Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.

FRICKLEY LANE STABLES, BRIERLEY.

OS REF: SE 40873 11531.

ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT.

Ref No: **240604.**

Date: **19th June 2024.**

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. There are plans to construct a new dwelling and garage on the old site of Frickley Lane Stables. The stables have previously been demolished.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd has been commissioned to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the site to establish whether there are any issues that may affect the proposed works.

1.3. The initial Preliminary Ecological Appraisal survey was carried out on 11th June 2024.

1.4. This has been converted to an Ecological Impact Assessment complete with biodiversity Net Gain calculations.

1.5. Appendix I of this report provides additional information on specific species and is 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 100m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) activity by looking for the following signs, in line with Dean M, Strachen R, Gow D and Andres R (2016). *The Water Vole Mitigation Handbook (The Mammal Society Mitigation Guidance Series).* Eds Fiona Mathews and Paul Chanin. The mammal Society, London: -
(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 trees and structures 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. The survey area was searched for all alien invasive plant species as listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The location of all plants identified were recorded and listed within the survey report along with appropriate recommendations to avoid causing the plants to spread in the wild. All species were searched for, but the main species generally found under this category are Japanese knotweed, Giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam, Cotoneaster, Rhododendron and Japanese Rose.

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

2.15. 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.

2.16. 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.

2.17. The survey was undertaken by Derek Whitcher who has over thirty 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 bats and great crested newts.

Natural England Bat Survey Licence Number	2015-13205-CLS-CLS.
Natural England Great Crested Newt Licence Number	2015-06792-CLS-CLS.

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3. ECOLOGICAL BASELINE.

3.1. Data Search Results.

3.1.1. Desktop data searches were requested from Barnsley Biological Records Centre and South Yorkshire Badger Group for records of protected species and designated sites within 2km of the survey area.

3.1.2. Barnsley Biological Records Centre.

3.1.2.1. There are two common frog records but these are for Grimethorpe, outside the 2km radius from the survey area.

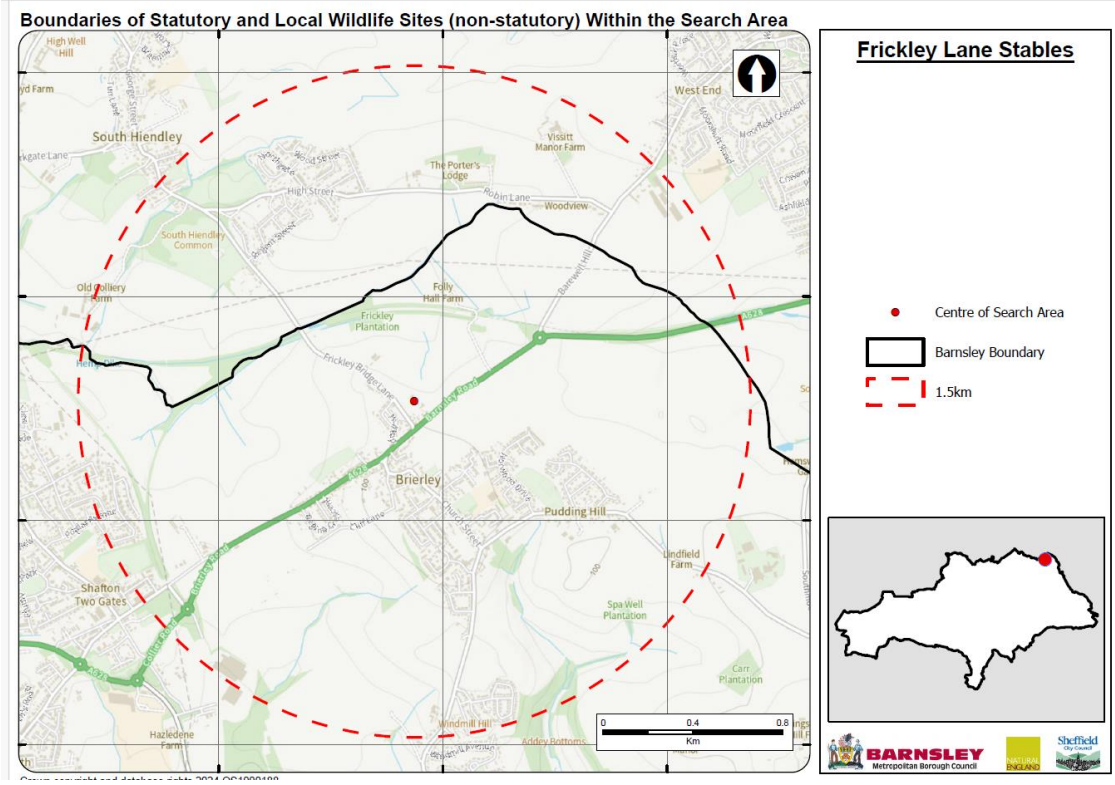
3.1.2.2. Common pipistrelle and brown long-eared bats have been recorded in the surrounding area but these are passing bats, not bat roost records.

3.1.2.3. There are badger records to the northeast of the survey area. No further details will be provided except that the records are sufficiently distant to not be an issue to the survey area.

3.1.2.3. There are no Local Wildlife Sites within 2km of the survey area.

3.1.2.4. Consultation with the MAGIC website shows there are no national or international designated sites within 2km of the survey area. The survey area does lie within an SSSI Impact Zone but this does not apply to this small development and no further consultations are required.

3.1.3. The badger group hold no additional records of badger setts within 2km of the survey area.

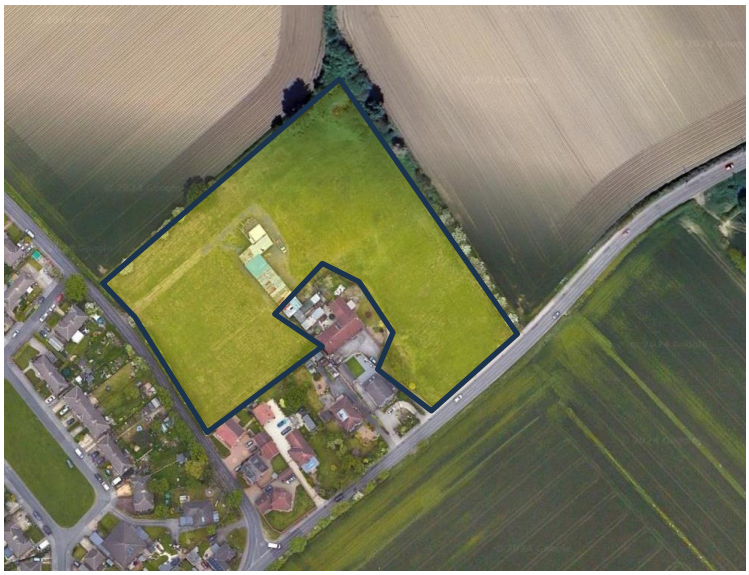


3.1.4. South Yorkshire Bat Group were not consulted as there are no buildings present on the site.

3.2. The Surveyed Area.

3.2.1. The survey area is an area of land off Frickley Lane, Brierley, Barnsley. The aerial photograph below shows the survey area and surrounds. The site is surrounded by residential properties to the south and arable farmland to the north.

3.2.2. The aerial photograph below is a close up of the survey area shaded in yellow and shows the site to be an L shaped field used for grazing horses. The aerial photograph shows the old stable in the centre of the site although these have been demolished.



3.3. Description of Habitats.

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

- g4 – Modified grassland
- u1c – Artificial, unvegetated, unsealed surface.
- h3h – Mixed scrub
- u1e – Built linear feature
- h2a6 – Other native hedgerow

3.3.2. g4 – Modified grassland.

Secondary code: 32 – Scattered trees.

3.3.2.1. The main area of the site comprises grazing land. At present, the site is divided into two sections by a Heras fence. The main area around the proposed new dwelling is currently grazed by two horses and is shown in the four photographs below. The species present are difficult to determine as the grass has been grazed so short.

3.3.2.2. The south-eastern leg of the L shape is currently not grazed and therefore contains a longer grassland sward as shown in the photographs below. This appears to be essentially the same species mix but the plants were easier to identify in this area of the field.

3.3.2.3. Species present include annual meadow grass (*Poa annua*), perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), sweet vernal grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), nettle (*Urtica dioica*), thistle (*Cirsium sp(p))*, dock (*Rumex sp.)*, meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), white dead nettle (*Lamium album*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and common comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*).

3.3.2.4. This falls under the category of "Low Distinctiveness Grassland". The following table shows the results of the habitat condition assessment of this habitat at the time of the survey. The habitat does not pass the essential criteria but does pass five of the other criteria, a poor result.

Condition Assessment Criteria		**Criterion passed (Yes or No)**
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m² present, including at least 2 forbs (this may include those listed in Footnote 1). **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.** Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m² (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet.	No
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	Yes
C	Some scattered scrub (including bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Yes
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	No
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens)[2].	Yes
F	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20%.	Yes
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]).	Yes
	Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)	**No**
	Number of criteria passed	**5**
Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	**Condition Assessment Score**	**Score Achieved ×/✓**

Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)	
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)	
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)	Yes

3.3.2.5. Around the perimeter of the site there are a number of scattered trees. Species present include hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), oak (*Quercus Robur*), white poplar (*Populus alba*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*).

3.3.2.6. This falls under the category of "Individual trees". The following table shows the results of the habitat condition assessment of this habitat at the time of the survey. The trees pass four of the criteria, a moderate result.

Individual Trees

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	Yes
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Yes
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	No
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	No

E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	Yes
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes
	Number of criteria passed	

Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	**Condition Assessment Score**	**Score Achieved ×/✓**
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	Yes
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	
Note that 'Fairly Good and Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for this broad habitat type.		

3.3.3. u1c – Artificial, unvegetated, unsealed surface.

3.3.3.1. There is a track down from the access gate to an area of ground where the stables previously stood. This area is all classed as artificial, unvegetated, unsealed surface. This is shown in the photographs below.

3.3.3.2. There is no condition assessment for this habitat.

3.3.4. h3h - Mixed Scrub

3.3.4.1. In the northern corner of the site there is an area of scrub. A large proportion of this comprises sapling white polar (*Populus alba*) trees from the adjacent mature tree along with nettles (*Urtica dioica*), brambles (*Rubus fruticosus*), dock (*Rumex sp.)* and cleavers (*Galium aparine*).

3.3.4.2. This falls under the category of "Scrub". The following table shows the results of the habitat condition assessment of this habitat at the time of the survey. The scrub passes two of the criteria, a poor result.

Scrub

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A	The scrub is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description (where in its natural range). The appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific scrub type. At least 80% of scrub is native, and there are at least three native woody species[1], with no single species comprising more than 75% of the cover (except hazel *Corylus avellana*, common juniper *Juniperus communis*, sea buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides* or box *Buxus sempervirens*, which can be up to 100% cover).	No
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran[2]) shrubs are all present.	No
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]) and species indicative of sub-optimal condition[5] make up less than 5% of ground cover.	Yes

D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	Yes
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	No
		Number of criteria passed

Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	**Condition Assessment Score**	**Score Achieved ×/✓**
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	Yes

3.3.5. u1e – Built Linear Feature.

Secondary codes: 612 fence, 853 mortared wall.

3.3.5.1. There is a perimeter fence around the site boundary, predominantly post and wire but with an internal Heras fence and a new timber screening fence.

3.3.5.2. There is no condition assessment for this habitat.

3.3.5.3. There is a short length of retaining wall alongside Barnsley Road.

3.3.5.4. There is no condition assessment for this habitat.

3.3.6. h2a6 - Other native hedgerow.

3.3.6.1. There are two lengths of existing hedgerow present on the site boundaries.

3.3.6.2. The first is in the northeast corner of the site and this comprises almost entirely hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*).

3.3.6.3. The second hedgerow is on the western site boundary alongside Frickley Lane. This is predominantly hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) but also contains dog

rose *(Rosa canina*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus***)** and foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea).*

3.3.7.4. These fall under the category of "Native hedgerow". The following table shows the results of the habitat condition assessment of this habitat at the time of the survey. The hedgerows score the same and each fails only one criterion, a good result.

Hedgerow

Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types				
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).	Yes
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (such as blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	Yes
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).	Yes
B2.	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m	This is the horizontal 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small). Access points and gates contribute to the overall 'gappiness' but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).	Yes

C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	Yes
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles *Urtica* spp., cleavers *Galium aparine* and docks *Rumex* spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	No
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[3]) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website[4], as well as the BSBI website[5] where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora'[6] contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website[7].	Yes
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g., excessive hedgerow cutting).	Yes

The hedgerow condition assessment generates a weighting (score) ranging from 1 - 3, which is used within the metric. The scores for each are set out in the tables below.

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees		
Category	**Category Requirements**	**Metric Score**
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; **AND** No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	Yes
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; **AND** Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; **OR** Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	
	Score achieved:	Good

3.4. Description of Fauna.

3.4.1. No badger setts or badger field signs were identified within the survey area.

3.4.2. No watercourses were identified within the survey area. Therefore, there is no habitat for water voles, otters or white clawed crayfish within the survey area.

3.4.3. There are no ponds in or close to the survey area.

3.4.4. There are no structures present on the site to provide habitat for roosting bats.

3.4.5. There are no trees on the site to provide opportunities for roosting bats. The perimeter trees are assessed to have negligible potential for roosting bats and are to be retained.

3.4.6. The survey area provides little potential for foraging and commuting bats as there are few features on the site and there is no connectivity between the site hedgerows and more suitable foraging habitat.

3.4.7. The trees and hedgerows on the site provide opportunities for nesting birds during the nesting season, which extends from March to August each year.

3.4.8. The survey area provides no suitable habitat for reptiles as the site is close grazed by horses surrounded by busy roads and arable farmland.

3.4.9. The survey area lies outside the natural range for hazel dormice.

3.4.10. The survey area lies outside the natural range for red squirrels.

3.4.11. No alien invasive plant species as listed on Schedule 9 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, was identified within the survey area.

3.4.12. The site has low suitability for hedgehogs as the site comprises either bare ground or horse grazed grassland.

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4. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS, MITIGATION AND RESIDUAL EFFECTS.

4.1. Designated Sites.

4.1.1. Assessment.

4.1.1.1. There are no designated sites or Local Wildlife Sites within 2km of the site.

4.1.1.2. The survey area lies within an SSSI Impact Zone but this does not apply to this small development and no further consultations are required.

4.1.2. Mitigation.

No mitigation measures are necessary.

4.1.3. Residual Effects.

There will be no negative impact on designated sites as a result of the development.

4.2. Habitats.

4.2.1. Assessment.

4.2.1.1. The site is a large grazing field, used for the grazing of horses.

4.2.1.2. Within this field there was a large stable building. That has been demolished in the past and the area cleared and left as bare ground.

4.2.1.3. The habitats on site at the time of this survey were as shown below.

Area Habitats.

Habitat Type	Area in Ha	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment	Biodiversity Units.
Modified grassland	1.438	Low	Poor	2.88
Artificial, unvegetated, unsealed surface.	0.142	Low	N/A	0
Mixed scrub.	0.059	Medium	Poor	0.24
Individual trees	0.0651	Medium	Moderate	0.52
Total site area	1.44			3.63

Linear Habitats

Habitat Type	Length in Km	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment	Biodiversity Units.
Two Native Hedgerows	0.166	Low	Good	1
Total site area	0.166			1

4.2.1.4. The area biodiversity value of the site prior to any works is 3.63 Bu and the linear Biodiversity value is 1.00Bu.

4.2.2. Mitigation.

4.2.2.1. The new dwelling will be constructed within the footprint of the cleared stables and will be surrounded by a vegetated garden.

4.2.2.2. The existing grassland will be retained for grazing purposes.

4.2.2.3. The area of scrub at the bottom of the site will be retained and will be enhanced by additional scrub planting to increase the diversity and the condition assessment from poor to moderate.

4.2.2.4. Two additional lengths of hedgerow will be planted to provide one continuous native hedgerow around the northwestern and northeastern site boundaries.

4.2.2.5. Ten additional oak trees will be planted on the site.

4.2.3. Residual Effects.

4.2.3.1. The habitats on site post development are outlined below.

Area Habitats.

Habitat Type	Area in Ha	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment	Biodiversity Units.
Modified grassland	1.438 Retained	V. Low	Poor	2.88
Developed land, sealed surface.	0.064	V. Low	N/A	0
Vegetated garden	0.09	Low	N/A	0.17
Mixed scrub.	0.059 Enhanced	Medium	Moderate	0.43
Individual trees	0.0651 Retained	Medium	Moderate	0.52
10 new individual trees	0.0407	Medium	Moderate	0.12
Total site area	1.44			4.12

Linear Habitats

Habitat Type	Length in Km	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment	Biodiversity Units.
Two Existing Native Hedgerows	0.166 Retained	Low	Good	1
Two new lengths of Native Hedgerow	0.230	Low	Good	0.9
Total site area	0.166			1.9

4.2.3.2. The area Biodiversity value of the site increases from 3.63Bu to 4.12Bu, an increase of 13.2% while the linear habitats increase from 1.0Bu to 1.9Bu, an increase of 90.35%. These represent a positive residual impact.

4.3. Species – Nesting Birds.

4.3.1. Assessment.

The trees and hedgerows on the site provide opportunities for nesting birds during the nesting season, that extends from March to August each year.

4.3.2. Mitigation.

4.3.2.1. Any works to the existing vegetation on site will be undertaken outside the nesting bird season, which extends from March to August each year.

4.3.2.2. Any vegetation clearance during the nesting season will be preceded by a nesting bird survey no more than three days in advance. In the event an active nest is found, the nest and a standoff around the nest will be left undisturbed until the young have fledged.

4.3.3. Residual Effects.

With the above precautions in place, there will be no negative residual Impact.

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5. COMPENSATION AND ENHANCEMENT MEASURES.

5.1. In order to provide biodiversity enhancements in line with the NPPF, at least one bat box is installed on the new building to enhance the habitat and provide roosting opportunities.

5.2. Two integrated swift nest boxes will be installed on the new building to enhance the habitat and provide nesting opportunities for swifts.

5.3. Two integrated bee bricks will be installed in the new building to provide opportunities for bees.

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Prepared by:	
Derek Whitcher. BSc, MCIEEM, MCMI	Date: 19th June 2024.

Checked by:	
Ruth Georgiou, BSc, MCIEEM.	Date: 23rd June 2024.

6. REFERENCES.

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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

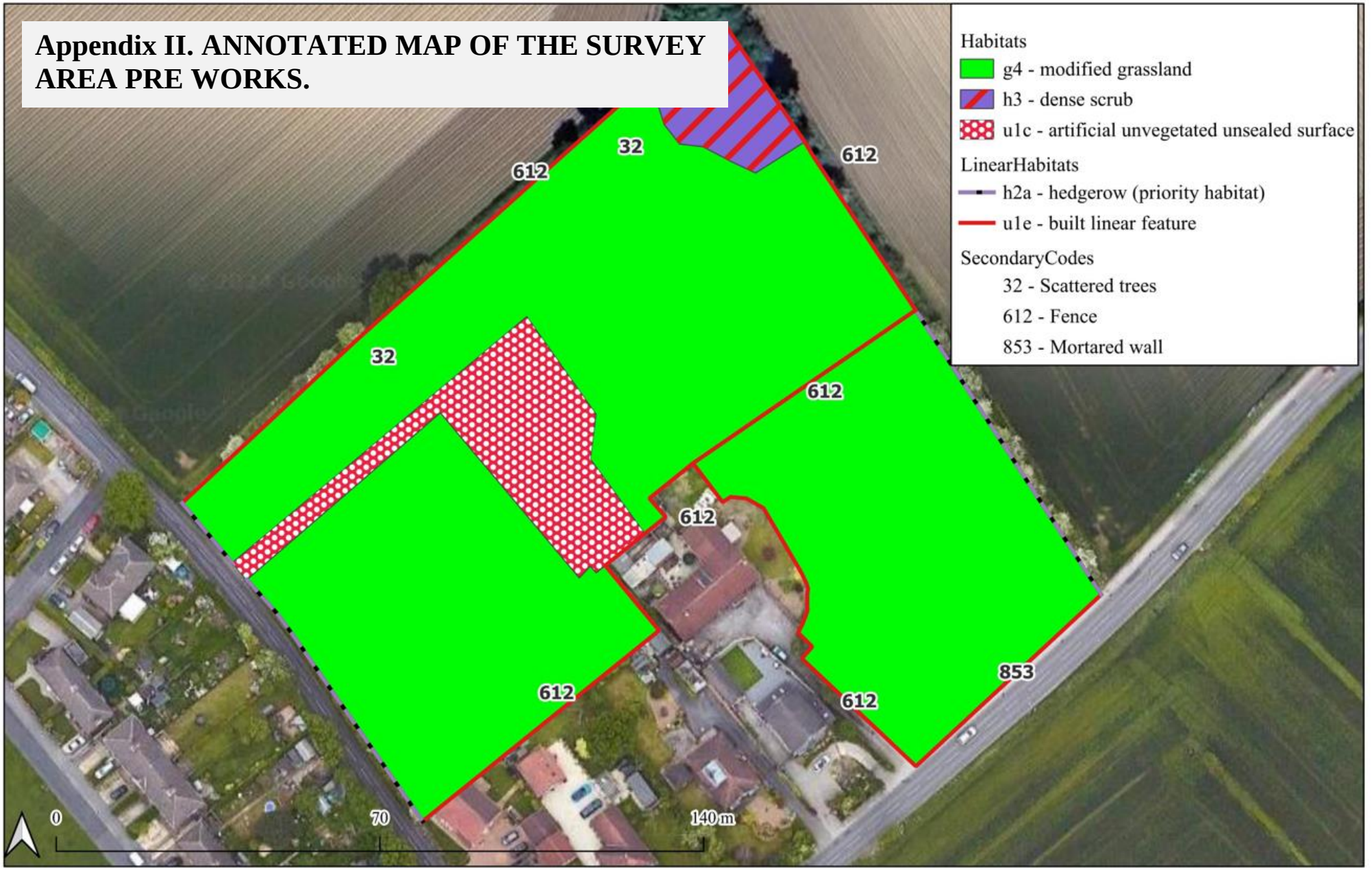
Nesting birds are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

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. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA PRE WORKS.



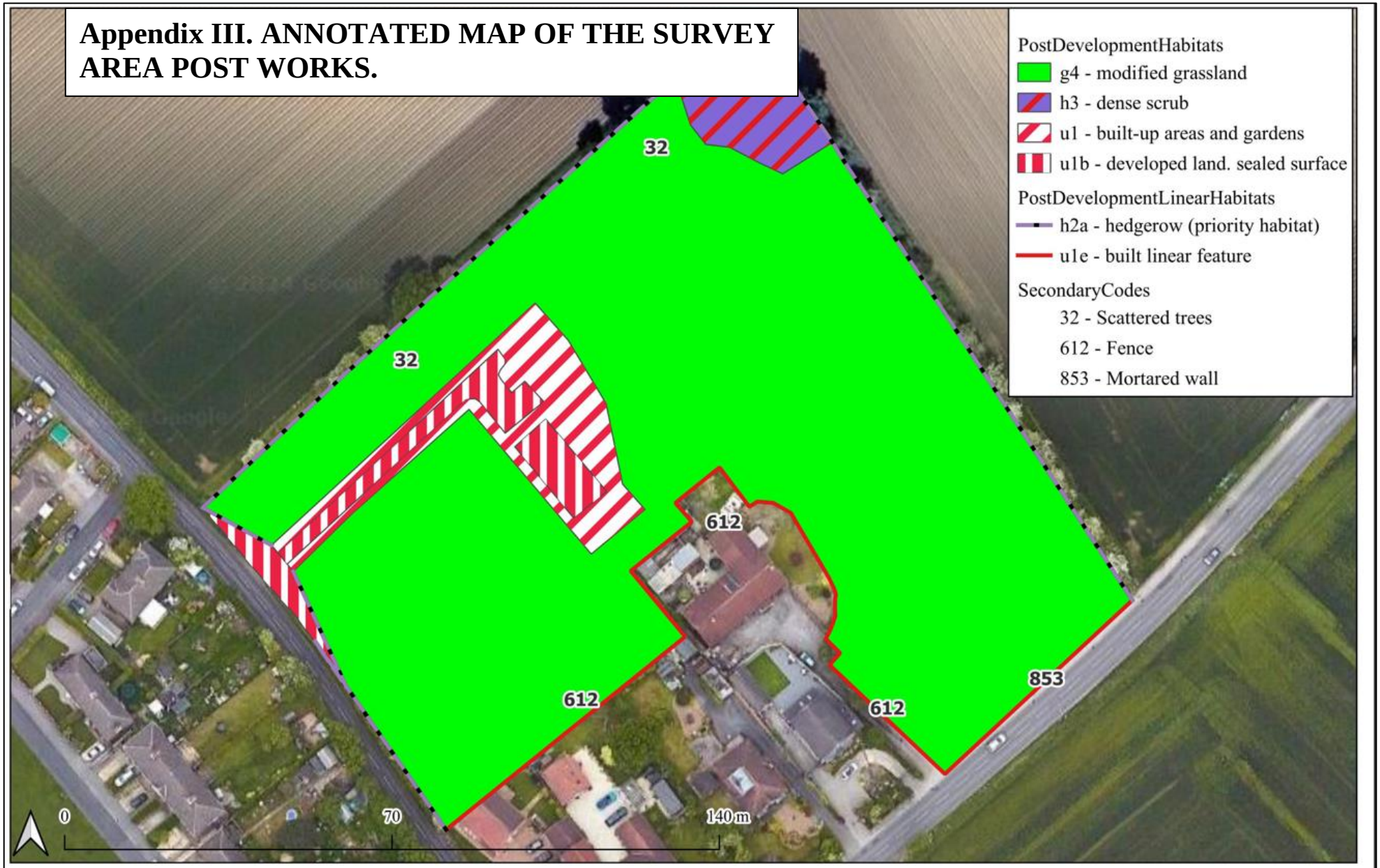
Site: Frickley Lane Stables

Reference: 240604

Date: 14.06.2024

Produced by: Seasonal

Appendix III. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA POST WORKS.



Site: Frickley Lane Stables

Reference: 240604

Date: 14.06.2024

Produced by: Seasonal