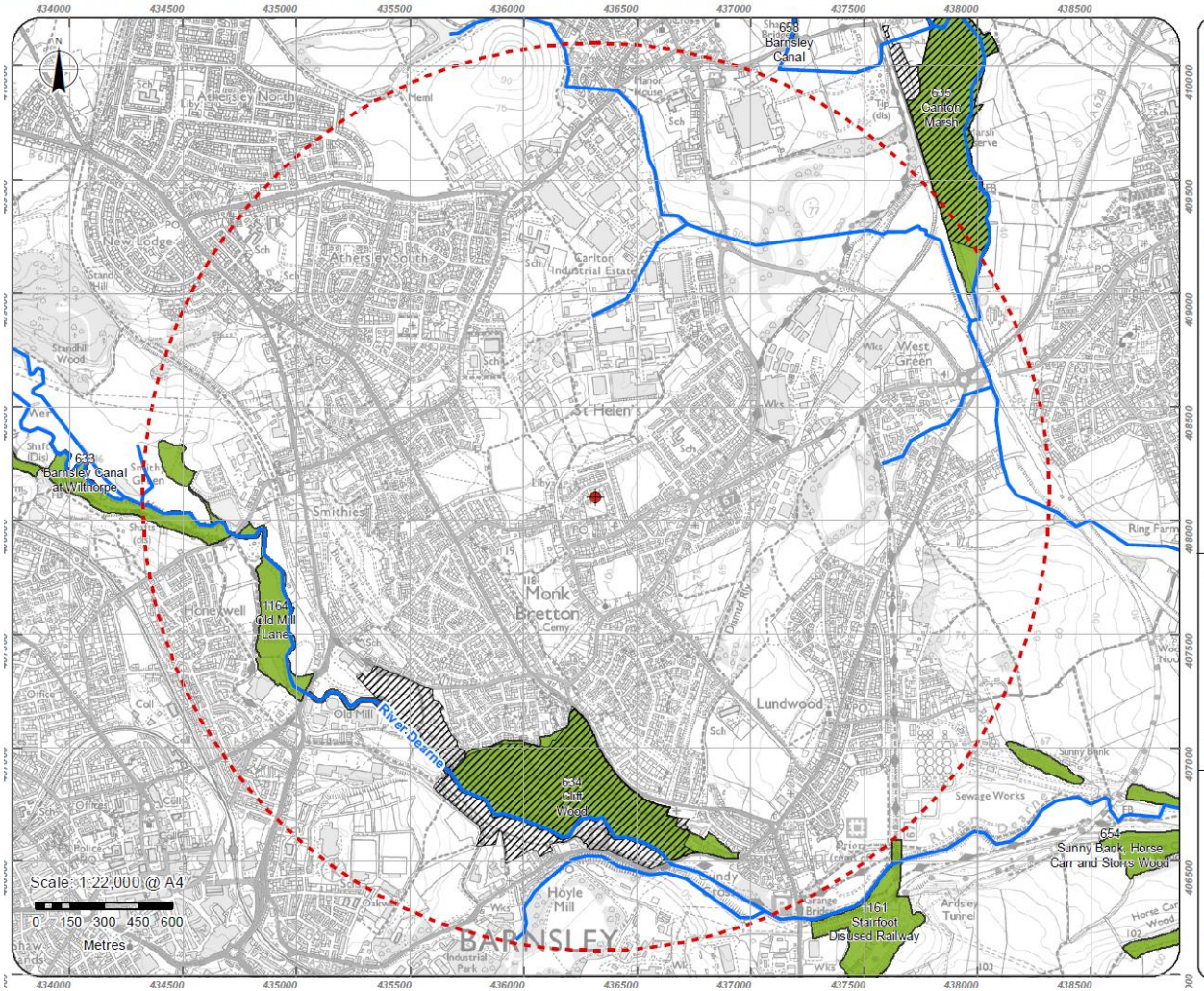
T2. Farm house and associated outbuildings.

T3. Field of improved grassland. Ruderals and scrub are encroaching from the edges.

T4. Farm buildings, sheds and bare ground used for breeding pigs.

Appendix V. DATA SEARCH RESULTS.

Statutory and Non Statutory Local Wildlife Sites Within the Search Area



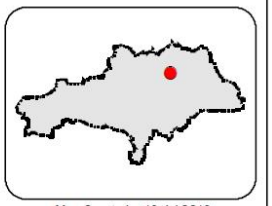
Back Lane, Monk Bretton

BARNSLEY Metropolitan Borough Council

Key

- Centre of Search Area
- 2km Radius
- Local Wildlife Sites
- Watercourse
- LNR Natural England
- Barnsley District Boundary

Sheffield Biological Records Centre



Map Created - 19 Jul 2018

Sheffield City Council

Natural England

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South Yorkshire Badger Group Data Search Results.

Dear Derek,

Request for Badger Data within 2 km of a site on Back Lane Monk Bretton, Barnsley, grid reference SE 36260 08054.

SYBG has no records of badger setts in the request area and also no reports of RTAs in this area of Barnsley.

Regards,

Monica

Barnsley Area Rep for SYBG.