

**Land south of Cemetery Road,
Jump, Barnsley**
Ecological Impact Assessment

May 2026

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1 Introduction

Background to commission

- 1.1 BSG Ecology was commissioned by Barratt & David Wilson Homes (Yorkshire West) in January 2026 to prepare an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) report and complete a Biodiversity Gain Assessment to inform a full planning application for the proposed residential development of land south of Cemetery Road in Jump (the 'Site'). The Site is comprised of three fields located south of Cemetery Road, Jump, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S74 0JH.

Site description

- 1.2 The Site is located on the eastern edge of Jump, which alongside Birdwell, Blacker Hill, Elsecar and Hemingfield, is identified as part of the Principal Town of Hoyland.
- 1.3 The Site lies within the settlement boundary of Hoyland and immediately adjoins the urban fabric of Jump to the west, whilst Hemingfield is located to the north-east.
- 1.4 The Site comprises approximately 9.7 hectares of undeveloped land in agricultural use. The Site is formed of three fields bisected by hedges and trees on its boundaries. The site immediately adjoins existing housing to the north, north-east and west.
- 1.5 The site is bounded by:
- Cemetery Road to the north with houses and Hemingfield and Jump Cemetery beyond.
 - Existing houses along Cemetery Road to the north-east.
 - A railway line to the east.
 - Protected Green Space to the south, known as Wentworth Road Green Space.
 - Existing houses to the west.

Description of project

- 1.6 The proposed development is for a residential development, together with access, public open space, landscaping, drainage infrastructure and associated works.
- 1.7 Refer to Appendix 1 for the layout of the proposed residential development.

Purpose of this report

- 1.8 The purpose of this report is to describe and evaluate the biodiversity of the Site, assess the potential ecological impacts of the proposed development, set out mitigation and other measures where necessary, and to identify opportunities for ecological habitat creation and enhancement.
- 1.9 A Biodiversity Gain Report has been issued to the client separately (BSG Ecology, 2026).

Personnel

- 1.10 The report has been written by Senior Ecologist Ellie Tew. Ellie also undertook the habitat survey of the Site. Ellie is a Senior Ecologist at BSG Ecology, full details can be found [Here](#).
- 1.11 This report was reviewed by Jim Fairclough, Technical Director at BSG Ecology. He has worked as a professional ecologist since 2003 and prepares and reviews Ecological Impact Assessments for a wide range of developments in the UK.

2 Methods

Desk study

- 2.1 Information on the presence of designated sites¹ and records of protected and notable² species in the vicinity of the Site was provided by Rotherham Biological Records Centre (RBRC), Sheffield Biological Records Centre (SBRC), and South Yorkshire Bat Group. The records were received on 09 February 2026, 12 February 2026, and 17 February 2026, respectively. The search area extended 2 km from the central point of the Site, extending to 10 km for European sites.
- 2.2 The desk study made use of publicly available online mapping and aerial photography resources to assess the landscape and ecological context of the Site, and to identify any designated sites of nature conservation interest including:
- The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) database (<http://www.magic.gov.uk/>). This was used to identify any nearby statutorily designated sites (including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)), any granted European Protected Species Mitigation Licence (EPSM) applications³, Defra eDNA survey results of ponds 2017-2019, and great crested newt survey licence returns within 2 km of the Site.
 - Google earth – aerial photographs from 2002 to 2025 to establish any likely changes in habitats present since 30 January 2020⁴.
 - The Big Hedgehog Map (PTES & British Hedgehog Preservation Society, 2025) was checked on 18 May 2025 for records of hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* within 2 km of the Site.
 - Base mapping and aerial images from the MAGIC website were used to identify waterbodies up to 500 m from the Site to help inform an assessment of the potential for great crested newt to be present on Site.⁵
- 2.3 A planning policy review of the Barnsley Local Plan (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, 2019a) and Barnsley Local Plan: Supplementary Planning Document – Biodiversity and Geodiversity (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, 2019b) was undertaken to identify any relevant ecology policies.

Field survey

- 2.4 An Extended Habitat Survey of the Site was carried out on the 11 February 2026 by Ellie Tew, Senior Ecologist. Weather conditions during the survey were clear, with a light breeze and no rain. The temperature during the survey was 3°C.
- 2.5 The surveyor identified the type and extent of habitats within the Site and immediately adjacent to the Site boundary where access was possible, classifying habitats according to the UK Habitats Classification (UKHab 2023). The minimum mapping unit used for the survey was 25 m² (5 m x 5 m). All features smaller than this threshold were not mapped as independent habitat parcels; they were considered to form part of the wider surrounding/adjacent habitat parcel. Representative photographs were taken of habitats and ecological features observed.
- 2.6 Target Notes were made where necessary to identify any habitats or features of particular interest. Indicated lists of plant species were made for certain habitats, and the relative abundance of these plants was estimated using the DOMIN⁶ scale (Appendix 7). The condition of the habitats present was assessed using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric condition assessment methods (Defra, 2024a;

¹ Statutory Sites: European Sites (SAC/SPA/Ramsar Sites), SSSIs, NNRs and LNRs; Non-statutory Sites: Local Wildlife Sites / County Wildlife Sites (and equivalent designations) and Ancient Woodland sites.

² Notable Species - Species of Principal Importance (SPI) in England and species with other conservation significance (e.g. red or amber listed birds or species listed in relevant red data lists).

³ This data was most recently updated 13 January 2022, but provides contextual information.

⁴ Where changes have occurred since 30 January 2020 any degradation in the quality of habitat present needs to be taken into account in the BNG baseline calculation.

⁵ Maps: Google earth, accessed February-May 2026. Magic.defra.gov.uk, accessed May 2026

⁶ 91–100% = 10; 76–90% = 9; 51–75% = 8; 34–50% = 7; 26–33% = 6; 11–25% = 5; 4–10% = 4; 4% (many individuals) = 3; <4% (several individuals) = 2; <4% (few individuals) = 1

2024b). Any invasive non-native plant species, listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), apparent at the time of survey were identified.

- 2.7 The survey was 'extended' to include an assessment of the Site's potential to support protected species and/or otherwise notable species⁷. Searches were made for evidence of badger *Meles meles* with reference to survey methodology (Harris *et al.*, 1989), including searches for setts, feeding remains, dung pits, badger hairs and tracks/footprints. The Site was assessed for its potential to support reptiles and amphibians noting that no ponds have been identified within the Site or within 200 m of the Site (using aerial imagery and upon review of the MAGIC website which was last accessed on 14 May 2026).

Daytime ground level assessment

- 2.8 A daytime ground-level inspection of the two stables in the north-east of the Site, and the two mature ash trees in the southern of the Site, was carried out to identify potential features that may be suitable for roosting bats. The surveys were completed with reference to the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) Good Practice Guidelines (Collins, 2023). Details of the survey are provided in Appendix 2.

Bat roost survey

- 2.9 In order to confirm presence / likely absence of any bats roosting in the older stable building, one dusk emergence survey was undertaken in May 2026. Surveys were undertaken with reference to the BCT Good Practice Guidelines (Collins, 2023). Survey details are provided in Appendix 3.

Bat activity survey

- 2.10 In order to interpret the species, behaviour and distribution of bats using the Site, one period of automated bat detector ('static') monitoring and one Night-time Bat Walkover (NBW) was undertaken during spring 2026, with a further five automated bat detector monitoring surveys and two NBW to be undertaken across summer and autumn 2026 (these will be reported in a separate appendix over the planning determination period). Surveys were undertaken with reference to the BCT Good Practice Guidelines (Collins, 2023). Survey details are provided in Appendix 4.

Breeding bird characterisation survey

- 2.11 To characterise the breeding bird assemblage, four breeding bird survey (BBS) visits were carried out in March and April 2026. During each visit, the surveyor walked across the survey area scanning all habitats present (including the immediate surrounding area) using binoculars as required. Bird locations were mapped and behaviour recorded using standard British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) codes and symbols (Gilbert *et al.*, 1998). Survey details are provided in Appendix 5. A further two breeding bird surveys are to be undertaken across late spring 2026, and will be reported in a separate Appendix over the planning determination period.

Consideration of limitations to methods

- 2.12 The extended habitat survey was completed in February, which is outside the recommended time of year for botanical survey (recommended as April to mid - October) when most species are readily identifiable for the purpose of assigning habitat classification and condition. However, the habitats on site (arable fields and modified grassland) are not expected to differ significantly throughout the year. Furthermore, over the spring period, return visits to the Site did not reveal any changes in vegetation characteristics and species composition. Therefore, no significant limitations to this assessment need to be considered.

EclA Assessment Process

- 2.13 The evaluation and assessment within this report have been undertaken with reference to the current Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) in the United Kingdom developed by the

⁷ Protected species: those that protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA) or the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2018; badger is also subject to specific legal protection.

Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM, 2018). Although this is recognised as the industry standard for ecological assessment, the guidance is not prescriptive; rather, it aims to “*provide guidance to practitioners for refining their own methodologies*”.

- 2.14 The extent of the study area reflects the anticipated Zone of Influence of the development, which varies depending upon the ecological feature (species, habitat or designated site) that is being considered.

Important Ecological Features

- 2.15 A first step in EclA is determination of which ecological features (habitats, species, ecosystems and their functions/processes) are important. Important features should then be subject to detailed assessment if they are likely to be affected by the Proposed Development. It is not necessary to carry out detailed assessment of features that are sufficiently widespread, unthreatened and resilient to project effects, such that there is no risk to their viability.
- 2.16 Ecological features can be important for a variety of reasons and the rationale used to identify these is explained below. Importance may relate, for example, to the quality or extent of designated sites or habitats, to habitat/species rarity, to the extent to which they are threatened throughout their range, or to their rate of decline.

Evaluation: Determining Importance

- 2.17 The importance of an ecological feature should be considered within a defined geographical context. The following frame of reference has been used in this case:
- International (Europe)
 - National (England and United Kingdom)
 - County (South Yorkshire)
 - Local (intermediate between Site Level and South Yorkshire)
 - Site (the Application Site and immediate surrounds).
- 2.18 In certain circumstances, features may be valued below the Site level. In these instances, they are described as being of Negligible importance.

Characterising and quantifying effects and assessing their significance

- 2.19 The CIEEM (2018) guidelines suggest that ecological effects or impacts should be characterised in terms of ecosystem structure and function and reference should be made where relevant [author's emphasis] to: beneficial, adverse or “no significant” (or “no”) effects; extent; magnitude; duration; reversibility; timing and frequency; and cumulative effects. The guidelines provide a list of “*aspects of ecological structure and function to consider when predicting impacts and effects*”. The terms impact and effect are used within this EclA in accordance with the following definitions (as provided by the guidelines):
- 2.20 *Impact: “Actions resulting in changes to an ecological feature. For example, the construction activities of a development removing a hedgerow”.*
- 2.21 *Effect: “Outcome to an ecological feature from an impact. For example, the effects on a dormouse population from loss of a hedgerow”.*
- 2.22 Following the characterisation of effects, an assessment of the ecological significance of those effects is made. The guidelines promote a transparent approach in which a beneficial or adverse effect is determined to be significant or not, in ecological terms, in relation to the integrity of the defined site or ecosystem(s) and/or the conservation status of habitats or species within a given geographical area, which relates to the level at which it has been valued. The decision about whether an effect is significant or not, is independent of the importance of the ecological feature; the

importance of any feature that will be significantly affected is then used to determine the implications, in terms of legislation and/or policy.

- 2.23 Significance is a concept related to the weight that should be attached to effects when decisions are made. For this assessment, 'significant effect' is an effect that either supports or undermines biodiversity conservation objectives for 'important ecological features'. A significant effect is simply an effect that is sufficiently important to require assessment and reporting so that the decision maker is adequately informed of the environmental consequences of permitting a project. The EclA guidelines state:
- 2.24 *"A significant effect does not necessarily equate to an effect so severe that consent for the project should be refused planning permission. For example, many projects with significant adverse ecological effects can be lawfully permitted following EIA procedures".*

Main phases of development

- 2.25 The potential impacts of the proposed development are considered in relation to its two phases: (1) Construction Phase and (2) Operational Phase, once houses have been constructed and the Site is fully occupied.

Achieving a net gain in biodiversity value

- 2.26 The above method, based on that set out for EclA in CIEEM (2018), aims to assess significant effects on important ecological features. The effect on more commonplace and widespread habitats (together with more important habitats) has been considered through the use of a metric-based calculation of loss and gain in "biodiversity units". This reflects current Government policy and legislation in relation to securing a measurable net biodiversity gain. The Biodiversity Gain Assessment is provided in a separate report (BSG Ecology, 2026) produced in parallel to this EclA.

3 Scheme Description

3.1 The proposed development is for the construction of a residential development of up to 270 dwellings. The development will include residential development, together with access, public open space, landscaping, drainage infrastructure and associated works. Vehicle access will be taken from Cemetery Road to the north.

3.2 See the Preliminary Site Layout in Appendix 1.

Designed-in mitigation and other measures

3.3 Ecological input has been provided by BSG Ecology throughout the evolution of the proposed development. This input has been used to design-in (embed) a range of primary ecological mitigation into the layout of the proposed development.

3.4 The use of such mitigation demonstrates that the ecology mitigation hierarchy has been employed in this scheme in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (MHCLG, 2025) and other local plan policy such as the Barnsley Local Plan (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, 2019a), Barnsley Local Plan: Supplementary Planning Document – Biodiversity and Geodiversity (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, 2019b) and the Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) (Barnsley Biodiversity Trust, 2025).

3.5 Impacts to ecology features have been avoided where possible and mitigation / compensation principles have been applied within the layout design. Such measures include:

- A buffer of semi-natural habitat will be created on the southern and eastern Site boundaries to protect off-Site ecological features such as the scrub-lined railway corridor to the east and the woodland in the south.
- Where possible the hedgerows are to be retained and incorporated within the Site design.
- Planting of native trees within areas of green infrastructure.
- The attenuation basin to the south will be kept wet, to establish wetland vegetation which will in turn provide invertebrate prey for foraging bats.
- Enhancement of bird nesting and bat roosting opportunities within the Site through provision of bat and bird boxes designed into buildings and soft landscaping including hedgerow enhancement and tree planting using native species.

4 Results, impacts, and recommendations

- 4.1 This section sets out the summary findings of the baseline ecological survey work and desk study. It then goes on to evaluate the interest of the identified ecological resources, potential impacts in the absence of mitigation, required mitigation and other measures. Finally, it sets out the significance of any residual effects.
- 4.2 Certain species and habitats have been scoped out of the assessment on the basis that they are unlikely to be significantly affected by the proposed development. This is either by virtue of the design or proposed operation of the proposed development; or because they are very commonplace and/or of very low conservation value (unless there are other reasons to consider them further, for example, they may be legally protected or require special care and therefore require precautionary measures to be adopted). Where it has been possible to scope out an ecological feature, the rationale for doing so is provided in the text below.
- 4.3 A summary of the legislation and policy that are relevant to this assessment is presented in Appendix 6 of this report.

Designated Sites

Statutory Designated Sites

Baseline and scoping

- 4.4 Following a review of MAGIC, there are no European statutory designated sites within the Site or within a 10 km radius of the Site.
- 4.5 There are no sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within 2 km of the Site. However, the Site falls within the SSSI Impact Risk Zone (IRZ)⁸ of Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI, as identified on the MAGIC site. This SSSI is made up of many separate units, the closest of which is 2.1 km from the Site. The Site is considered hydrologically separate from the SSSI as it drains into 'Knoll Beck from Source to River Dearne', rather than 'Dove from Source to River Dearne' on which the Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI is based⁹.
- 4.6 The types of development which are considered to present a potential risk to the SSSI cited by Natural England are:
- **'Infrastructure:** Airports, helipads and other aviation proposals.
 - **Minerals, Oil and Gas:** Planning applications for quarries, including: new proposals, Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMP), extensions, variations to conditions etc. Oil & gas exploration/extraction.
 - **Air Pollution:** Livestock and poultry units with a floorspace > 500m², slurry lagoons > 750m² * manure stores > 3500 tonnes.
 - **Discharge:** Any discharge of water or liquid waste of more than 5m³/day that is discharged to ground (ie to seep away) or to surface water, such as a beck or stream).
- 4.7 The proposed residential development does not match any of these descriptions and therefore, on this basis consultation with Natural England will not be necessary.
- 4.8 There is one Local Nature Reserve (LNR) located within 2 km of the Site, Elsecar Reservoir LNR (also designated as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS)), located 1.51 km south of the Site. This site includes a reservoir surrounded by grassland, semi-natural broadleaved to the south, and plantation woodland to the west.

⁸ IRZs are a GIS tool developed by Natural England to make a rapid initial assessment of the potential risks to SSSIs posed by development proposals. They define zones around each SSSI which reflect the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified and indicate the types of development proposal which could potentially have adverse impacts. The IRZs also cover the interest features and sensitivities of European sites, which are underpinned by the SSSI designation and "Compensation Sites", which have been secured as compensation for impacts on European /Ramsar sites (Defra, 2024).

⁹ <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/WaterBody/GB104027057470>

- 4.9 The LNR is separated from the Site by further residential development. Given the distance from the Site and separation by residential development, neither direct or indirect impacts associated with the current Project are anticipated.
- 4.10 Therefore, statutory designated sites are **scoped out of further consideration**.

Non-statutory Designated Sites

Baseline and scoping

- 4.11 The data searches identified three non-statutory sites, all Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), within 2 km of the Site. These are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Details of non-statutory designated sites within 2 km of the Site.

Site name	Designation	Approximate distance from the Site	Description and reason for designation
Wombwell Woods	LWS	420 m north	Over 100 ha of woodland. The majority is semi-natural woodland with a canopy layer and a species-poor ground layer. Well-established broadleaved plantation is also present, dominated by mature common beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> . In the north there are small areas of heather heath and neutral grassland. Fishing ponds with open water and swampy vegetation are found in the central part of the semi-natural woodland. Ancient woodland indicator species are present at the Site. The Site has the potential to support reptiles and breeding birds.
Elescar Colliery	LWS	835 m south-east	An area of open mosaic habitat on the former Elescar Main Colliery, comprising areas of bare ground, grassland and scrub, with mosses and lichens. An area of semi-mature to mature woodland lies southwest of the Site.
Elescar Reservoir	LNR / LWS	1.51 km south	As described above in 4.7.

- 4.12 A major road, the Dearne Valley Parkway (A6195) separates the Site from Wombwell Woods. Both Elescar Reservoir and Elescar Colliery are separated from the Site by significant residential areas. Given the geographical separation of the Site from the non-statutory sites, and the nature of the proposed development, no direct impacts on any of these non-statutory sites is anticipated. Indirect impacts such as those arising from increased public access are also considered unlikely. Wombell Woods for example, is advertised by Forestry England¹⁰ to be accessible to walkers, including those with dogs therefore there are suitable facilities including maintained footpaths and litter and dog waste bins. Given the assessed absence of direct and indirect effects, non-statutory designated sites are **scoped out of further consideration**.

Priority Habitats/Habitats of Principal Importance

¹⁰ <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/woods/wombwell-wood/>

- 4.13 A search of MAGIC identified several parcels of Priority Habitat within 2 km of the Site, including traditional orchard, deciduous woodland, ancient woodland, and good quality semi-improved grassland. The nearest parcel of priority habitat is deciduous woodland, located 280 m south-west of the Site. This priority habitat is separated from the Site by further residential development, and built up area. Given the geographical separation of the proposed development from this woodland and other Priority Habitat, and the physical barriers between the Site and the habitat parcel, no direct or indirect impacts are anticipated. Priority Habitats are **scoped out of further consideration**.

Other habitats

Baseline and scoping

- 4.14 The habitats within the Site were mapped during the extended habitat survey and are described below. The locations of the habitats are shown on the extended habitat survey results plan in Figure 1, which is presented in Section 6. The photographs referred to in the text below are presented in Section 7. Botanical quadrat data for the grassland is provided in Appendix 7.

Cereal Crops (c1c¹¹)

- 4.15 The southern fields of the Site are currently used as arable land (Photos 1 and 2), which at the time of survey appeared to be growing cereal crops. Arable land has limited ecological value, is widely replicated in the surrounding landscape and is not subject to a condition assessment. This habitat type is considered to be of **negligible value**.

Modified Grassland (g4¹²)

- 4.16 The two northern fields on Site are comprised of modified grassland. The north-eastern field (Photo 3) is currently being used to graze horses. As such the grassland here is overgrazed and there is evidence of considerable poaching. As a result of this there are some areas of bare ground around gates and the stable entrances.
- 4.17 The grassland across both fields is relatively species poor. The north-western field (Photo 4) appears to be used for a hay or silage crop; with the grassland allowed to grow much longer. The sward height is still uniform and the species diversity is low. Species such as Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, cock's foot *Dactylis glomerata* and false brome *Bromus hordeaceus* dominate the field. There is a low frequency and low abundance of herbs, with only hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense* and chickweed sp. recorded in May 2026.
- 4.18 The north-east field is dominated by Yorkshire fog, but includes perennial rye *Lolium perenne*, cock's foot, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare* and common ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*. Both grassland fields are considered to be modified grassland due to the high frequency and abundance of palatable grasses, especially Yorkshire fog and the presence of less than 9 species on average per m² (UKHab Ltd, 2023).
- 4.19 The grassland is considered to be in poor condition as it fails the essential criterion required for achieving Moderate or Good condition for low distinctiveness grassland habitat identified in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessment Sheets (Defra, 2024a); on average there are less than 6 vascular plant species per m² present (Appendix 7).
- 4.20 All of the modified grassland on Site will be lost as part of the proposed development. This habitat is considered to be of low intrinsic ecological value and the loss of this habitat is not considered likely to result in a significant ecological impact or loss of local biodiversity. The modified grassland is assessed to be of **Site value**.

Hedgerows (h2a¹³)

¹¹ c1c denotes the UKHab primary code for cereal crops

¹² g4 denotes the UKHab primary code for modified grassland

¹³ H2a denotes the UKHab primary code for native hedgerow

4.21 Seven native hedgerows are present on the field boundaries within the Site. Details regarding hedgerow condition are provided in the separate Biodiversity Gain Assessment Report (BSG Ecology, 2026).

4.22 All seven hedgerows are categorised as native hedgerows, and hedgerows H1, H2, H3, H5, H6 and H7 all display similar species composition in both the hedgerow and the ground flora.

Hedgerow No.	Condition	Description
H1	Good	Native hedgerow running the length of the northern boundary, adjacent to Cemetery Road. Over 1.5 m high and wide, with evidence of management (trimming). Dominated by hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>, with frequent blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> and occasional holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> and dog rose <i>Rosa canina</i>. The ground flora includes species such as bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>, cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i>, creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> and cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>.
H2	Good	Native hedgerow running east to west through the centre of the Site. Over 1.5 m high and wide. Dominated by hawthorn, with frequent blackthorn. Holly and elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i> occur occasionally. The ground flora includes species such as bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>, cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i>, creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> and cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>.
H3	Moderate	Native hedgerow running east to west through the centre of the Site, including two mature ash trees at the eastern end. Less than 1.5 m high and wide and showing signs of intensive management. Dominated by hawthorn, with frequent blackthorn, occasional elder and field maple <i>Acer campestre</i> and rare holly.
H4	Poor	A short length of hawthorn hedgerow on the north-east boundary of the Site. The hedgerow is heavily managed back to a fenceline, ensuring that it is <1.5 m wide.
H5	Good	Native hedgerow running north to south in the north of the Site, between Cemetery Road and hedgerow H2 / H6. Over 1.5 m high and wide. Showing very similar species composition to hedgerows H1 and H2, dominated by hawthorn and frequent blackthorn.
H6	Good	Native hedgerow running east to west through the centre of the Site. Over 1.5 m high and wide. Dominated by hawthorn, with frequent blackthorn. Holly and elder occasionally. The ground flora includes species such as bramble, cleavers, creeping buttercup and cow parsley.
H7	Good	A short length of hedgerow on the south-west boundary. Over 1.5 m high and wide. Dominated by hawthorn, with occasional elder and field maple.

- 4.23 All hedgerows meet the description of a Habitat of Principal Importance (Maddock, 2011). No hedgerows on Site qualify as 'Important' under the wildlife criteria of the Hedgerow Regulations (refer to Appendix 7 for further details). The hedgerow resource is considered to be of **Site / Local value**, being a common habitat comprised of common and widespread species, but also offering variable structure and connectivity around the Site and wider landscape that may be used by fauna and (to a lesser extent) by flora.

Mixed scrub (h3h¹⁴)

- 4.24 There are small areas of mixed scrub on the western boundary, separating the Site from the adjacent residential dwellings (Photo 13). The scrub is comprised of bramble, elder, hawthorn and field maple. Large stands of common nettle *Urtica dioica* are also present on the fringes.
- 4.25 All of the mixed scrub on Site will be lost as part of the proposed development. This habitat is considered to be of moderate intrinsic ecological value but is only present across a small area of the Site. The loss of this habitat is not considered likely to result in a significant ecological impact or loss of local biodiversity. The mixed scrub is assessed to be of **Site value**.

Individual Trees (203¹⁵)

- 4.26 Two mature ash trees (Photos 11 and 12) are present in the southern half of the Site, at the eastern end of hedgerow H3. Both trees possess broken limbs and cracked bark, offering cavities and shelter to fauna. Both trees are considered to be of **Site value**.

Buildings (u1b6¹⁶)

- 4.27 Two wooden stables are present in the north-east horse paddocks. One stable (B1) is relatively new, with very few gaps in the wooden structure and between the roofing felt (Photo 9). It was assessed as having negligible potential for roosting bats. The second stable (B2), is older and in derelict condition (Photo 10). The structure has been repaired multiple times leading to many overlapping wooden boards and carpet has been used to cover gaps. This structure has been assessed as having low potential for roosting bats.
- 4.28 There is a third structure on Site (TN; Figure 1), constructed of pallets and tarpaulin (Photo 14). It is not a sealed structure and has not been mapped as a building. It has been assessed as having negligible potential for roosting bats.
- 4.29 The buildings are of **negligible value** and have therefore been **scoped out from further consideration**. They will, however, be discussed further in reference to roosting bats.

Impacts

- 4.30 The proposed development footprint will result in the loss of cropland, modified grassland and small sections of hedgerow to enable the house-building and development access. The majority of the habitat lost (cropland and modified grassland) is of low ecological value.
- 4.31 All hedgerows on Site meet the criteria for a Habitat of Principal Importance (Maddock, 2011) under the provisions of the NERC Act 2006 (as amended) and are at risk of damage during the construction phase, without the implementation of suitable mitigation measures.
- 4.32 The majority of the native hedgerow and the two mature ash trees will be retained. The retained hedgerows and trees are at risk of damage during the construction phase, without the implementation of suitable mitigation measures.

Mitigation

¹⁴ g4 denotes the UKHab primary code for mixed scrub

¹⁵ 203 denotes the UKHab secondary code for mature tree

¹⁶ u1b6 denotes the UKHab secondary code for buildings

- 4.33 The designed-in mitigation retains the majority of on-Site hedgerows (both Habitats of Principal Importance under the provisions of the NERC Act 2006 (as amended)).
- 4.34 During the construction phase, the retained hedgerows and trees will be protected (where required) by adopting appropriate measures as set out in BS 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction'. Root protection areas will be demarcated by temporary fencing to restrict vehicle and pedestrian access. No excavation will be undertaken within the root protection areas.
- 4.35 Details of hedgerow and tree protection measures will be set out in a Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEcMP) produced prior to commencement (see final section on 'Construction Ecological Management Plan and Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan').

Compensation and enhancement

- 4.36 Habitat creation and enhancement is proposed in order to maximise the biodiversity value of the proposed development, supporting policies and action plans outlined in the Barnsley Local Plan (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, 2019a), Barnsley Local Plan: Supplementary Planning Document – Biodiversity and Geodiversity (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, 2019b) and national policy (ref. Appendix 6). This section provides a summary of proposed habitat creation and enhancement measures. Further details are provided (and assessed) separately in the Biodiversity Gain Assessment (BSG Ecology, 2026).
- 4.37 Habitat creation and enhancement measures, designed to maximise value for wildlife and biodiversity where possible, are as follows:
- Landscaping within the development will use native plants where possible, including native hedgerow habitat and the use of fruit and berry bearing species providing increased foraging opportunities for invertebrates and birds.
 - Higher distinctiveness grassland will be created along the eastern edge of the Site. This area will be sown with a wildflower grassland seed mix and managed sympathetically for wildlife.
 - Landscaping will include an attenuation basin which holds water, supporting wetland vegetation at the wet base, and herb rich grassland flora up the drier sides.
 - The eastern railway corridor will be buffered through native scrub planting. Following construction, the management of hedgerows will primarily be for nature conservation (e.g., rotational cutting). This will allow hedgerows to develop into more substantial features with greater biodiversity value and provide an enhanced resource for nesting birds and commuting and foraging bats.
 - Any tree and shrub planting will include native tree species in appropriate locations within the Site.
- 4.38 Overall, these measures will strengthen habitat connectivity to off-site features of ecological value in the south and east and will create opportunities for a range of species groups, including breeding birds, commuting and foraging bats and invertebrates.
- 4.39 The newly created habitats will be managed for their wildlife interest, and a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) should be produced to provide management prescriptions to ensure the favourable management of these habitats.

Residual effects

- 4.40 A net reduction in cropland and modified grassland, habitats of negligible or Site-level ecological value (low distinctiveness), is to occur on-Site. This will be compensated by the provisions within the Site, described above. Furthermore, the created habitats will be well positioned, adjacent to existing higher quality habitat at the Site's boundaries; therefore it is considered that the scheme will overall result in a beneficial effect to habitats; especially for mixed scrub, hedgerows and grassland.
- 4.41 Further details of the habitat losses, retention, enhancement and creation, including quantification of all areas, are presented within the Biodiversity Gain Report (BSG Ecology, 2026).

Invasive Non-Native Plant Species

- 4.42 The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) includes a list of plants (listed on Schedule 9) for which it is an offence to cause them to grow in the wild. In summary, this means that work that accidentally spreads such species in the wild, through for example moving seeds or plant fragments, could give rise to an offence.

Baseline and scoping

- 4.43 Several stands of Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* were identified on the southern boundary of the Site, as denoted on Figure 1 (Photo 8). Therefore, invasive plant species are **scoped in for further consideration**.

Impact

- 4.44 Japanese knotweed is a Schedule 9 INNS. There is a risk of spreading this species (an offence) in areas that will be impacted by the development and it recommended that this is treated and removed from Site.

Mitigation

- 4.45 Advice from a specialist contractor is recommended and control measures should be put in place prior to the commencement of construction.

Protected and Notable Species

Bats

- 4.46 All UK bats are European Protected Species (EPS) under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Several species are Species of Principle Importance under the provision of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Bats are protected against disturbance, killing or injuring and their roosts are protected against obstruction, damage or destruction.

Baseline and scoping

- 4.47 RBRC and SBRC returned 90 records of bats within 2 km of the Site, although none relate to the Site itself. The closest record pertains to a pipistrelle *Pipistrellus sp.* 250 m east of the Site from 1999. The nearest record of a roost pertains to 25 unidentified bats 450 m east of the Site from 2005.
- 4.48 A search of MAGIC returned no records for Bat European Protected Species Licences (EPSL) within 2 km of the Site boundary.

Roosting Opportunities

- 4.49 There are several features on Site which may offer roosting opportunities for bats. In the north-east of the Site, there are two wooden stable structures. One structure B1 (Photograph 9) appears quite new. From examining historical aerial imagery, it was erected on Site between July 2024 and June 2025. The roofing felt is well sealed around the edges and the wooden boards not showing any signs of cracking or cavities. It has been assessed as having negligible potential for roosting bats. Therefore, no further survey is required.
- 4.50 The second stable structure B2 (Photograph 10) is older and derelict. It appears to have been repaired in several places over time, resulting in overlapping wooden boards and beams. There are gaps and cavities which may offer opportunities for small numbers of bats to roost. This building has therefore been assessed as having low potential for roosting bats and, in accordance with industry guidance, is subject to further survey.

- 4.51 A single dusk emergence survey was undertaken of the stable B2, on 7th May 2026. No bats were recorded entering, exiting or directly interacting with the building over the course of the survey. Further details of this survey are provided in Appendix 3.
- 4.52 There are two ash trees located in the south of the Site, within one of the field boundary hedgerows (Photographs 11 and 12). Both ash trees possess cracked and broken limbs, showing signs of cavities which may offer potential for roosting bats. Both trees have therefore been assessed as having PRF-I. Both trees are to be retained as part of the proposed development, and therefore no further survey is required on this basis.

Foraging and Commuting Opportunities

- 4.53 The Site itself offers moderate opportunities for commuting and foraging bats. The Site contains several hedgerows along the field boundaries and through the centre of the Site. Immediately adjacent to the eastern Site boundary is a railway corridor lined with scrub, offering an unlit foraging corridor. A small immature woodland and a row of mature trees is located immediately to the south of the Site. Due to the moderate potential for the Site (particularly its boundary features) to be used by foraging and commuting bats, with reference to industry guidance, bat activity surveys have been undertaken and will continue over the planning determination period. Initial findings of the activity surveys are presented below.

Static bat detector surveys

- 4.54 A total of 1,053 passes were recorded throughout the automated bat detector survey in April (data was analysed across 5 nights from April 2026).
- 4.55 A least four species of bat were recorded during the static survey. These were:
- Common pipistrelle (929 passes / 9.9 bat passes per hour across all recorded hours)
 - Soprano pipistrelle (103 passes / 1.1 bat passes per hour)
 - Noctule (20 passes / 0.02 bat passes per hour)
 - *Myotis* sp. (1 passes / <0.1 bat passes per hour)
- 4.56 Common pipistrelle was the most frequently recorded species, accounting for 88.2% of all bat passes recorded, while soprano pipistrelle accounted for 9.8%, noctule 1.9% and myotis 0.09%.
- 4.57 Common pipistrelle are considered to be common and soprano pipistrelle fairly common widely in South Yorkshire. Noctule are considered to be uncommon but widespread. *Myotis* species bat calls cannot reliably be separated to a species level based on calls alone due to overlapping characteristics. Daubenton's *Myotis daubentonii*, are fairly common, Natterer's locally distributed and whiskered *Myotis mystacinus* uncommon. All three of these species are recorded to breed and hibernate in south Yorkshire. Conversely, Brandt's bat *Myotis brandtii* are considered very rare and Alcahoe *Myotis alcahoe* are not known to be present in the region. (South Yorkshire Bat Group, 2026).
- 4.58 Table 2 compares the levels of bat activity at each static bat detector location across the automated bat detector survey period (five nights).

Table 2: Average bat pass rates at each static location in April 2026 (for all bat species)

Static Location	Location summary description	Average no. of bat passes per hour	Percentage of all bat calls
1	Next to mature ash trees in hedgerow H3	10.6	48%
2	At node where hedgerows H2, H6, and H6 meet.	11.9	52%

- 4.59 The Spring 2026 survey indicate that bats are making use of linear features on Site, such as hedgerows, albeit in small numbers. So far, the recorded bat activity levels on Site recorded from the static bat detector survey are considered to be typical for the geographic location of the Site and the habitats present.

Night-time bat walkover survey

- 4.60 One NBW survey was undertaken in early May 2026, following the route shown on Figure 3, Section 6. The results of which are summarised below and shown on Figure 3 in Section 6 with further detail provided in Appendix 4.
- 4.61 Low numbers of bats were recorded during the survey. Common pipistrelle was the only recorded species during the transect with 10 bat passes in total. Bats were seen as individuals commuting or foraging along linear and boundary habitat features such as hedgerows and the eastern railway corridor.

Summary

- 4.62 The species recorded on Site are considered to be widespread across South Yorkshire and numbers are typical for a Site on the edge of urban habitat, possessing primarily arable cropland / silage fields with boundary vegetation.
- 4.63 Low numbers of common pipistrelle were recorded during the night-time bat walkover survey, where bats were typically seen as individuals commuting or foraging along linear and boundary habitat features such as the hedgerows and the railway corridor. Little activity was recorded in association with the field interiors.
- 4.64 Supplementary survey information derived from the emergence surveys of the two stables on the north-east of the Site revealed small numbers of common pipistrelle bat foraging and commuting adjacent the vegetated railway line next to the stables (see Appendix 3 for further details).
- 4.65 Based on the bat statuses described by the South Yorkshire Bat Group, it is considered that the species assemblage recorded is largely comprised of common and widespread species typical of the Site's geographical location and habitats. The UK Bat Mitigation Guidelines (Reason and Wray, 2023; Table 3.3) provide a means of assessing the importance of a bat assemblage for each geographical region based on the range of species recorded. This only considers the species recorded, regardless of frequency / abundance. For the North of England, the bat species assemblage recorded at the Site is assessed to be of less than County importance with a score of 6/22. The threshold for the County Importance category is 10/22. This may alter with further surveys that are programmed over summer and autumn but is not expected to change significantly given the composition of habitats making up the Site.
- 4.66 Commuting and foraging opportunities on Site are limited to the hedgerows, railway corridor and off-Site woodland and mature row of trees to the south. The open fields are less favourable for most UK species. The Site as a resource for foraging and commuting bats is considered to be of **Local value**, with the main interest being in association with the network of hedgerows and eastern railway corridor. These resources are **scoped in for consideration** based largely on the opportunity to provide betterment for the local bat assemblage through habitat provision and enhancement through the green infrastructure provided by the proposed development, especially along the eastern Site boundary.

Impact

- 4.67 The majority of the habitats providing foraging and commuting opportunities (hedgerows and the railway corridor) are to be retained, however some central sections of hedgerows will be fragmented by road crossings. Both during construction and operation, lighting may illuminate these habitats (including those to be created) which may reduce their suitability as commuting and foraging habitat. There is therefore a risk of a minor adverse effect to commuting and foraging bats in the absence of mitigation.

Mitigation

- 4.68 The two ash trees are to be retained and protected from direct impacts (such as accidental damage), and from indirect impacts (such as from artificial lighting) during construction and operational periods. Should any future removal or pruning works be required, an updated inspection should be completed by a suitably experienced ecologist prior to the works, to assess potential roost features and determine whether further survey is required.
- 4.69 As part of the designed-in mitigation, the majority of hedgerows will be retained and managed to enhance structure and therefore use by foraging and commuting bats, especially more common species such as those recorded from the Site. An unlit corridor will be maintained along the scrub-lined existing railway corridor forming the eastern boundary of the Site, and adjacent the southern boundary, close to off-site woodland. This will retain the foraging and commuting resource for bats provided by these habitats.
- 4.70 Where possible, the lighting scheme will be developed to avoid illumination of the southern and eastern sides of the Site (especially in the vicinity of off-Site woodland and the railway corridor) to minimise the risk of disturbance to commuting and foraging bats. Where the installation of additional artificial lighting cannot be avoided e.g. in the built development areas, it will need to consider the following (BCT and ILP, 2023):
- Narrow spectrum lights with no UV content and warm white LED (2700 Kelvin or less) should be selected.
 - Reducing light spill where possible through appropriate choice of light.
 - The use of light barriers to prevent light spillage, this can include physical barriers such as fences and also vegetation planting.
 - Lighting controls and/or sensors should be used to ensure that lights are only in use when required.
- 4.71 This detail will be set out in a CEcMP report, to be produced prior to commencement.

Compensation and enhancement

- 4.72 The habitats in the east of the Site (adjacent to the railway) will be managed for biodiversity, unlit and with reduced public access. This is likely to provide a richer invertebrate assemblage for foraging bats.
- 4.73 Tree, hedgerow and scrub planting, grassland creation and SuDS creation is proposed through the green infrastructure of the Site which will provide new, enhanced foraging opportunities for bats and maintain connectivity of suitable foraging and commuting habitats for bats, particularly adjacent to the eastern railway corridor and southern woodland parcel. Residential gardens are also anticipated to provide some foraging habitat.
- 4.74 With reference to the Homes for Nature commitment (Homes for Nature, 2026), and supporting policies and objectives outlined in the Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan (Barnsley Biodiversity Trust, 2025) and the Barnsley Local Plan: Supplementary Planning Document – Biodiversity and Geodiversity (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, 2024), it is recommended that, where appropriate, new dwellings to be constructed within the Site should include integral boxes for roosting bats. These should be located at suitable properties and trees, such as those that outlook onto larger areas of green infrastructure where possible so that bats may make use of habitat features that will be created and that will maintain connectivity of habitats across the Site and into the surrounding landscape. The detail of this would be included in the CEcMP.

Residual Effects

- 4.75 The measures described above will reduce the potential effects on foraging and commuting bats, and will provide an enhancement in the local feeding, commuting and roosting resource.

Badger

- 4.76 Badger *Meles meles* is protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. It is not permitted to wilfully kill, injure, take, possess, or cruelly ill-treat a badger, or to attempt to do so or to intentionally or recklessly interfere with a sett.

Baseline and scoping

- 4.77 RBRC and SBRC returned just one record of badger within 2 km of the Site, which does not relate to the Site itself. The record is location 1.2 km south-west of the Site boundary and relates to a latrine. The record is from 2015. There are no records of setts within 2 km of the Site.
- 4.78 No setts or other signs of badger were recorded on Site or within a 30 m boundary (where this land was accessible) during the 2026 survey visits.
- 4.79 Badger are not considered likely to be regularly using the Site however, due to the high mobility of the species, there is a risk that badger may be impacted during the construction phase should the species move into the area. On this basis, badger is **scoped in for further consideration**.

Impacts

- 4.80 Badger is a mobile species that can readily excavate new setts and expand territory. Should this take place prior to the construction phase, construction activities, in particular vehicle movements and excavation, would risk direct harm and an adverse impact to badger.
- 4.81 During the construction phase, without mitigation, there is a risk of badgers becoming entrapped in excavations or confined spaces. This is a risk of an adverse impact to badger.

Mitigation

- 4.82 An updated badger survey will be undertaken ca. 3 months prior to commencement of the construction phase, to confirm whether the status of badger within the Site remains the same. If a badger sett is confirmed to be present and works risk contravention of legislation, the badger sett may be closed under licence, following appropriate methodologies.
- 4.83 During construction, as a precaution, to avoid accidental entrapment of mammals, any excavations should have a ramp installed to allow safe exit of badger, provided this is practicable, appropriate and complies with on-site health and safety considerations.
- 4.84 These measures would be set out in a CEcMP produced prior to commencement.

Breeding Birds

- 4.85 All nesting birds are protected under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure, or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy its nest whilst in use or being built, or take or destroy its eggs.
- 4.86 'Birds of Conservation Concern' (BoCC) species are those where their UK population has declined and/or contracted in range or is vulnerable to population-level declines' (Stanbury *et al.*, 2021); red-listed birds are those of greatest conservation concern. Amber-listed species are of medium conservation concern. In addition, some bird species are listed a priority species (i.e. Species of Principle Importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England under the provisions of Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006). The list of Priority Species /BoCC Red-list species is similar, although the red-list has been updated most recently and has been the main reference in relation to the status of birds.

Baseline and scoping

- 4.40 SBRC and RBRC returned a total of 331 bird records including 60 species of birds from within the search area. None relate to the Site. Of these species, 29 are protected under Schedule 1 of the

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA Sch1; as amended), listed as SPIs, or amber- or red-listed as Birds of Conservation Concern in the UK (Stanbury et al., 2021).

- 4.41 The hedgerows provide suitable nesting habitat for breeding birds, and the arable and grassland fields may offer opportunities for ground nesting birds on Site.
- 4.42 During the breeding bird surveys completed in 2026 a total of 27 species of bird were recorded within, adjacent to or flying over the Site. Of the 27 species, six are included on the Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern in England (Stanbury, *et al.*, 2021), eight are on the Amber List, and the remaining 13 are on the Green List. One species, greenfinch, was confirmed nesting on Site and three species (stock dove, woodpigeon and wren) were assessed as probably breeding. Four species (linnet *Carduelis cannabina*, skylark *Alauda arvensis*, song thrush *Turdus philomelos* and yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*) were assessed as possibly breeding.
- 4.43 A full list of all birds recorded during the first three 2026 breeding bird surveys, their conservation status and breeding status is presented in Table A5.2 in Appendix 5. Further details of birds identified during the breeding bird surveys are provided in Figures 41-4c.
- 4.44 During the evening survey (BBS 4), no nocturnal birds were recorded on Site.
- 4.45 Overall, the assemblage of birds recorded on Site is considered typical of the farmed landscape in South Yorkshire, and not particularly diverse. Most species recorded are associated with boundary habitats such as hedgerows and woodland, which, except for a few small sections of hedgerow which are to be removed for Site access, are to be retained and will unlikely be significantly impacted by the proposed development. The breeding bird assemblage supported by the Site is considered to be a feature of **Site value**. Further consideration of breeding birds is taken forward in the assessment due to the legal protection afforded to nesting birds and opportunities for enhancement.

Impact

- 4.46 The majority of high value habitat for nesting birds, such as hedgerows, are proposed to be retained. Farmland bird species that are more closely associated with hedgerows in the farmed landscape may however avoid nesting in hedgerows that are surrounded / fragmented by residential development. For example, species such as yellowhammer and linnet may avoid nesting; although no breeding was confirmed to take place in 2026. Also, in the absence of mitigation, any clearance or damage of hedgerow may lead to the destruction and disturbance of nests and eggs of nesting birds, resulting in an adverse impact.
- 4.47 The loss of arable habitat will result in a loss of potential nesting habitat for ground nesting birds including skylark; although in 2026 no evidence of successful breeding was recorded.

Mitigation

- 4.48 A protection buffer will be provided for retained hedgerows and trees, which, in the absence of mitigation would be at risk of accidental damage during construction.
- 4.49 Vegetation clearance will avoid the nesting bird season (indicatively mid-February to late August inclusive) wherever possible.
- 4.50 Any vegetation clearance that needs to take place during the bird nesting season will be preceded by an inspection for nesting birds by a suitably qualified ecologist. Should nesting birds be present, then clearance and construction activities within that area (and a suitably sized buffer of the nesting bird(s)) should stop until young have fledged. This may be six to eight weeks but the exact timescales are dependent on the species and status of the nest when found.
- 4.51 These measures would be set out in a CEcMP produced prior to commencement.

Compensation and enhancement

4.52 The following recommendations and inclusions within the landscape scheme will enhance the Site for nesting and foraging birds, supporting policies and action plans outlined in the Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan (Barnsley Biodiversity Trust, 2015), Barnsley Local Plan (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, 2019a), Barnsley Local Plan: Supplementary Planning Document – Biodiversity and Geodiversity (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, 2019b) The detail of this would be included in the CEcMP and/or HMMP (as appropriate):

- The use of native shrubs and trees to provide additional bird nesting habitats on Site. The inclusion of species that are fruit and berry bearing will also provide an additional foraging resource for birds.
- The creation of species-rich grassland habitats within the Site will provide an enhanced foraging resource for nesting birds that continue to breed within the surrounding area. In turn the habitat enhancements may be considered likely to provide ancillary feeding habitat for skylark that may breed in the large fields to the east of the Site (the other side of the railway).
- In line with the Homes for Nature commitment (Homes for Nature, 2026) and to support policies outlined in the Barnsley Local Plan: Supplementary Planning Document – Biodiversity and Geodiversity (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, 2024), all new dwellings to be constructed within the developable area of the Site should include the provision of integral boxes for nesting birds, to benefit a range of species. Preferably, boxes will be integrated into buildings to benefit UKBAP species and species on the Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern in England (Stanbury, *et al.*, 2021); species such as house sparrow, house martin, swift and starling.

Residual effect

4.53 Given the protection measures, habitat creation and enhancement specified above, it is considered that there will be a beneficial effect to nesting and foraging birds.

Amphibians, including Great Crested Newt (GCN)

4.54 Great crested newt is a European Protected Species (EPS) under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended and Species of Principle Importance under the provisions of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Great crested newt is protected against disturbance, killing and injuring and their resting places are protected against obstruction, damage or destruction.

Baseline and scoping

4.55 RBRC and SBRC returned three records of GCN within 2 km of the Site, with the closest being 1.17 km north-east of the Site, dated from 1991.

4.56 There are no ponds within the Site, and the nearest pond identified using aerial imagery is located over 200 m away and is separated from the Site by Cemetery Road and residential development. The on-Site terrestrial habitat is assessed to be of low suitability for GCN, being arable fields and modified grassland – some of which is heavily grazed. Given the lack of suitable aquatic habitat present on Site, the distance between the Site and nearby ponds, the likelihood of GCN being present on Site is considered very low.

4.57 No survey work or mitigation for great crested newt is considered necessary and great crested newt and amphibians are therefore **scoped out of further consideration**.

Reptiles

4.58 All native reptile species receive legal protection in Great Britain under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Viviparous lizard *Zootoca vivipara*, slow worm *Anguis fragilis*, grass snake *Natrix natrix* and adder *Vipera berus* are protected against killing, injuring and unlicensed trade only. Sand lizard *Lacerta agilis* and smooth snake *Coronella austriaca* receive additional protection as “European Protected Species” under the provisions of the Conservation of Habitats and

Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Baseline and scoping

- 4.59 RBRC and SBRC returned 12 records for reptiles within 2 km of the Site, all pertaining to grass snake *Natrix helvetica*. None of the records relate to the Site itself and the closest record is located 850 m north-west of the Site, from 2011.
- 4.60 The Site is comprised of arable fields and modified grassland, offering limited habitat for reptiles. The Site is considered of low suitability for reptiles and therefore, reptiles are **scoped out of further consideration**.

Other species – Hedgehog

- 4.61 Hedgehog is a Species of Principal Importance listed under Section 41 (S41) of the NERC Act 2006 (as amended).

Baseline and scoping

- 4.62 The Big Hedgehog Map (PTES & British Hedgehog Preservation Society, 2025) identified a number records of hedgehog in the local area, the closest record is located approximately 145 m east of the Site. The RBRC and SBRC data searches provided 15 records of hedgehog within the search area, the closest being 890 m north of the Site, and dating from 2017.
- 4.63 The Site offers habitat suitable for foraging and hibernation (grassland and hedgerows) and is considered to be of local value to hedgehogs.

Impacts

- 4.64 The construction phase may result in killing or injury to hibernating hedgehogs where vegetation removal is undertaken without mitigation during winter. This would lead to an adverse impact to hedgehogs.

Mitigation

- 4.65 During construction, as a precaution, to avoid accidental entrapment of mammals, any excavations should have a ramp installed to allow safe exit of hedgehogs, provided this is practicable, appropriate and complies with on-site health and safety considerations.
- 4.66 It is recommended that any removal of complex vegetative habitat (e.g. sections of hedgerow across the Site to be removed for development access) is conducted under a watching brief by a suitably experienced ecologist, to check for hedgehog, preferably avoiding the hibernation season (typically November to February). Disturbance of such habitat should also avoid the bird nesting season. Therefore, October is preferable for any vegetation clearance to be undertaken, although other times of the active season are acceptable. The detail of this would be included in the CEcMP.
- 4.67 In line with the Homes for Nature commitment (Homes for Nature, 2026), and to support policies and objectives outlined in the Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan (Barnsley Biodiversity Trust, 2025) and Barnsley Local Plan: Supplementary Planning Document – Biodiversity and Geodiversity (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, 2024), residential fencing to be included within the development should include a 13 cm gap from the ground or include a hole at the bottom of the panel to allow hedgehog to enter and cross the Site and access potential foraging resources across the Site. Hedgehog friendly fencing should be positioned to avoid any steep changes in ground level (where present) which would be difficult for hedgehog to cross.

Residual effect

- 4.68 Following the measures above, it is considered that there will be a negligible residual effect to hedgehogs.

Construction Ecological Management Plan and Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan

- 4.69 The identified measures will, to a large extent, be centred on the meaningful preparation and successful delivery of two key documents: a CEcMP and HMMP, to ensure that adverse ecological effects of **development** activities identified in the Ecological Impact Assessment are mitigated and green infrastructure managed to secure the delivery of the proposed biodiversity outcomes. The preparation and implementation of both of these documents would be subject to condition(s) of planning consent for the proposed development.
- 4.70 A **CEcMP** will be prepared and submitted to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council prior to construction. The biodiversity component of this document will set out appropriate safeguard, protection, mitigation (including avoidance) and legal compliance measures (e.g., through a series of Method Statements) to be followed as well as details of all proposed habitat creation.
- 4.71 Key Method Statements to be included in the CEcMP are described below:
- Pre-construction surveys / inspections. A protocol for pre-construction surveys / inspections will be set out, particularly for nesting birds, hedgehog and badger.
 - Habitat Protection. All areas of sensitive habitat that will be retained and unaffected by the proposed development will be protected through a combination of protective fences or exclusion barriers and warning signs.
 - Habitat Creation. This will provide a particular focus on the creation of habitats in line with relevant objectives/targets in the Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan (Barnsley Biodiversity Trust, 2025), hedgerows, neutral grassland and amenity grassland.
 - Protected Species Mitigation. Individual or combined method statements that document appropriate mitigation measures for protected species will be prepared, for example during vegetation clearance. Species / species groups covered may include: bats, badger, hedgehog and birds.
 - Lighting. Appropriate measures will be put in place to control new artificial lighting, in particular spill onto retained and created features of importance for foraging and commuting bats, so as to minimise effects on these features during the construction and post-completion stages.
 - Provision of Wildlife Installations. A combination of bat boxes and bird boxes will be installed on/within the buildings or attached to retained trees. Hedgehog friendly fencing will also be installed to retain connectivity of potential foraging resources for hedgehog.
- 4.72 In advance of the proposed development commencing, a **HMMP** will also be produced and submitted to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. The purpose of this document will be to set appropriate aims and objectives for the management of created and retained habitats within the Site, and in particular the main areas of green infrastructure, seeking to maximise positive biodiversity outcomes for the habitats and species that will be affected (including beneficial enhancement) by the proposed development. These aims and habitat management prescriptions will seek to ensure resilience to the effects of climate change, as far as is reasonable.
- 4.73 The plan will include a series of management prescriptions and an annual work plan for a standard minimum period of 5 years from completion of the construction of the development which is capable of being rolled out over a 30 year period. Personnel responsible for implementation of the plan will be identified. Monitoring will take place at appropriate intervals to ensure that habitats develop according to the targets set, and protected species are not adversely affected. The consented development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved plan. The production of this plan will make reference to relevant sections of current best practice, notably that identified in *BS42020:2013 Biodiversity - Code of practice for planning and development* (BSI, 2013).

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6 Figures

Figure 1: Results of UKHab Survey

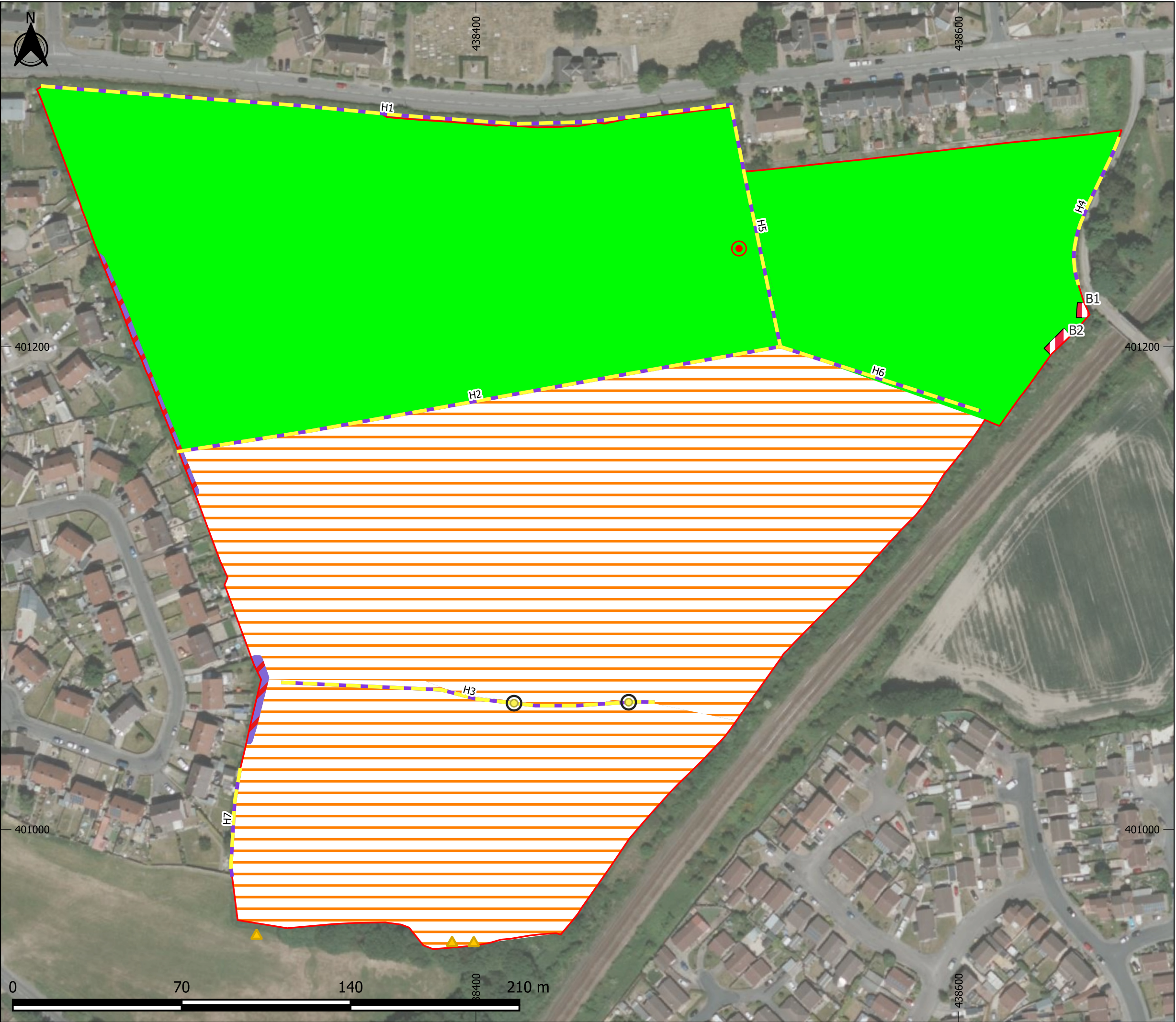
Figure 2: Bat static detector locations

Figure 3: Nighttime bat walkover results – Spring 2026

Figure 4a: Results of breeding bird surveys – Visit 1

Figure 4b: Results of breeding bird surveys – Visit 2

Figure 4c: Results of breeding bird surveys – Visit 3



Legend

- Invasive species
- Target note
- Existing Large Rural Tree
- Native Hedgerow (h2NE5)
- Cereal crops
- Modified grassland
- Mixed scrub
- Developed land; sealed surface
- Site boundary

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PROJECT TITLE
CEMETERY ROAD, JUMP, BARNSLEY -
ECOLOGY 2026

DRAWING TITLE
Figure 1: Results of UKHab Survey

DATE: 21/05/2026	CHECKED: ET	SCALE: 1:1,500
DRAWN: MZ	APPROVED: JF	VERSION:1.2

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Sources: BSG Ecology survey data

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Legend

- Static Point
- Site boundary

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PROJECT TITLE
CEMETERY ROAD, JUMP, BARNSELY - ECOLOGY
2026

DRAWING TITLE
Figure 2: Bat static detector locations

DATE: 14/05/2026	CHECKED: ET	SCALE: 1:2,000
DRAWN: MZ	APPROVED: JF	VERSION:1.0

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Legend

- Site boundary
- Survey transect
- Surveyor start point
- Bat Passes
 - Soprano pipistrelle
 - Common pipistrelle
 - Common pipistrelle



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PROJECT TITLE
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DRAWING TITLE
Figure 3: Nighttime bat walkover results –
Spring 2026

DATE: 21/05/2026
DRAWN: MZ
CHECKED: ET
APPROVED: JF
SCALE: 1:2,000
VERSION:1.0

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Sources: BSG Ecology survey data



Legend

- Site boundary
- △CH Visit 1 - probable breeding
- △CH Visit 1 - possible breeding
- △CH Visit 1 - non-breeding

BTO Code	Common Name
D.	Dunnock
HS	House Sparrow
SD	Stock Dove
WP	Woodpigeon



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PROJECT TITLE
CEMETERY ROAD, JUMP, BARNLEY - ECOLOGY 2026

DRAWING TITLE
Figure 4a: Results of breeding bird surveys – Visit 1

DATE: 14/05/2026
DRAWN: MZ

CHECKED: ET
APPROVED: JF

SCALE: 1:2,000
VERSION:1.0

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- Legend
- Site boundary
 - Visit 2 - probable breeding
 - Visit 2 - possible breeding
 - Visit 2 - non-breeding
 - Flying

BTO Code	Common Name
D.	Dunnock
HS	House Sparrow
LI	Linnet
MA	Mallard
MG	Magpie
S.	Skylark
SG	Starling
SH	Sparrowhawk
ST	Song Thrush
WP	Woodpigeon
WR	Wren

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DRAWING TITLE
Figure 4b: Results of breeding bird surveys –
Visit 2

DATE: 14/05/2026 CHECKED: ET SCALE: 1:2,000
DRAWN: MZ APPROVED: JF VERSION:1.0

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Sources: BSG Ecology survey data



Legend

Site boundary

Visit 3 - cornfirmed breeding

Visit 3 - probable breeding

Visit 3 - possible breeding

Visit 3 - non-breeding

BTO Code	Common Name
D.	Dunnock
GR	Greenfinch
LI	Linnet
MA	Mallard
S.	Skylark
ST	Song Thrush
WH	Whitethroat
WP	Woodpigeon
WR	Wren
Y.	Yellowhammer

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PROJECT TITLE

CEMETERY ROAD, JUMP, BARNSELY - ECOLOGY 2026

DRAWING TITLE

Figure 4c: Results of breeding bird surveys – Visit 3

DATE: 14/05/2026

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SCALE: 1:2,000

DRAWN: MZ

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7 Photographs

Photograph 1: View of central arable field from the western boundary.



Photograph 2: View of southern arable field from the southern boundary.



Photograph 3: The north-eastern field which was heavily grazed by horses.



Photograph 4: Longer grassland recorded in the north-western field.



Photograph 5: Example of on-Site native hedgerows (H2) along field boundaries.



Photograph 6: Eastern boundary adjacent to the railway, the fenceline covered in bramble.



Photograph 7: Heavily trimmed hedgerow H4 on the north-eastern boundary.



Photograph 8: Japanese knotweed located on the southern boundary.



Photograph 9: Building B1 in the north-east field. Assessed as negligible potential for bats.



Photograph 10: Building B2 in the north-east field. Assessed as low potential for bats.



Photograph 11: Ash tree T1 in the central hedgerow. Assessed as PRF-I for bats.



Photograph 12: Ash tree T2 in the central hedgerow. Assessed as PRF-I for bats.



Photograph 13: Mixed scrub on western Site boundary.



Photograph 14: Structure in north-western field, made of pallets (Figure 1, TN).



8 Appendices

Appendix 1: Layout

Cemetery Road, JUMP



ISSUE FOR PLANNING

- NOTES:
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETRES, UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE.
 - DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING.
 - ALL DIMENSIONS TO BE VERIFIED ON SITE BEFORE CONSTRUCTION COMMENCES.
 - EXISTING SERVICE RUNS TO BE VERIFIED BY SITE INSPECTION.



CEMETERY ROAD, JUMP SCHEDULE OF ACCOMMODATION						
House Type	Bedrooms	Bathrooms	Kitchens	Living Areas	Garages	Other
Residence						
1st Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
2nd Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
3rd Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
4th Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
5th Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
6th Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
7th Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
8th Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
9th Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
10th Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
11th Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
12th Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
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Office						
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34th Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
35th Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
36th Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
37th Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
38th Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
39th Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
40th Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
41st Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
42nd Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
43rd Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
44th Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
45th Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
46th Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
47th Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
48th Floor	1	1	1	1	1	1
49th Floor	1	1	1	1		

Appendix 2: Daytime ground level assessment methodology and results

Methodology

- 8.1 As part of the extended habitat survey, 11 February 2026, a daytime bat survey was undertaken by Ellie Tew of the two wooden stables located within the north-east field. The structures were inspected externally for evidence of roosting bats as well as to identify potential access points and features with bat roosting potential. An internal inspection of the structure was also undertaken on 7th May 2026 by Ellie Tew and Fiona Shuttle, BSG Ecology Senior Ecology, to search for bats or evidence of bats, such as bat droppings. The survey work was carried out with reference to Bat Conservation Trust survey guidance (Collins, 2023; in particular, Chapter 5).
- 8.2 A ground level tree assessment (GLTA) was also undertaken by Ellie Tew on 11 February 2026 of the two mature ash trees located on Site. Both trees were assessed from the ground using close-focussing binoculars for evidence of potential roost features (PRFs) that could be used by bats. Typical PRFs on trees include woodpecker holes, knot holes, tear-outs, hazard beams and lifted bark. The assessment was undertaken with reference to the latest industry guidelines (Collins, 2023, in particular Chapter 6). PRFs are assigned a suitability for their potential to support roosting bats, with reference to the guidelines for categorising suitability provided in Collins (2023) (Table 6.2), which is provided in Table A2.1 below.

Table A2.1: Descriptions of PRF suitability categories

Suitability	Description
PRF-I	PRF is only suitable for individual bats or very small numbers of bats either due to size or lack of suitable surrounding habitats.
PRF-M	PRF is suitable for multiple bats and may therefore be used by a maternity colony.

Results

- 8.3 Two wooden stables are present in the north-east horse paddocks. One stable (B1) is relatively new, with very few gaps in the wooden structure and between the roofing felt. It was assessed as having negligible potential for roosting bats. The second stable (B2), is far older and in derelict condition. The structure has been repaired multiple times leading to many overlapping wooden boards and carpet has been used to cover gaps. This structure has been assessed as having low potential for roosting bats.
- 8.4 There is a third structure on Site (TN; Figure 1), which is a shelter constructed of pallets and tarpaulin. It offers no protection or cavities for bats to shelter, and has been assessed as having negligible potential for roosting bats.
- 8.5 There are two individual mature ash trees on Site, located at the eastern end of hedgerow H3. Both trees have broken and cracked limbs which may offer limited roosting potential for small numbers of bats. Both trees were assessed as having PRF-I.

Appendix 3: Bat emergence survey methodology and results

Methodology

- 8.6 BSG Ecology carried out one dusk bat emergence surveys at the Site in May 2026. Survey work was undertaken by Ellie Tew and assisted by Senior Ecologist Fiona Shuttle, as shown in Table A3.1. Surveys were conducted with reference to good practice guidelines (Collins, 2023).
- 8.7 During the survey, both surveyors were positioned so that the most effective and efficient visual coverage could be gained of the stable, with particular attention paid to the open sides on both the northern and southern ends of the building. Two surveyors were sufficient to cover the building, with surveyors located on the north-west and south-west sides of the building.

Table A3.1: Bat survey visits

Date	Sunset & Survey Times	Weather Conditions ¹⁷	Personnel
07/05/2026	Sunset: 20:46 20:31 – 22:16	Dry throughout the survey with cloud cover increasing from 6/8 to 8/8 Oktas and wind speed BS 1-2. Temperature falling from 12°C to 10°C.	Ellie Tew and Fiona Shuttle

- 8.8 Heterodyne and frequency division full spectrum bat detectors were used to aid bat identification in the field. Both surveyors recorded calls so that species could later be confirmed by studying sonograms with appropriate computer software (if necessary). Infra-red cameras (Canon XA60) were used as night vision aids (NVAs) during the dusk emergence surveys to complement the other survey techniques employed to aid surveyors in recording any emerging bats.
- 8.9 **Consideration of Limitations:** It wasn't possible to access or view the eastern external side of the building due to vegetation. The lack of access on this side is not considered to be a significant limitation, and a sufficient view was obtained from the south-west and north-west sides of the building.

Results

- 8.10 The survey recorded bats foraging and commuting along the adjacent railway corridor. Most recorded bats were common pipistrelle, with noctule recorded twice. Only a single individual bat was recorded at any one time.
- 8.11 No bats were recorded emerging, entering or interacting with the building during the survey.

¹⁷ Oktas is a measurement scale to describe cloud cover, given out of 8. Beaufort is a measurement scale to describe wind speed, given out of 12.

Appendix 4: Bat activity survey methodology and results

Methodology

- 8.12 In order to interpret the species, behaviour and distribution of bats using the Site, one period of automated bat detector ('static') monitoring and one Night-time Bat Walkover (NBW) was undertaken during spring 2026. A second and third NBW will be undertaken in summer and autumn 2026 and automated bat detector monitoring surveys will continue to be undertaken monthly until September 2026.
- 8.13 With reference to industry standard guidance (Collins, 2023), the Site is assessed to have moderate habitat suitability for bats. The Site is dominated by modified grassland and arable land which is considered likely to support limited numbers of invertebrates upon which bats would prey. However, the on-Site hedgerows and railway corridor on the eastern site boundary provide moderate potential for commuting and foraging bats.

Automated bat detector monitoring

- 8.14 Static remote bat detectors (Wildlife Acoustics Song Meter 4 (SM4)) were deployed in April 2026 and left *in situ* for a minimum of five consecutive nights to record bat activity. For the deployment period, the detectors were set to record from half an hour before published sunset to half an hour after sunrise. The dates and weather conditions during each survey period are presented in Table A4.1 below.

Table A4.1. Bat activity (statics) survey details

Date	Sunset/Sunrise ¹⁸	Weather conditions
Evening of 22.04.26 – morning of 27.04.26	20:19 / 05:50	Calm and mild, 8 - 18 °C daytime temperature and minimum of 1 - 7 °C overnight. Dry.

- 8.15 Two SM4 bat detectors were deployed in April 2026. The detectors were positioned to assess bat activity along features where bat activity was considered likely; Static Location 1 was situated next to the mature ash trees and Static Location 2 was situated at the fork of the hedgerows which border the modified grassland in the north of the Site, as indicated on Figure 2.
- 8.16 The data provided by automated bat detectors were analysed in order to determine the total number of bat registrations recorded and also the pass rate (i.e., the average number of bat registrations recorded per night). It is difficult to assess actual bat numbers from the information collected by static bat detectors. Where multiple bat calls are recorded these could, for example, either have been produced by a single bat repeatedly flying back and forth past the detector (as often occurs during foraging) or by multiple bats, each flying past on a single occasion (as could occur when commuting). The data provided by the remote bat detectors are therefore presented as both the total number of bat registrations and the pass rate (i.e. the average number of bat registrations recorded per hour or night), which provides a relative measure of bat activity at different locations and at different times.

Night-time bat walkover

- 8.17 One seasonal NBW surveys was undertaken in April 2026. The weather conditions during the survey are presented in Table A4.2 below.
- 8.18 During the survey, a transect route around the Site was walked by two ecologists. The route was designed to follow field boundaries including habitat features that are most likely to be used by foraging and commuting bats such as hedgerows, woodland and the railway corridor.
- 8.19 The NBW commenced at sunset and finished at least two hours after. At the start of the NBW, the surveyors were positioned in two different locations on potential flight lines close to the potential roost

¹⁸ Sunset / sunrise times of first night of static survey periods

locations in the mature ash trees. Surveyors remained in position for at least 30 minutes, recording behaviour of any bats observed; following which, surveyors converged and walked at a slow pace together along a pre-determined route, covering all habitats considered suitable for foraging and commuting bats. NBW start locations and walked route are illustrated on Figure 3 in Section 6.

- 8.20 Anabat Scout bat detectors were used to aid bat identification. Where bat activity was recorded, the time and species were noted on a map. In addition, the flight direction and behaviour of the bat(s) (e.g. foraging, commuting or social calling), was also recorded where this could be determined. Bat calls were later analysed using *Kaleidoscope* software (Wildlife Acoustics, 2024) to allow identification of the bat species present.

Table A4.2: Weather conditions during NBW

Survey date	Times			Weather conditions
	Start	Sunset	End	
27 April 2026	20:23	20:28	22:28	Start: 12°C, 0 Oktas, 1 Beaufort, dry. End: 10°C, 0 Oktas, 2 Beaufort, dry.

Bat call analysis

- 8.21 Bat calls were analysed using *Kaleidoscope* software (Wildlife Acoustics, 2024) to allow identification of the bat species present, where possible, and their relative levels of activity. All bat calls were manually checked by an ecologist experienced in sound analysis.
- 8.22 Wherever possible the calls were identified to species level. However, due to the similarity of call characteristics which can prevent reliable species identification, species of the genus *Myotis* were grouped together and recorded as *Myotis* species.
- 8.23 Pipistrelle bat (*Pipistrellus* sp.) calls have been separated out into individual species where possible on the following basis:
- 8.24 For *Pipistrellus* species, the following criteria based on measurements of peak frequency were used to classify calls:
- Common pipistrelle ≥ 42 and $<49\text{KHz}$
 - Soprano pipistrelle $\geq 51\text{KHz}$
 - Nathusius pipistrelle $<37\text{KHz}$
- 8.25 All other species identification followed the parameters described in Russ (2021).

Results

Automated bat detector monitoring

- 8.26 The automated bat detectors recorded at least four species of bat during the automated bat detector survey. Common pipistrelle was the most frequently recorded species; a total of 929 confirmed common pipistrelle bat passes were recorded throughout the April 2026 survey, comprising 88.22% of the total calls. The assemblage from all 1,053 bat registrations comprises:
- 88.22% common pipistrelle
 - 9.78% soprano pipistrelle
 - 1.89% noctule
 - 0.09% *Myotis* sp.

8.27 The results of the static bat detector survey are shown in Tables A4.3 and A4.4 (also see locations in Figure 2).

Table A4.3: Summary of static bat detector survey data showing total number of bat passes recorded for the survey period (5 nights).

Location	Month	Average bat passes per hour	Total number of bat passes	Species	Total number of bat passes	Average number of bat passes per survey night (B/n)
1	April	10.6	496	Common pipistrelle	418	83.6
				Soprano pipistrelle	74	14.8
				Noctule	4	0.8
2	April	11.9	557	Common pipistrelle	511	102.2
				Soprano pipistrelle	29	5.8
				Noctule	16	3.2
				Myotis sp.	1	0.2

Table A4.4: Summary of static bat detector survey data showing total number of bat passes for each time period (including at all locations). Passes in the 'Night period' column were recorded between 120 minutes after sunset and 120 minutes before sunrise. Passes in the 'Day period' column were recorded before sunset or after sunrise.

	Time period													
	Before sunset	Minutes after sunset						Night period	Minutes before sunrise					
		0-20	21-40	41-60	61-80	81-100	101-120		120-101	100-81	80-61	60-41	40-21	20-0
Common pipistrelle	0	15	143	95	49	12	26	545	19	5	3	8	9	0
Soprano pipistrelle	0	0	4	24	6	0	10	58	9	9	1	0	0	0
Noctule	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
Myotis sp.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	15	147	119	57	17	36	618	28	14	4	8	9	0

Night-time bat walkover

Table A4.5: Summary of night-time bat walkover survey data

Survey month	Species recorded	Number of bat passes	Total number of bat passes	Notes
April 2026	Common pipistrelle	39	40	First bat activity recorded was a soprano pipistrelle and common pipistrelle at 27 minutes after sunset at the starting location on the eastern Site boundary, adjacent to the railway corridor. Only one bat was seen at the time. Bat activity was most frequently recorded along the railway corridor and along hedgerow H2. Only one individual bat was seen at any one time.
	Soprano pipistrelle	1		

Appendix 5: Breeding bird characterisation survey methodology and results

Methodology

- 8.28 To characterise the breeding bird assemblage, four breeding bird surveys (BBS) (including an evening survey) were carried out in March and April 2026. Survey details are provided in Table A5.1.

Table A5.1: Bird survey details

Survey visit	Date	Survey Times	Weather conditions
BBS 1	6 th March 2026	06:45 – 10:45	Cloud 8/8, Temp 8C, Wind F2 S, light intermittent rain, excellent visibility
BBS 2	30 th March 2026	06:45 – 09:45	Cloud 4/8, Temp 6C, Wind F3 NW, light intermittent rain, excellent visibility
BBS 3	26 th April 2026	05:30 – 09:00	Cloud 7/8, Temp 5C, Wind F3 SSW, dry, excellent visibility
BBS 4	28 th April 2026	Evening Survey	Cloud 3/8, Temp 8C, Wind F2 SW, dry

- 8.29 During the bird surveys the Site was walked at a slow pace to enable all birds detected to be identified and located. Frequent stops were made to scan suitable habitats and to listen for singing and calling birds. All areas of suitable breeding habitat within the Site boundary and immediately adjacent areas were approached.
- 8.30 During the survey, the location and activity of each bird detected (including those seen or heard) were recorded and mapped using standard two-letter British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) species codes combined with activity symbols (Gilbert *et al.*, 1998). This included any birds recorded flying over the Site and birds that were considered to be using it for foraging and other essential uses.
- 8.31 The resultant data were subsequently analysed to create maps of breeding bird activity and to estimate the numbers of breeding pairs within the Site (see Figures 4a-4c). The following approach was used to characterise breeding bird activity, based on BTO breeding evidence (BTO, 2025):
- If nests or young, or evidence thereof, such as eggshells, recently vacated nests, adults carrying food or faecal sacs were found the species was **confirmed as breeding**. Confirmed breeding behaviour also includes observation of adults entering or leaving a nest-site or distraction display.
 - Birds were considered to be **probable breeding** if singing or displaying in the same area on multiple occasions; if a pair was present in suitable nesting habitat, nest building or carrying nest material; if adults repeatedly alarm called; if adults were seen carrying food; or if there were territorial disputes.
 - If birds were present within the Site amongst suitable nesting habitat or recorded exhibiting territorial behaviour such as singing only once in a locality, the birds were considered to be **possibly breeding**.
 - Species that were present but where no suitable nesting habitat was present, were flying over, were suspected to be a summering non-breeder or likely to still be on migration, were considered **not to be breeding**.
- 8.32 Estimates of territory numbers have been assigned to each breeding species recorded within the survey area. Territory analysis followed the approach described by Bibby *et al.* (2000). Notable species, in terms of their rarity or abundance, are then considered further. Estimated territory numbers for those species confirmed breeding, probably breeding, and possibly breeding are shown in Table A5.2.

Personnel

- 8.33 The breeding bird characterisation surveys were undertaken by Ornithologist, Andrew Cockroft. Andrew is an experienced ornithological surveyor who regularly undertakes breeding and wintering bird surveys based on established methodologies.

Results

- 8.34 During the breeding bird surveys completed in 2026 a total of 27 species of bird were recorded within, adjacent to or flying over the Site. Of the 27 species, six are included on the Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern in England (Stanbury, *et al.*, 2021), eight are on the Amber List, and the remaining 13 are on the Green List. One species, greenfinch, was confirmed nesting on Site and three species (stock dove, woodpigeon and wren) were assessed as probably breeding. Four species (linnet *Carduelis cannabina*, skylark *Alauda arvensis*, song thrush *Turdus philomelos* and yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*) were assessed as possibly breeding.
- 8.35 Two further breeding bird surveys are scheduled to continue in late May and early June 2026.
- 8.36 No Schedule 1 species were recorded during the surveys.
- 8.37 More details of birds identified during the daytime breeding bird surveys in 2026 are provided in Table A5.2 and Figures 4a – 4c. Birds on the Green List of Birds of Conservation Concern in England are not included in the figures. Results from the evening survey are not included in the figures as no nocturnal birds were recorded on Site during this survey.

- 8.38 **Table A5.2: Conservation and breeding status of birds recorded on Site**

Vernacular Name	Latin Name	Schedule 1	NERC Act Section 41 (Species of Principal Importance)	BoCC Status	Breeding Status on Site
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>			Green	-
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			Green	-
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>			Green	-
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			Green	-
Collard dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			Green	-
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			Green	-
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		Yes	Amber	Probable
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>			Green	-
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			Red	Confirmed
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		Yes	Red	No
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>			Green	-
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>			Red	Possible
Long tailed tit	<i>Argithalos caudatus</i>			Green	-
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>			Green	-
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			Amber	
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>			Amber	No
Pied wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>			Green	-
Red legged partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>			Green	-

Vernacular Name	Latin Name	Schedule 1	NERC Act Section 41 (Species of Principal Importance)	BoCC Status	Breeding Status on Site
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>			Green	-
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		Yes	Red	Possible
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		Yes	Amber	Possible
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			Amber	No
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		Yes	Red	No
Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>			Amber	Probable
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			Amber	Probable
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			Amber	Probable
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>			Red	Possible

Appendix 6: Summaries of Relevant Policy, Legislation and Other Instruments

This section briefly summarises the legislation, policy and related issues that are relevant to the main text of the report. The following text does not constitute legal or planning advice.

Relevant local policy

Part of the core purpose of planning policy is to guide development. Therefore, ecology-related planning policy which may influence the design or layout of the proposed development is summarised below.

Barnsley Local Plan – Adopted January 2019 (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, 2019a)

'Policy GI1 Green Infrastructure' states:

"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."

'Policy BIO1 Biodiversity and Geodiversity' states:

"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)."

The Site is shown to be located within a 'Housing Allocation' parcel on the Local Plan map¹⁹. The Site is located within the parcel of land allocated for new housing HS75 - Land South of Halifax Road. It is mentioned in the entry that *"The development will be expected to... Evaluate the site's importance as overwintering feeding habitat for golden plovers and provide mitigation or compensation habitat as appropriate."* The Site's suitability for wintering birds was considered, and, due to the Site's size, habitat composition and its location between woodland and recently developed residential land, it was assessed that the Site comprises sub-optimal overwintering feeding habitat for golden plovers. It is therefore considered that the Site is not of significant importance to golden plovers.

Barnsley Local Plan: Supplementary Planning Document – Biodiversity and Geodiversity (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, 2019b)

The following advice considered relevant to the Site and mitigation requirements that are expected within development sites in Barnsley have been extracted from the section 'Integrating Biodiversity into Developments in Barnsley':

"Landscaping proposals within development schemes should seek to retain, enhance and create habitats of value to biodiversity whilst adhering to the mitigation hierarchy, avoid, mitigate, compensate and offset. The creation of front and rear gardens in householder development is encouraged as they can provide multiple environmental benefits, where this cannot be guaranteed then developers should, when completing the Defra statutory metric include "un-vegetated garden" as the post development habitat type within the statutory metric to ensure additional Biodiversity Units are not gained.

Additionally, the use of native species of local provenance is encouraged as they generally offer more benefits to local wildlife than non-native species, as well as enhanced biosecurity and additional net gains. Applicants are expected to provide landscape features in keeping and proportionate to the size of the development and appropriate with the local context.

Details regarding the mitigation requirements for developments in Barnsley are detailed in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Mitigation/enhancement requirements

Feature	Requirement in developments	National/Local Policy references
Habitats (area/linear/ river)	<i>Development proposals will have due regard to the baseline biodiversity value of a development site and landscaping plans should identify opportunities to retain and maximise the provision for biodiversity within the new development.</i> <i>Minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain based on baseline ecological assessment should be achieved.</i>	NPPF 2023 (see Appendix B), GS1, G11, BIO1

¹⁹ <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/barnsley-maps/local-plan-map/>

Bat and bird boxes	100% of all new dwellings to include integrated bat and bird boxes, alongside the provision of bird boxes in retained/newly created habitat on site to provide nesting habitat for a variety of species. In respect of birds, integrated swift boxes are advised as these are also used by other common nesting species. On constrained sites, practical consideration should be given to prioritising boxes within optimum areas of the site and be based on best practice.	BIO1
Bats	Sensitive lighting schemes to be developed where additional lighting from the development will impact habitats such woodland edges, hedgerows, river corridors and wetlands, or any other habitats considered suitable for foraging, commuting and roosting bats. Developers should refer to the most up to date bats and lighting guidance ²⁰ to ensure impacts to bats are kept to minimal levels.	BIO1
Hedgehog	Hedgehog Highway gaps to be located in boundary fences in residential schemes ensuring connectivity between gardens for hedgehogs and other wildlife, increasing the extent of habitat availability.	BIO1
Invertebrates	Landscaping features within development sites should include flowering lawns/wildflower grasslands, pollen and nectar rich plants, shrubs and trees. Invertebrate boxes to be installed on suitable trees within development sites, alongside the provision of bee banks and brash piles.	BIO1"

Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan (Barnsley Biodiversity Trust, 2025)

"The local priority habitats are in the main the same as those identified nationally as threatened and requiring conservation action.... In some cases the definition of the local priority habitat is wider than the national 'equivalent'....

Two habitats have been included in the local list that are not priorities for conservation in the usual sense but can be managed to benefit biodiversity. These are amenity grassland and built environment and gardens, school grounds & other urban green spaces.

Scrub is a third habitat included in the local priority list which is not identified nationally. It can be a significant habitat for wildlife species. Other habitat features for example field edges, ditches, walls, quarries and rock outcrops can also be important at times.

The best priority habitat sites should be protected and conserved, others should be retained if viable and their value for wildlife improved. As well as having objectives for priority habitat site an overall objective should be to secure the connection of priority habitat sites in a network through the landscape which allows wildlife to thrive."

The following habitats are listed within the Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan as local priority habitats, and are considered relevant to the Site:

"Hedgerow: priority habitat has 80% or more of at least one native woody species of tree or shrub; the best being ancient &/or 'species rich' (at least four different native tree or shrub species).

Neutral grassland or lowland meadow: is found on richer shale and alluvial soil in lowland pastures and meadows. Recreational sites, churchyards, verges etc may retain this species-rich grassland.

²⁰ "Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night, Guidance Note 08/23"

Amenity Grasslands and Verges, although not a priority habitat in the usual sense, can also be managed to promote biodiversity and are included in this list for that reason.

It is noted that: All unimproved or semi-improved grassland has value and is important in Barnsley for biodiversity.

Built-up areas and gardens, buildings and their grounds, allotments, verges and urban open spaces can provide a very significant resource for many common and vulnerable species. Their value should not be ignored. For this reason a section has been added to the local biodiversity plan with descriptions of how to promote biodiversity in these settings.”

Species that are listed within the Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan as local priority species, and considered relevant to the Site include:

“Mammals. Harvest Mouse, Water Vole, Hedgehog, Brown Hare, Mountain Hare, Otter, and three bat types, all present in Barnsley, are national priority species nationally, nine in total. In addition all the other bat species present in Barnsley are also local priority species.

Birds. At least 27 national priority bird species are found breeding in Barnsley including 20 red listed birds. A further ten red listed birds are also prioritised locally together with some amber and green listed birds. These include farmland, woodland, moorland and wetland species as well as those more widespread like Sparrow and Starling.”

National Planning Policy Framework (England)

The Government issued the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in December 2024 (last updated 07 February 2025). Text excerpts from the NPPF are shown where they may be relevant to planning applications and biodiversity including protected sites, habitats and species.

The Government sets out the three objectives for sustainable development (economy, social and environmental) at paragraphs 8-10 to be delivered through the plan preparation and implementation level and ‘are not criteria against which every decision can or should be judged’ (paragraph 9). The planning system’s environmental objective is ‘to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity...’(paragraph 8c).

In conserving and enhancing the natural environment, the NPPF (Paragraph 187) states that ‘planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment’ by:

- Protecting and enhancing...sites of biodiversity value... ‘(in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan)’.
- Recognising the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services... including... trees and woodland.
- Minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures and incorporating features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs.
- Preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability.

In respect of protected sites, at paragraph 188, the NPPF requires local planning authorities to distinguish, at the plan level, ‘...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.’ A footnote to paragraph 188 refers to the preferred use of agricultural land of poorer quality if significant development of agricultural land is to take place.

Paragraph 192 refers to how plans should aim to protect and enhance biodiversity. 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 [a footnote refers to ODPM Circular 06/2005 for further guidance in respect of statutory obligations for biodiversity in the planning system], wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation;’ and to ‘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.'

Paragraph 193 advises that, when determining planning applications, '...local planning authorities should apply 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.'

In paragraph 194, 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.'

In paragraph 195 the NPPF refers back to sustainable development in relation to appropriate assessment and states: 'the presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a habitats site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), unless an appropriate assessment has concluded that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the habitats site'.

In paragraph 196, the NPPF refers to planning policies and decisions taking account of ground conditions and risks arising from land instability and contamination at sites. In relation to risks associated with land remediation account is to be taken of 'potential impacts on the natural environment' that arise from land remediation.

In paragraph 198 the NPPF states that planning policies and decisions should ensure that development is appropriate to the location and take into account likely effects (including cumulative) on the natural environment and, in doing so, they 'should limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation' (paragraph 198c).

Government Circular ODPM 06/2005 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (England only)

Paragraph 98 of Government Circular 06/2005 advises that "the presence of a protected species is a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a development proposal that, if carried out, would be likely to result in harm to the species or its habitat. Local authorities should consult Natural England before granting planning permission. They should consider attaching appropriate planning conditions or entering into planning obligations under which the developer would take steps to secure the long-term protection of the species. They should also advise developers that they must comply with any statutory species' protection provisions affecting the site concerned..."

Paragraph 99 of Government Circular 06/2005²¹ advises 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, otherwise all relevant material considerations may not have been addressed in making the decision. The need to ensure ecological surveys are carried out should therefore only be left to coverage under planning conditions in exceptional circumstances, with the result that the surveys are carried out after planning permission has been granted”.

Standing Advice (GOV.UK - England only)

The GOV.UK website provides information regarding protected species and sites in relation to development proposals: ‘Local planning authorities should take advice from Natural England or the Environment Agency about planning applications for developments that may affect protected species.’ GOV.UK advises that ‘some species have standing advice which you can use to help with planning decisions. For others you should contact Natural England or the Environment Agency for an individual response.’

The standing advice (originally from Natural England and now held and updated on GOV.UK²²) provides advice to planners on deciding if there is a ‘reasonable likelihood’ of protected species being present. It also provides advice on survey and mitigation requirements.

When determining an application for development that is covered by standing advice, in accordance with guidance in Government Circular 06/2005, Local planning authorities are required to take the standing advice into account. In paragraph 82 of the aforementioned Circular, it is stated that: ‘The standing advice will be a material consideration in the determination of the planning application in the same way as any advice received from a statutory consultee...it is up to the planning authority to decide the weight to be attached to the standing advice, in the same way as it would decide the weight to be attached to a response from a statutory consultee.’

The Environment Act 2021

The Environment Act includes the requirement for mandatory biodiversity gain for all qualifying developments in England through an amendment to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 which came into force on 12 February 2024. For all qualifying developments in England, The Environment Act 2021 (Commencement No. 8 and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2024 (SI44) at Regulation 3 advises in relation to planning applications that ‘*the biodiversity gain planning condition does not apply in relation to a planning permission within the scope of regulation 2 (2) of these Regulations, where the application for planning permission was made before 12th February 2024*’. From 12 February 2024, the Act and associated secondary Regulations (SI2024 No’s 44- 50) insert amendments into the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 which in summary require the following for all qualifying developments in England:

- The provision of a required percentage of biodiversity gain, currently set nationally to be at 10%, as a general condition of planning permission,
- The use of the statutory Biodiversity Metric to calculate the biodiversity gain,
- Submission to and approval by the planning authority, of a Biodiversity Gain Plan (BGP) for the development before the development may be begun; the BGP is to be prepared using a template prepared by Defra to demonstrate how biodiversity gain will be delivered on and / or off-site and how the biodiversity gain hierarchy has been applied so that the local planning authority can take account of the approach taken when deciding whether to approve the BGP,
- Significant on-site biodiversity gain and all offsite biodiversity gain to be secured for a fixed period, currently nationally set at 30 years,
- Alternative arrangements to be made for the purpose of minimising the adverse effect of development to habitats deemed to be irreplaceable habitat (see NPPF),
- Demonstration of how the biodiversity gain will be secured, typically through planning obligations in a section 106 agreement,

²¹ ODPM Circular 06/2005. *Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and their Impacts within the Planning System* (2005). HMSO Norwich.

²² <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-species-how-to-review-planning-applications#standing-advice-for-protected-species>

- Registration of offsite biodiversity gain and allocation of relevant biodiversity units to a given development in a national register for which Natural England is the Register Operator,
- Use of statutory biodiversity credits through the Secretary of State, which is considered to be a last resort, if onsite and/or offsite biodiversity gains cannot achieve the required percentage.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 – Habitats and species of principal importance (England)

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act came into force on 01 October 2006. Section 41 (S41) of the Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The list has been drawn up in consultation with Natural England as required by the Act. In accordance with the Act the Secretary of State keeps this list under review and will publish a revised list if necessary, in consultation with Natural England.

The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public authorities, including local authorities, local planning authorities and statutory undertakers, the latter such as utilities companies, in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions, including development management and planning. This was previously commonly referred to as the 'Biodiversity Duty.'

On 01 October 2024 the Biodiversity Duty²³ was updated and strengthened to become a 'duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity' which requires public authorities to consider what action the authority can take to further the Government's 'general biodiversity objective'. The public authority then must determine appropriate policy actions and specific objectives that can be taken and must take the appropriate action. Actions to satisfy the general biodiversity objective may be through the revision of existing policies and 'specific objectives.' The public authority must have regard to the relevant Local Nature Recovery Strategy and relevant national species and/or protected sites strategies prepared by Natural England when complying with the general biodiversity objective. Consideration by a given public authority was first to take place within one year of the Environment Act 2021 coming into force and then be subject to a review after no more than 5 years although other reviews can be undertaken at any time.

Guidance for public authorities in England on implementing the Biodiversity Duty has been published by Defra²⁴ on GOV.UK. The guidance requires a public authority to consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity and how they deliver their policies and actions to achieve their objectives. The roles of Local Nature Recovery Strategies, species and protected sites strategies are set out and public authorities are advised that the action they take at a local level will contribute to national biodiversity goals and targets. Public authorities are required to consider their enhanced biodiversity duty in development plans and decisions including planning policy, environmental impact assessment and how they manage their own land to improve biodiversity value including details in relation to 'green and blue spaces.' Guidance is also provided on how local authorities and local planning authorities must write and publish a biodiversity report as part of fulfilling their duty; these individual authority reports will be used by Defra as part of their Environmental Improvement Plan 5-yearly reviews.

In 2007, the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Partnership published an updated list of priority UK species and habitats covering terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity to focus conservation action for rarer species and habitats in the UK. The UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework²⁵, which covers the period from 2011 to 2020, now succeeds the UK BAP. The UK priority list contained 1150 species and 65 habitats requiring special protection and has been used as a reference to draw up the lists of species and habitats of principal importance in England.

In England, there are 56 Habitats of Principal Importance and 943 Species of Principal Importance on the S41 list. These are all the habitats and species found in England that were identified as requiring action in the UK BAP and which continue to be regarded as conservation priorities in the subsequent UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.

²³ [Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006](#)

²⁴ [Complying with the biodiversity duty - GOV.UK](#)

²⁵ JNCC and Defra (on behalf of the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group). 2012. *UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework*. July 2012. (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6189>)

European protected species (Animals)

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) consolidates various amendments that have been made to the original (1994) Regulations which transposed the EC Habitats Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) into national law.

“European protected species” (EPS) of animal are those which are shown on Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). They are subject to the provisions of Regulation 43 of those Regulations. All EPS are also protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Taken together, these pieces of legislation make it an offence to:

- a. Intentionally or deliberately capture, injure or kill any wild animal included amongst these species
- b. Possess or control any live or dead specimens or any part of, or anything derived from a these species
- c. deliberately or recklessly disturb wild animals of any such species
- d. deliberately take or destroy the eggs of such an animal, or
- e. intentionally, deliberately or recklessly damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal, or obstruct access to such a place

For the purposes of paragraph (c), disturbance of animals includes in particular any disturbance which is likely—

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

Although the law provides strict protection to these species, it also allows this protection to be set aside (derogated) through the issuing of licences. The licences in England are currently determined by Natural England (NE) for development works and by Natural Resources Wales in Wales. In accordance with the requirements of the Regulations (2017, as amended), a licence can only be issued where the following requirements are satisfied:

- a. The proposal is necessary ‘to preserve public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment’
- b. ‘There is no satisfactory alternative’
- c. The proposals ‘will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.’

Definition of breeding sites and resting places

Guidance for all European Protected Species of animal, including bats and great crested newt, regarding the definition of breeding and of breeding and resting places is provided by The European Council (EC) which has prepared specific guidance in respect of the interpretation of various Articles of the EC Habitats Directive.²⁶ Section II.3.4.b) provides definitions and examples of both breeding and resting places at paragraphs 57 and 59 respectively. This guidance states that ‘The provision in Article 12(1)(d) [of the EC Habitats Directive] should therefore be understood as aiming to safeguard the ecological functionality of breeding sites and resting places.’ Further the guidance states: ‘It thus follows from Article 12(1)(d) that such breeding sites and resting places also need to be protected when they are not being used, but where there is a reasonably high probability that the species concerned will return to these sites and places. If for example a certain cave is used every year by a number of bats for hibernation (because the species has the habit of returning to the same winter roost every year), the functionality of this cave as a hibernating site should be protected in summer as well so

²⁶ Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. (February 2007), EC.

that the bats can re-use it in winter. On the other hand, if a certain cave is used only occasionally for breeding or resting purposes, it is very likely that the site does not qualify as a breeding site or resting place.'

Competent authorities

Under Regulation 7 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) a "competent authority" includes "any Minister of the Crown..., government department, statutory undertaker, public body of any description or person holding a public office."

In accordance with Regulation 9, "a competent authority must exercise their functions which are relevant to nature conservation, including marine conservation, so as to secure compliance with the requirements of the [Habitats and Birds] Directives. This means for instance that when considering development proposals a competent authority should consider whether EPS or European Protected Sites are to be affected by those works and, if so, must show that they have given consideration as to whether derogation requirements can be met."

Birds

All nesting birds are protected under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy its nest whilst in use or being built, or take or destroy its eggs. In addition to this, for some rarer species (listed on Schedule 1 of the Act), it is an offence to disturb them whilst they are nest building or at or near a nest with eggs or young, or to disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) places duties on competent authorities (including Local Authorities and National Park Authorities) in relation to wild bird habitat. These provisions relate back to Articles 1, 2 and 3 of the EC Directive on the conservation of wild birds (2009/147/EC, 'Birds Directive'²⁷) (Regulation 10 (3)) requires that the objective is the 'preservation, maintenance and re-establishment of a sufficient diversity and area of habitat for wild birds in the United Kingdom, including by means of the upkeep, management and creation of such habitat, as appropriate, having regard to the requirements of Article 2 of the new Wild Birds Directive...' Regulation 10 (7) states: 'In considering which measures may be appropriate for the purpose of security or contributing to the objective in [Regulation 10 (3)] Paragraph 3, appropriate account must be taken of economic and recreational requirements'.

In relation to the duties placed on competent authorities under the 2017 Regulations, Regulation 10 (8) states: 'So far as lies within their powers, a competent authority in exercising any function [including in relation to town and country planning] in or in relation to the United Kingdom must use all reasonable endeavours to avoid any pollution or deterioration of habitats of wild birds (except habitats beyond the outer limits of the area to which the new Wild Birds Directive applies).'

Badger

Badger is protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. It is not permitted to wilfully kill, injure, take, possess or cruelly ill-treat a badger, or to attempt to do so; or to intentionally or recklessly interfere with a sett. Sett interference includes disturbing badgers whilst they are occupying a sett, as well as damaging or destroying a sett or obstructing access to it. A badger sett is defined in the legislation as "a structure or place, which displays signs indicating current use by a badger".

ODPM Circular 06/2005²⁸ provides further guidance on statutory obligations towards badger within the planning system. Of particular note is paragraph 124, which states that "The likelihood of disturbing a badger sett, or adversely affecting badgers' foraging territory, or links between them, or significantly increasing the likelihood of road or rail casualties amongst badger populations, are capable of being material considerations in planning decisions."

Natural England provides Standing Advice²⁹, which is capable of being a material consideration in planning decisions. Natural England recommends mitigation to avoid impacts on badger setts, which includes maintaining or creating new foraging areas and maintaining or creating access (commuting routes) between setts and foraging/watering areas.

²⁷ 2009/147/EC Birds Directive (30 November 2009. European Parliament and the Council of the European Union.

²⁸ ODPM Circular 06/2005. *Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and their Impacts within the Planning System* (2005). HMSO Norwich.

²⁹ <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/planningdevelopment/spatialplanning/standingadvice/specieslinks.aspx>

Wild mammals in general

The Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 (as amended) makes provision for the protection of wild mammals from certain cruel acts, making it an offence for any person to intentionally cause suffering to any wild mammal. In the context of development sites, for example, this may apply to rabbits in their burrows.

Invasive non-native species

An invasive non-native species is any non-native animal or plant that has the ability to spread causing damage to the environment.

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) it is an offence to release, or to allow to escape into the wild, any animal which is not ordinarily resident in and is not a regular visitor to Great Britain in a wild state or is listed under Schedule 9 of the Act.

It is an offence to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild invasive non-native plants listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Appendix 7: Grassland species list

The following tables provide the botanical species lists associated with each of the quadrat samples, across the north-eastern and north-western fields of modified grassland. The abundance (percentage cover) of each species has been estimated by use of the following notations:

91–100% = 10; 76–90% = 9; 51–75% = 8; 34–50% = 7; 26–33% = 6; 11–25% = 5; 4–10% = 4; 4% (many individuals) = 3; <4% (several individuals) = 2; <4% (few individuals) = 1

Modified grassland

Grid reference		SE 3829 5 0117 0	SE 3828 9 0121 8	SE 3831 0 0125 7	SE 3849 0 0128 6	SE 3842 0 0124 0	SE 3848 4 0123 2	SE 3837 4 0120 9	SE 3853 4 0122 6	SE 3858 2 0123 2	SE 3859 0 0121 0
Species count		5	4	3	5	5	5	5	2	4	4
Vernacular Name	Latin	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	9	6	9	7	8	9	8	5	8	8
Soft brome	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	5	8		7	7	5	5			
Perennial rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>				5				9	7	7
Cock's foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	5	5	6	5	5	5	3			
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	2	2	3		2	2	1			
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	1									
Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>						2	2			
Chickweed sp.	<i>Stellaria sp.</i>				1						
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>					1				3	3
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinalis</i> agg.										
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>									3	3