Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.

HADDON ROAD, ATHERSLEY, BARNSLEY.

OS REF: SE 35678 09018.

ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT.

Ref No: **240954/EcIA/1.**

Date: **7th March 2025.**

Unit 34, The Business Village, Cudworth, Barnsley. S72 8RP.
info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk www.whitcher-wildlife.co.uk
Company No. 4401613.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. There are plans to develop an area of land off Haddon Road in Athersley, Barnsley. The development includes the creation of two blocks of flats. Development plans can be found in Appendix VI.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd has been commissioned to carry out an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) to support the planning application.

1.3. The site survey was carried out on 15th October 2024 and this report provides the overall impact of the development and includes ecological enhancements for the site.

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

****

2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.

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

2.2. The survey area was walked where access was agreed and public rights of way were used where no access was agreed. All habitats within and immediately around the survey area were documented and the dominant species within that habitat listed in line with the UK Habitat Classification methodology to identify the primary habitat types throughout the survey area. All primary habitats are accompanied by secondary codes which are used to add further specific details where necessary. Each primary habitat and unique set off secondary codes will be shown individually in the appended annotated map.

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

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

2.3. The survey area was searched for watercourses and where found all watercourses within the survey area and for approximately 100m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) activity by looking for the following signs, in line with Dean M, Strachen R, Gow D and Andres R (2016). *The Water Vole Mitigation Handbook (The Mammal Society Mitigation Guidance Series).* Eds Fiona Mathews and Paul Chanin. The mammal Society, London: -

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

2.5. The survey area was searched for watercourses and where found all watercourses within the survey area and for approximately 50m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of otter (*Lutra lutra*) activity by looking for the following signs in line with the P Chanin (2003). *Monitoring the Otter* and *Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers: Monitoring Series No10 Guidelines: -*

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

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

2.7. The survey area was searched for trees and structures and where found these were checked for potential bat roosting sites in line with Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition)* by looking for the following signs: -

* Holes, cracks or crevices.
* Bat Droppings.

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

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

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

2.11. Where appropriate, the habitat within and surrounding the survey area was searched for species such as hazel, oak, honeysuckle, bramble and other species which may provide potential habitat for hazel dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*). Field signs such as feeding remains and nests were also searched for where possible, in line

with P Bright, P Morris and T Mitchell-Jones *The Dormouse Conservation Handbook 2nd Edition*.

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

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

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

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

2.16. This survey was carried out by Alexandrea White BSc (Hons) MSc ACIEEM MIEnvSc CEnv. Alex has worked as a consultant since 2013 carrying out array of different habitat and species surveys. Alex holds Natural England Survey Licences for Great Crested Newts, Bats, Hazel Dormice, White Clawed Crayfish and Barn Owls. She also holds Scottish Natural Heritage Licences for bats and great crested newts and Natural Resources Wales Licence for Great Crested Newts and Hazel Dormice. She holds an undergraduate honours degree in Zoology and a Masters degree in Environmental Management (Landscape and Wildlife Conservation). She has successfully completed courses run by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), Field Studies Council and the Mammal Society to further her knowledge of protected species and plant identification. Alex is an Associate member of CIEEM, a full member of IES and a Chartered Environmentalist.

****

3. ECOLOGICAL BASELINE.

3.1. Data Search Results.

3.1.1. A data search for existing records of protected species and local designated sites within 2km of the surveyed area was submitted to the Barnsley Ecological Records Centre (BERC) and the South Yorkshire Bat Group (SYBG).

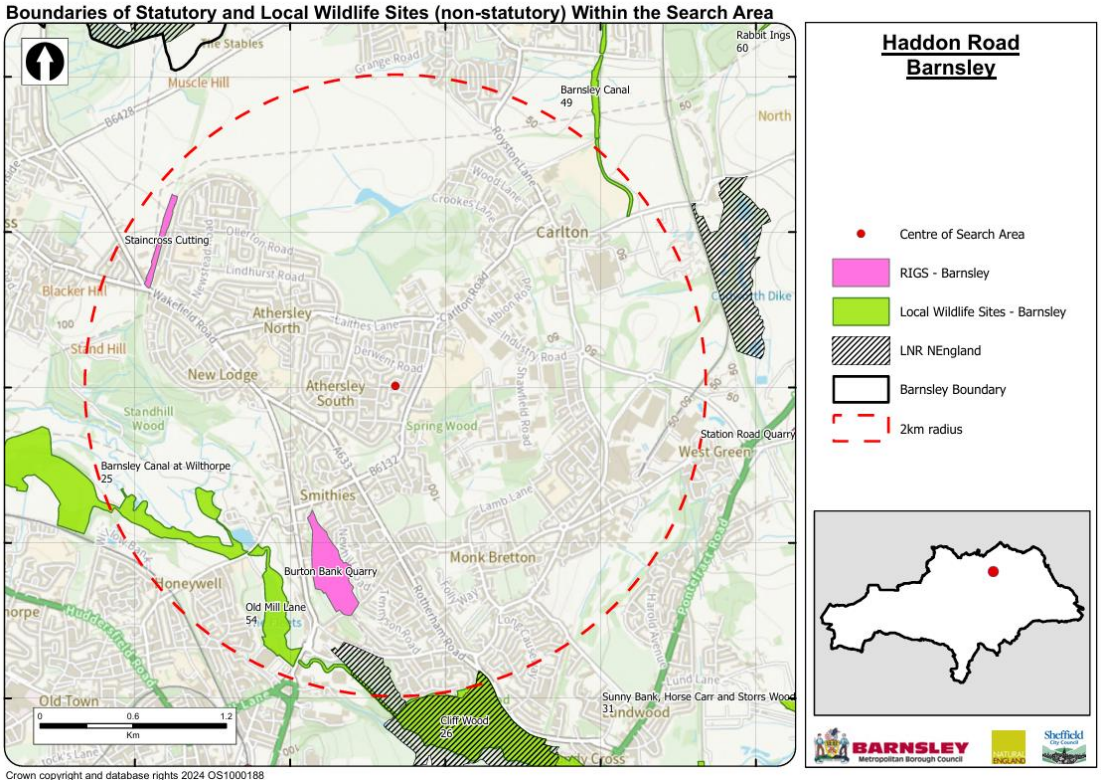
3.1.2. The following recent relevant records were returned by BERC:

- Fifteen records of great crested newts, the closest one being approximately 0.8km southeast of the survey area which was recorded in 2017.
- Fourteen records of common frog, common toad and smooth newt; none of these were within 500m of the survey area.
- A grass snake has been recorded at Carlton Marsh, approximately 1.8km east of the survey area in 2015.
- Water vole has been recorded approximately 0.8km north of the survey area in 2018.
- One recent record of badger although this is not close to the survey area. Given the sensitive nature of this record, no further information will be provided.
- Seventy-three bat records, all of which were from 2017; none were close to the survey area. The species recorded included common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, myotis, noctule and brown long eared bats.
- Two records of hedgehog, the closest was approximately 1.4km north of the survey area and was recorded in 2018.

3.1.3. There were various historic records although given the age of these records (pre-2014) they are not thought to accurately represent the current species distribution.

3.1.4. There were one Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and three Local Wildlife Sites (LWS). None of these sites were within, or adjacent to, the survey area.

3.1.5. The map below highlights the survey area with 2km buffer and the statutory and non-statutory sites.



3.1.6. The SYBG returned a total of twelve recent bat records; none of which were within close proximity to the survey area and the closest record was a bat care record approximately 1km northwest of the survey area in 2014. All other records were historic (pre 2014) and therefore are not considered to accurately represent the current species distribution.

3.1.7. The MAGIC website was also consulted for records of any EPS mitigation licences and great crested newt survey records in the area; none were found within 2km.

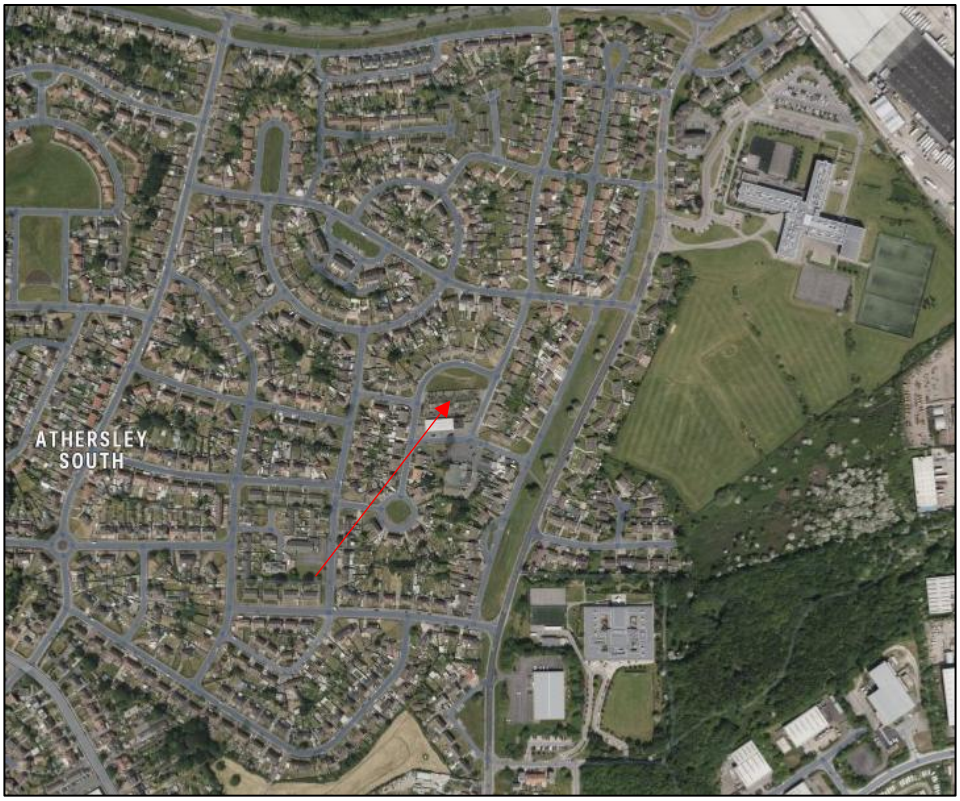
3.1.8. The data search is available to the client upon request although this must not be placed within the public domain.

3.2. The Surveyed Area.

3.2.1. The survey area is situated off Haddon Road in Athersley. The aerial photograph below shows the location of the site marked in the red outline.

3.2.2. The site comprises of the hardstanding foundations which have since started undergoing ecological succession and grassland, tall ruderal and scrub species are colonising across this area. The site is shown in the photograph below.

3.2.3. The survey area was situated within an urban location with residential properties on all aspects. There was an area of grassland, owned by the local authority immediate to the north of the survey area. The aerial photograph below highlights the location of the survey area within the wider landscape.



3.3. Survey Limitations.

The survey was carried out during a suboptimum time of year and although given the habitats on site, this is not thought to be a significant limitation.

3.4. Description of Habitats.

3.4.1. Appendix IV of this report contains an annotated map marked up with the varying habitats that are cross referenced to target notes in Appendix V of this report. The primary habitats on the site are: -

- u1f – Sparsely Vegetated Land
- u1b – Developed Land; Sealed Surface

3.4.2. Biodiversity calculations have been undertaken using the Statutory Metric from the Government website. Condition assessments for each habitat have also been completed using the separate condition assessment sheet.

3.4.3. u1f – Sparsely Vegetated Land

Secondary Codes: 524 Non native invasive species, 82 Derelict land, 612 fencing, 853 Mortared wall.

3.4.3.1. The majority of the survey area was previously hardstanding where a building had been present. A mixture of grassland, scrub and tall ruderal species have colonised this site. The dominant species included: red valarian *Centranthus ruber*, rosebay willowherb *Chamerion angustifolium*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, biting stonecrop *Sedum acre*, butterfly stonecrop *Hylotelephium spectabile*, dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*, buddleia *Buddleia davidii*, perforate st. Johns wort *Hypericum perforatum*, purple toadflax *Linaria purpurea*, common mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris*, elder *Sambucus nigra*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* saplings, barren brome *Bromus sterilis*, false oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, annual meadowgrass *Poa annua* and cock's foot *Dactylis glomerata*.

3.4.3.2. There were two invasive species identified which included Japanese rose *Rosa rugosa* and wall cotoneaster *Cotoneaster horizontalis*. These species are discussed in more detail in Section 5.

3.4.3.3. The boundaries were predominantly brick walls with occasional areas of fencing and access gates.


3.3.4. u1b – Developed Land; Sealed Surface.

The current access areas are concrete.

3.5. Description of Fauna.

3.5.1. No badger setts were identified within the survey area. The site is assessed as totally unsuitable habitat for badgers.

3.5.2. There are no watercourses within the survey area to provide any habitat for water voles, otters or crayfish.

3.5.3. There are no structures or buildings within the survey area to provide habitat for roosting bats. All boundary walls are unsuitable.

3.5.4. There are no trees within the survey area and therefore, no habitat suitable for roosting bats.

3.5.5. The sparse vegetation on site provides limited foraging opportunities for bats, the site lies within an urban area with very few habitat corridors. Furthermore, street lighting surrounds the site in all directions. Overall, it is assessed as having low potential for foraging and commuting bats.

3.5.6. There are no ponds shown on maps within 500m of the survey area. In addition, the site is surrounded by barriers to movement of newts and amphibians in the form of busy roads, buildings, walls and areas of well used hard standing. Therefore, there is no potential for great crested newts to be present on the site.

3.5.7. The site provides no opportunities for nesting birds as the vegetation is not mature enough. Furthermore, any ground nesting birds would be at risk of predation due to the number of cats present in this area.

3.5.8. The site itself offers some potential for reptiles, however, the site is situated within a highly urban area surrounded by housing and roads with high levels of traffic. Therefore, the site has no ecological connectivity with any other areas of suitable habitat for reptiles.

3.5.9. The survey area lies outside the natural range of hazel dormouse and red squirrel.

3.5.10. The survey area provide suitable foraging and commuting routes for hedgehogs through the site and neighboring properties.

3.4.11. Two invasive non-native species, Japanese rose (T1) and wall cotoneaster (T2 and T3), were identified in the southwest corner of the survey area. These are invasive plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). The photographs below show the Japanese rose (left) and the wall cotoneaster (right).

****

4. IMPACT ASSESSMENT, MITIGATION AND RESIDUAL EFFECTS.

4.1. Designated Sites.

4.1.1. Impact Assessment.

The data search identified a LNR and three LWS within 2km. However, the survey area lies far enough away from any statutory or non-statutory designated sites to avoid any impact on such sites.

4.1.2. Mitigation.

No mitigation is necessary.

4.1.3. Residual Impact.

There is **no residual impact** on designated impacts at a **local level**.

4.2. Foraging and Commuting Bats.

4.2.1. Impact Assessment.

The survey area was assessed as having low potential for foraging and commuting bats. Increased lighting could potentially further limit the suitability for bats across the survey area.

4.2.2. Mitigation.

4.2.2.1. A sensitive lighting scheme will implemented as part of the new development which will ensure that all lighting is downward directional and that there is no lighting directed towards any of the trees surrounding the site.

4.2.2.2. Providing that there is sensitive lighting across the site, the landscaping proposed will increased the suitability of the site for foraging and commuting bats.

4.2.3. Residual Effect.

With the above mitigation measures in place there will be **a low positive residual effect** on bats at a site level.

4.3. Hedgehogs.

4.3.1. Impact Assessment.

The site provides some suitability for hedgehog although there is no significant vegetation or refugia present, therefore, only foraging and commuting individuals could be impacted by the development.

4.3.2. Mitigation.

To allow for foraging and commuting hedgehogs across the survey area, a minimum dimension of 13cm x 13cm will be created in boundary fences to retain connectivity for hedgehogs across the site.

4.3.3. Residual Effect.

The development with landscaping and gardens and continued access for hedgehogs to enter the site will ensure a **low positive residual impact** on this species at a site level.

4.4. Schedule 9 Invasive Plant Species.

4.4.1. Impact assessment.

Japanese rose and wall cotoneaster were both identified in the survey area. These are both invasive plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). It is an offence to allow or cause these plants to spread into the wild. Japanese rose spreads via suckering and seeds and cotoneaster spreads via berries in the autumn/winter. Therefore, any ground within 5m of the plants could potentially contain berries, seeds and/or runners. The development of the site could therefore cause the spread of these plants through disturbing the plants when the seed pods or berries are present or through movement of soils and tracking of machinery within 5m of the plants at the southern end of the site.

4.4.2. Mitigation.

4.4.2.1. The plants will be removed in their entirety along with the soils directly around the plants. In the case of the wall cotoneaster this should be undertaken at a time of year there are no berries present. These will all be disposed of as controlled waste to prevent them spreading further.

4.4.2.2. All machinery used to undertake these works should be washed in situ, with a membrane to catch all the washed arisings and then disposed of as controlled waste.

4.4.3. Residual Effect.

With the above mitigation in place there will be **no negative impact** from Schedule 9 invasive plant species at a **site level**.

****

5. BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN.

5.1. Baseline Biodiversity Value.

5.1.1. Baseline biodiversity calculations have been carried out using the Statutory Metric tool. The baseline biodiversity values are shown in the attached metric calculation tool as well as being listed below.

Area Habitats.

Habitat Type	Area in ha.	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment	Biodiversity Units
Sparsely Vegetated Land	0.163	Low	Poor	0.33
Developed Land; Sealed Surface	0.019	V. Low	N/A	0
Total	**0.18**			**0.33Bu**

Linear Habitats.

There are no linear habitats within the site.

5.2. Post Development Habitat Creation.

5.2.1. There is a mixture of species-rich wildflower turf grassland, amenity grassland, ornamental shrubs and 8 small trees being incorporated into the proposed development scheme. This will be maintained by the Housing Association Scheme.

5.2.2. Post development biodiversity values have been calculated for the site and give the following results.

Area Habitats.

Habitat Type	Area in ha.	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment	Biodiversity Units.
Developed Land; Sealed Surface	0.124	V. Low	N/A	0

Other Neutral Grassland	0.0358	Medium	Moderate	0.24
Modified Grassland	0.0071	Low	Poor	0.01
Introduced Shrub	0.0067	Low	N/A	0.01
Urban Tree*	0.0326	Medium	Moderate	0.1
Total Units	**0.18**			**0.37Bu**

**Excluded from area calculations*

Linear Habitats.

There is to be a hedgerow created along the boundaries of the site. The biodiversity units for the linear habitats are shown below.

Habitat Type	Length in km	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment	Biodiversity Units.
Native Hedgerow	0.122	Low	Moderate	0.41
Total Units	**0.122**			**0.41Bu**

5.3. Biodiversity Net Gain Outcome.

The area habitat biodiversity value will increase from 0.33Bu to 0.37Bu, an increase of 12.26%. There is an additional 0.41Bu from the hedgerow habitat that is going to be planted although as there was no starting linear units, an overall gain figure is N/A. The Final Result below is taken from the BNG Metric.

FINAL RESULTS		
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	0.04
	Hedgerow units	0.41
	Watercourse units	0.00
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	12.26%
	Hedgerow units	N/A
	Watercourse units	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓	

****

6. BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT MEASURES.

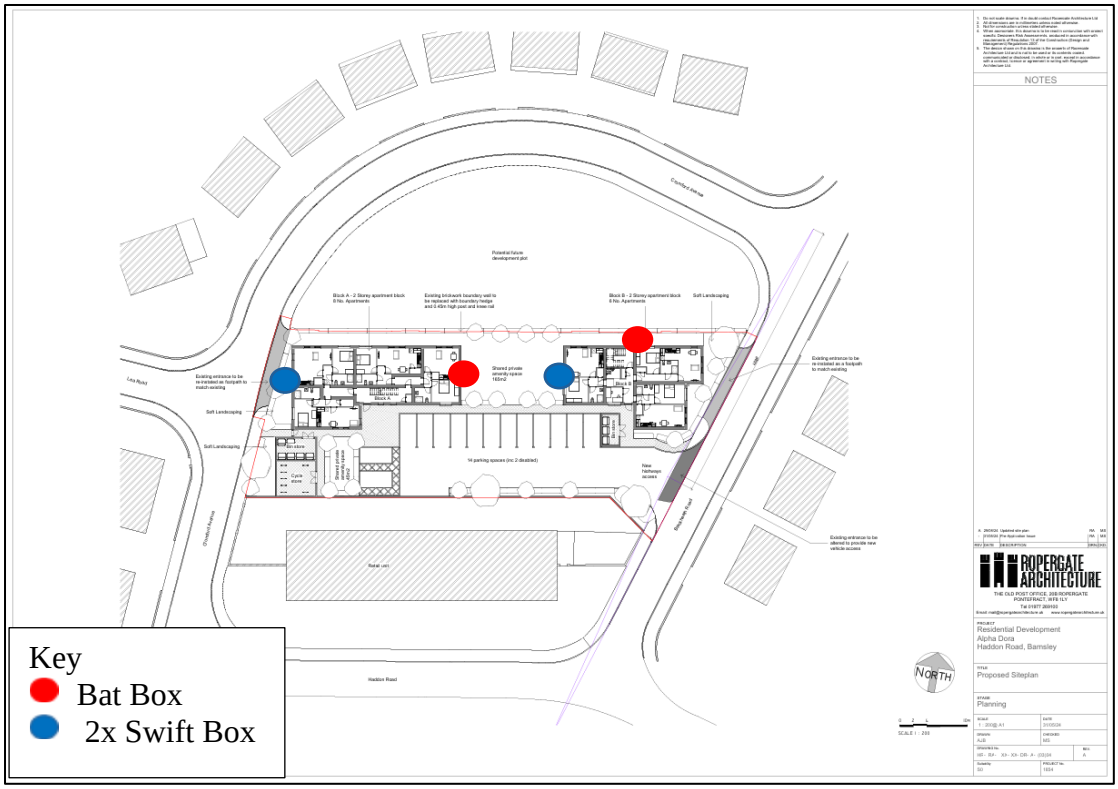
6.1. In line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), some biodiversity enhancements for fauna species will be provided on the site.

6.2. This will be achieved by providing integrated bird and bat boxes in each of the new buildings on the site.

6.3. One integrated Habibat bat boxes with custom facing, like shown below, will be installed in a gable end wall of each building.

6.4. One pair of integrated universal swift nest boxes, such as the Woodstone built-in nest box, will also be installed in the gable ends of each building. Swift boxes have also been proven to be used by other small birds, including sparrows and therefore will cater for a variety of bird species.

6.5. The plan below suggests appropriate locations for the mitigation.



****

Prepared by:	
Alexandrea White BSc(Hons) MSc ACIEEM MIEnvSc CEnv.	Date: 31st October 2024.
Revision by:	
Mitchel Greenhalgh BSc ACIEEM	Date: 7th March 2025.

Checked by:	
Ruth Georgiou. BSc, MCIEEM.	Date: 7th March 2025.

7. REFERENCES.

Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the United Kingdom (2010) *ARG UK Advice Note 5: Great Crested Newt Habitat Suitability Index*. ARGUK.

Baker, J., Beebee T., Buckley, J., Gent, A. and Orchard, D. (2011). *Amphibian Habitat Management Handbook*. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bournemouth.

Bat Tree Habitat Key (2018) *Bat Roosts in Trees: a guide for identification and assessment for tree-care and ecology professionals*. Pelagic Publishing, Exeter

Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group (2023). *Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts, v.1.1.1*. Available at https://birdsurveyguidelines.org (Accessed 15/04/2024)

Bright, P., Morris, P. & Mitchell-Jones, T. (2006) *The Dormouse Conservation Handbook*. English Nature, Peterborough.

Chanin, P. (2003) *Ecology of the European Otter*. Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers Ecology Series No.10. English Nature, Peterborough.

Chanin, P. (2003) *Monitoring the Otter Lutra lutra*. Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers Monitoring Series No.10. English Nature, Peterborough.

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

CIEEM (2017) *Guidelines on Ecological Report Writing*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

Cresswell, P., Cresswell, W.J., and Woods, M. (1993) *The Country Life Guide to Artificial Badger Setts*. Country Life, London.

Collins J. (ed.) 2023. *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologist: Good Practice Guidelines (4th Edition)*. The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Dean, M., Strachan, R., Gow, D. and Andrews, R. (2016) *The Water Vole Mitigation Handbook* (Mammal Society Mitigation Guidance Series). Eds Fiona Mathews and Paul Chanin. Mammal Society, London.

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2024) *Biodiversity Net Gain*. Available at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides (Accessed: 15/04/2024).

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2024) *Statutory Net Biodiversity Metric User Guide*. Available at https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/biodiversity-net-gain (Accessed: 15/04/2024).

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2023) *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)*. Available at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2 (Accessed: 15/04/2024).

Edgar, P., Foster, J. and Baker, J. (2010) *Reptile Habitat Management Handbook*. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bournemouth.

English Nature (2001) *Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines*. English Nature, Peterborough.

Froglife (1999) *Froglife Advice Sheet 10: reptile survey*. Froglife, London.

Gurnell, J., & Lurz, P. (2012) *Red Squirrel. In: Cresswell, W.J., Birks, J.D.S., Dean, M., Pacheco, M., Trewhella, W.J., Wells, D. and Wray, S. (2012). UK BAP Mammals: Interim Guidance for Survey Methodologies, Impact Assessment and Mitigation*. The Mammal Society, Southampton.

Harris, S., Cresswell, P. and Jefferies D. (1989) *Surveying Badgers*. Occasional Publication No 9, The Mammal Society, London.

Langton, T.E.S., Beckett, C.L., and Foster, J.P. (2001), *Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook*, Froglife, Halesworth.

Mitchell-Jones, A.J. (2004) *Bat Mitigation Guidelines*. English Nature, Peterborough.

Natural England (2022) *Hazel Dormice: Advice for making planning decisions*. Available at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hazel-dormice-advice-for-making-planning-decisions (Accessed: 15/04/2024)

Natural England (2014) *Protected species and development: advice for local planning authorities.* (updated 2021) Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-species-how-to-review-planning-applications (Accessed: 05/03/2021).

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Available at https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2019/579/contents/made (Accessed: 15/04/2024).

Peay, S. (2003) *Monitoring the White-clawed Crayfish Austropotamobius pallipes*. Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers Monitoring Series No. 1. English Nature, Peterborough.
Stanbury, A. et al (2021) *The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. British Birds 114: 723-747*. Available at https://britishbirds.co.uk/content/status-our-bird-populations (Accessed 15/04/2024)
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2004). *Common Standards Monitoring Guidance for Birds***.** 2004 ed. JNCC, Peterborough.
The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 Available at https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2019/579/contents/made (Accessed: 15/04/2024).
The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 Available at https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/51/contents (Accessed: 15/04/2024).
The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Available at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69 (Accessed: 15/04/2024).
UKHab Ltd (2023) *UK Habitat classification Version 2.0* Available at https://www.ukhab.org. JNCC, Peterborough.

Appendix I. BAT INFORMATION.

Ecology

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

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

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

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

Surveys

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

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

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

Legislation

Bats are protected under Appendix II and III of the Bern Convention (1982), Schedule 5 and 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), Annex IV of the Habitats Directive (some species under Annex II), Annex II of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) and EUROBATS agreement. Numerous species are also listed under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) making them species of principal importance.

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

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

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

Appendix II. HEDGEHOG INFORMATION.

Ecology

The hedgehog was a common species once widespread throughout the country but it has suffered a major decline due to loss of habitat. They are now found distributed across the UK, but the population increases to the south and east. Hedgehogs are rare in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The hedgehog is a small, spiny mammal around 20cm long with a long snout. The back and sides of the hedgehog are covered in 25mm (1") long spines. These are absent from the face, legs and underside, which are covered with coarse, grey-brown fur.

Hedgehogs are highly active and range widely. They need to be able to move freely through a well-connected range of habitats to find food, mates and areas to nest. Studies show that hedgehogs can travel around 2km in a night in urban areas and 3km a night in rural landscapes. A viable population of urban hedgehogs is thought to need 0.9km^2 of well-connected habitat.

Hedgehogs nest year-round and produce different types of nest for daytime resting, breeding and hibernation. Daytime nests are a retreat during the active season, and are often temporary, flimsy and found in areas of rough grassland, loose leaf piles or garden vegetation. Breeding nests are made by females and are used to raise young. They tend to be more robust, like hibernation nests. Winter nests can be used for several months to hibernate through periods of cold weather and low food availability. The sturdiest nests rely on medium-sized deciduous leaves and a structure to hold the leaves in place. Bramble patches, log piles and open compost heaps are common locations for breeding and hibernation.

Hedgehogs are omnivores, but the bulk of their diet consists of macro-invertebrates such as beetles, worms, slugs, earwigs, caterpillars and millipedes. In urban areas, supplementary food in the form of cat, dog or formulated hedgehog food can make up a significant part of their diet. Access to water is also very important.

Surveys

Hedgehogs are nocturnal animals, so despite their spiny appearance they are often difficult to find.

All surveys should be conducted between May and November when hedgehogs are active.

Droppings can be found in grassland, farmland and in gardens. The droppings are crinkly, often studded with shiny fragments due to their diet of insects. They are variable in size, 15-50mm long and 8-10mm thick, blue/black in colour and sweet smelling with a hint of linseed oil.

Footprint tunnels and camera traps can also be used to survey for hedgehogs.

Further survey techniques can also be used to survey for hedgehogs, but these require a survey licence to carry out surveys involving trapping and torch or spotlight searches.

Legislation

The hedgehog is considered an endangered species, but it benefits only from general protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. They are listed under Schedule 6 of the Act, which makes it illegal to kill, trap or capture wild hedgehogs, with certain methods listed. They are also listed under the Wild Mammals Protection Act (1996), which prohibits cruel treatment of hedgehogs and they are a species of 'principal importance' under the NERC Act, which confers a 'duty of responsibility to public bodies'.

However, none of these deal with the issues that are a threat to the hedgehog. The main threat is the increasing loss of habitat, the increasing traffic on our roads and the increasing use of herbicides, in particular those used to kill garden slugs.

Appendix III. INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES INFORMATION.

Ecology

The Government has acknowledged the problems that can be caused by non-native invasive species. In 2008 the Government launched "The Invasive Non-Native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain". The strategy provides a framework for a more co-ordinated approach to invasive species management. It seeks to create a stronger sense of shared responsibility across government, key organisations, land managers and the public.

The Non-Native Species Secretariat has been established to oversee the implementation of the strategy. Details of the secretariat including risk assessments and action plans for some species are available at www.nonnativespecies.org.

In general, there are four basic methods of controlling weeds; mechanical, chemical, natural and environmental.

- ***Mechanical control*** *includes cultivation, hoeing, pulling, cutting, raking, dredging or other methods to uproot or cut weeds.*
  Where this method is used all plant material must be considered "controlled waste" and must be disposed of properly.
- ***Chemical control*** *uses approved herbicides.*
- ***Natural control*** *uses pests and diseases of the target weed to weaken it and prevent it from becoming a nuisance.*
- ***Environmental control*** *works by altering the environment to make it less suitable for weed growth, for example by increasing or decreasing water velocity.*

Surveys

A site will be searched for invasive plant species growing on site, from mature plants to new shoots. A site will also be searched for dead stems indicating that plants that may have seasonally died back are present.

Legislation

Invasive species listed under Schedule 9 are prohibited from release into the wild. Schedule 9, Section 14(2) prohibits 'planting' or 'causing to grow' in the wild of any plant listed in Part 2 of Schedule 9.

The following is a list of all the species of plant listed under Schedule 9 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**England & Wales**	**Scotland**
Alexanders, Perfoliate	*Smyrnium perfoliatum*	✓	
Algae, Red	*Grateloupia luxurians*	✓	
Archangel, Variegated Yellow	*Lamiastrum galeobdolon subsp. Argentatum*	✓	
Azalea, Yellow	*Rhododendron luteum*	✓	
Balsam, Himalayan	*Impatiens glandulifera*	✓	
Carolina Water-shield	*Cabomba caroliniana*	✓	✓
Cotoneaster	*Cotoneaster horizontalis*	✓	
Cotoneaster, Entire Leaved	*Cotoneaster integrifolius*	✓	
Cotoneaster, Himalayan	*Cotoneaster simonsii*	✓	
Cotoneaster, Hollyberry	*Cotoneaster bullatus*	✓	
Cotoneaster, Small Leaved	*Cotoneaster microphyllus*	✓	
Creeper, False Virginia	*Parthenocissus inserta*	✓	
Creeper, Virginia	*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*	✓	
Dewplant, Purple	*Disphyma crassifolium*	✓	
False-acacia	*Robinia pseudoacacia*		✓
Fern, Water	*Azolla filiculoides*	✓	✓
Fig, Hottentot	*Carpobrotus edulis*	✓	✓
Garlic, Few-flowered	*Allium paradoxum*	✓	✓
Garlic, Three-Cornered	*Allium triquetrum*	✓	
Hogweed, Giant	*Heracleum mantegazzianum*	✓	✓
Hyacinth, water	*Eichhornia crassipes*	✓	✓
Kelp, Giant	*Macrocystis angustifolia*	✓	✓
Kelp, Giant	*Macrocystis integrifolia*	✓	✓
Kelp, Giant	*Macrocystis laevis*	✓	✓
Kelp, Giant	*Macrocystis pyrifera*	✓	✓

Kelp, Japanese	*Laminaria japonica*	✓	✓
Knotweed, Giant	*Reynoutria sachalinensis*	✓	
Knotweed, Hybrid	*Reynoutria japonica x Reynoutria sachalinensis*	✓	
Knotweed, Japanese	*Reynoutria japonica*	✓	
Knotweed, Japanese	*Polygonum cuspidatum*		✓
Lettuce, water	*Pistia stratiotes*	✓	✓
Montbretia	*Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora*	✓	
Parrot's-feather	*Myriophyllum aquaticum*	✓	
Pennywort, Floating	*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*	✓	
Pigmyweed, New Zealand	*Crassula helmsii*	✓	✓
Potato, Duck	*Sagittaria latifolia*	✓	
Primrose-willow, Floating	*Ludwigia peploides*	✓	
Primrose, Water	*Ludwigia grandiflora*	✓	
Rhododendron	*Rhododendron ponticum*	✓	
Rhubarb, Giant	*Gunnera tinctoria*	✓	
Rose, Japanese	*Rosa rugosa*	✓	
Salvinia, Giant	*Salvinia molesta*	✓	✓
Seafingers, Green	*Codium fragile*	✓	
Seafingers, Green	*Codium fragile tomentosoides*		✓
Seaweed, Californian Red	*Pikea californica*	✓	✓
Seaweed, Hooked Asparagus	*Asparagopsis armata*	✓	✓
Seaweed, Japanese	*Sargassum muticum*	✓	✓
Seaweeds, Laver (except native species)	*Porphyra sp. except -* *P. amethystea* *P. leucosticta* *P. linearis* *P. miniata* *P. purpurea* *P. umbilicalis*	✓	✓
Shallon	*Gaultheria shallon*		✓
Wakame	*Undaria pinnatifida*	✓	✓
Waterweed, Curly	*Lagarosiphon major*	✓	✓
Waterweeds	*All species of the genus Elodea*	✓	

Appendix IV. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA PRE-DEVELOPMENT.

Site: Haddon Road, Barnsley

Reference:240954

Date: 18.10.2024

Produced by: Alex White

Appendix V. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA POST-DEVELOPMENT.

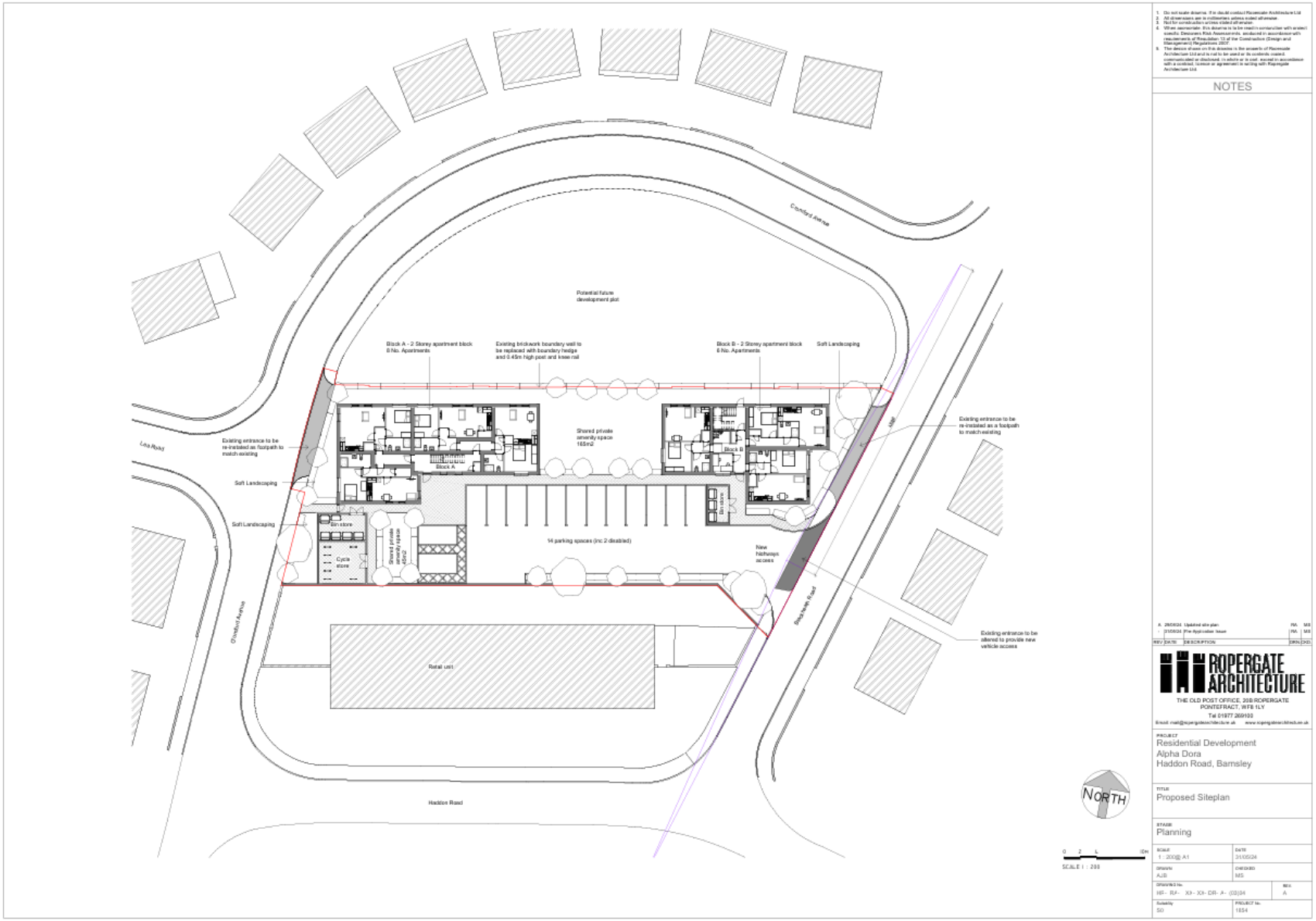
Site: Haddon Road, Barnsley

Reference: 240954

Date: 07.03.2025

Produced by: Alex White

Appendix VI. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PLAN



NOTES

1. Do not scale drawing. If in doubt contact Ropergate Architecture Ltd
2. All dimensions are in millimetres unless noted otherwise.
3. Not for construction unless stated otherwise.
4. Where appropriate. Risk drawing is to be read in conjunction with project specific Designers Risk Assessments, produced in accordance with requirements of Regulation 13 of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007.
5. The device shown on this drawing is the property of Ropergate Architecture Ltd and is not to be used or its contents copied, communicated or disclosed, in whole or in part, except in accordance with a contract, licence or agreement in writing with Ropergate Architecture Ltd.

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DRN	CHD
A	28/05/24	Updated site plan	RA	MS
-	31/05/24	Pre-Application Issue	RA	MS

ROPERGATE ARCHITECTURE
THE OLD POST OFFICE, 20B ROPERGATE
PONTEFRACT, WF8 1LY
Tel 01977 269103
Email: mail@ropergatearchitecture.uk www.ropergatearchitecture.uk

PROJECT
Residential Development
Alpha Dora
Haddon Road, Barnsley

TITLE
Proposed Siteplan

STAGE
Planning

SCALE	DATE
1 : 200@ A1	31/05/24
DRAWN: AJB	CHECKED: MS
DRAWING No. HR - RF - XX - XX - DR - A - (03)04	REV. A
Suitability S0	PROJECT No. 1654

Toolbox Talk: Cotoneaster species

Whitcher Wildlife Ltd

Ecological Consultants

Cotoneasters are a large group of trees and shrubs with some species being evergreen and some deciduous. The species is becoming naturalised through birds eating the berries and causing the spread of the plant. One of the species is native, Wild Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster cambricus*) which occurs occasionally throughout North Wales.

Identification.

Cotoneaster species vary although the most common species, Wall cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*) is distinctive with flattened herring-bone like branches. Most species have shiny leaves located alternate along the stem.

Habitat and Spreading.

Cotoneaster grows in a variety of habitats. In urban areas the plant is characteristic of disturbed dry sites. Some species are also commonly found in herb-rich limestone grassland, crags and other semi-natural habitats.

Cotoneaster spreads through small red berries that are present on the plant during the later summer and autumn.

The best form of control of the plant is to prevent it from seeding by cutting back or pulling before the berries are present.

Legislation.

Under section 14 and Part II of Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence for it to be planted or otherwise caused to grow in the wild. This includes spreading the species by transferring polluted ground material from one area to the other.

If Cotoneaster is identified during works, stop all works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 01226 753271 or at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk