

ECOLOGICAL WALK-OVER SURVEY

TWIBELL STREET, BARNSELEY, S71 1DL
For
VENTURE BUSINESS SPACE LIMITED

RESULT INDICATOR OF THIS SURVEY

- **RED.** Do not proceed. Without major modification this project will have significant adverse ecological & biodiversity impacts. It will not be sustainable or compliant with current legislation and approved planning policy. Discussion is required with the Planning Authority.
- **AMBER.** Caution. The proposals as conceived would have substantial negative impacts and cannot achieve a “No Net Loss to Biodiversity” outcome unless changes are made to avoid, mitigate/restore or, as a last resort, compensate for the ecological impacts. With such changes and subject to pre-application agreement with the Planning Authority, the project is considered likely to be feasible, however.
- **GREEN.** On present information, the proposals are expected to have no or only minor adverse impacts on ecology & biodiversity, and some gains. In terms of ecology, the project can proceed providing all the recommendations are met, enforced and monitored.

December 2019
S:6854/ J001275

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N.B. Information on legally protected, rare or vulnerable species may appear in ecological reports. In such cases it is recommended that appropriate caution be used when circulating copies.

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Ecological Walk-Over Survey

ECOLOGICAL WALK-OVER SURVEY	
Surveyor	Roger Curtis
Confirm site risk assessment completed	YES
Site address	Twibell Street, Barnsley, S71 1DL
Project proposed if known	Proposed builder's merchant with trade counter & ancillary storage.
Boundary as specified by client	YES
Central OS Grid Ref.	The survey site extends to approximately 0.7 hectares and is centred at OS Grid Reference SE 3522 0712.
Survey date	03 December 2019.

REPORT CONTROL General Report Information	
Date report issued	18 December 2019
Contract manager	Natalie Loben

Report Version Control

Version	Date	Author	Description
1.0	14 December 2019	Roger Curtis	Document created
1.0	18 December 2019	Roger Curtis/Lizzie Breakwell	Document completed
1.1	19 December 2019	Roger Curtis/Lizzie Breakwell/N Loben	Amends based on client feedback. Document completed.

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REPORT TITLES — AN EXPLANATORY NOTE.

An ecological walk-over of a site is exactly that: an examination of a defined area that includes a careful and expert walk-over to provide a reliable basic reference for clients. The terminology for reports varies between practitioners and they may be called “Extended Phase 1 Habitat Surveys”, “Preliminary Ecological Appraisals”, “Walk-Over Wildlife Surveys” or similar. There are also “Ecological Impact Assessments (EclAs)” or several variations on that theme but these are more detailed and considerably more expensive. They may be needed for extensive or ecologically important sites – please ask us to advise. Please remember that all basic surveys may identify matters that require more thorough investigation. This will be clearly stated in the text in such cases.

INTRODUCTION

As almost all ecological surveys relate to a planning application, it is useful to consider our work in this context. British Standard 42020: 2013 *Biodiversity. Code of practice for planning and development* is helpful in this respect (www.bsigroup.com) as it makes recommendations in the five typical stages of a planning application:

- Stage 1 (pre-application) – biodiversity in project design, the mitigation hierarchy (avoidance, adequate mitigation, or as last resort compensation), the impacts with constraints and opportunities, proportionality, surveys and reports;
- Stage 2 (validation, registration) – ensuring submitted information is sufficient;
- Stage 3 (decision making) – consultation, further information if needed, resolving issues;
- Stage 4 (determination) – setting deliverable Conditions, obligations if not covered by Conditions, additional consents that may be needed;
- Stage 5 (implementation) – protecting wildlife/biodiversity during construction, long term management and monitoring.

We are often only contacted after a project has been designed, which can be costly and problematic if biodiversity has not been sufficiently considered. We always ask clients to contact us at the very earliest stage of a project, preferably when options for alternative sites are available. This can save significant costs and delays. We can and do assist with all five stages. The walk-over survey is primarily confined to Stages 1 and 2 but, subject to any more detailed investigations that may be required, we can provide text suitable for incorporation as Conditions where relevant and we can offer assistance in negotiating, writing and discharging them. When appropriate, as is commonly the case to ensure the overarching aim of No Net Loss but rather Net Gains to Biodiversity, we can take full responsibility for all long term ecological management and monitoring as an exclusive service through our Estates division.

FURTHER WORK LIKELY TO BE NEEDED	
From observations of this walk-over examination, is further work likely to be needed regarding notable/protected species, habitats, planning policy, biodiversity duty or related regulatory compliance?	YES
Work required if "yes":	Reason
To avoid the risk of infringement of regulations, conduct a pre-clearance search of all areas of the site using suitably qualified ecological scientists under a Betts Method Statement or one formally pre-agreed by us immediately prior to site stripping to move any vulnerable taxa to safety or allow other necessary precautions to be taken prior to the commencement of development activity.	Legal compliance, especially laws protecting mammals, birds and herpetofauna.
Undertake site and shrub clearance outside the bird nesting season (usually taken as March to mid-August inclusive in this part of Britain). If this is unavoidable, pre-clearance inspection by a suitably experienced ornithologist will be required to identify whether any nests are present, and ensure appropriate action is taken.	Compliance with law protecting active birds' nests.
If there are any steep-sided excavations created during construction, please ensure they are covered overnight or provided with ramps to prevent any mammals becoming trapped. Re-fill such excavations as soon as feasible.	Prevention of cruelty.
Avoid negative impacts of new lighting at night e.g. on bats, otters, and birds which may use the River Dearne. A dark corridor of at least 20m from the retained northern boundary concrete wall to the inside of the site is to be implemented between the proposed development and the River Dearne. No new lighting will be shone directly towards the river from the north side of the proposed development. Any new external lighting directed toward the south-east and west will be directional downward facing lighting to avoid light spillage and, if practical for security reasons, will be fitted with a motion sensor to reduce the time any lighting is illuminated.	Reducing ecological impact and compliance with National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 125.
Create new wildlife habitats appropriate to the site's context, e.g. through the use of log piles, "wild" corners and native planting; install four bird boxes, four bat boxes and two invertebrate boxes of mixed designs and incorporate these into the project's landscape scheme. (We can provide specific recommendations for models and siting on request but they must be of good quality and durable.) Bat and bird boxes must be inspected annually and replaced when needed (usually after ten years). The development plans for the site should include the provision of 'hedgehog gates' at the bases of any boundary fencing to allow free movement of hedgehogs through the landscape.	Best practice and compliance with government policy on biodiversity protection and enhancement
Appoint an Ecological Clerk of Works ¹ and formally instruct ("toolbox talk") contractors and site personnel on agreed policies, recommendations and requirements to maintain	Best practice (BS42020, etc.)

¹ This should be a suitably qualified senior person who will keep a daily log and report throughout the construction process.

FURTHER WORK LIKELY TO BE NEEDED	
environmental quality and minimise impacts during construction, generally avoiding unnecessary disturbance and pollution, avoiding vehicle movements and storage of materials on garden/retained greenspace areas. Please see constraints and opportunities section later in this report.	
Use native planting (preferably of local origin and reflecting local botany) wherever feasible in all landscaping. Where exotic species are planted, always avoid invasive species and choose those with wildlife value such as for nectar or shelter. (A selection of species is available from us.) Further enhancement measures should include 'filling in' any gaps in the northern boundary hedgerow with locally-sourced saplings of native trees and shrubs. Please see main text for particular planting recommendations.	Biodiversity enhancement and helping to assure "no net loss".
Embody Green Infrastructure protocols in landscaping and ensure ecological linkage out from and into the site. (Please ask us if you require further details.)	Ecological connectivity and biodiversity protection/enhancement.
To follow government policy, ensure that the "carbon footprint" of all aspects of the project and its future operation is compliant with current best practice. This may include taking appropriate steps to avoid or reduce the use of fossil fuels, employing scientifically sound carbon offset/CO ₂ sequestration and instating renewable energy technologies. Ensure the measures agreed are quantified, independently verified and monitored.	To follow government and international policy on climate change.
Wherever possible and compatible with site layout, retain trees on site and at the periphery by designing around them. Protect trees in line with BS5837 and do not remove ivy, mistletoe, standing dead wood, snags or rot unless there is a clear and material safety risk or presence of a serious pathogen. (Ask for advice on pathogens from a qualified silvicultural ecologist if in doubt.)	Tree and biodiversity protection; BS5837: 2012 <i>Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction</i> .
No ingress by site staff, machinery or materials will be made into the Local Wildlife Site along the River Dearne corridor, which is and will be separated by the northern boundary retained concrete wall of the application site.	Ecological connectivity and biodiversity protection/enhancement.

RESULTS – WHAT WE FOUND

Objectives

Ecological Walkover Survey.

The objectives of this commission were as follows:

- Carry out an Ecological Walkover survey for the proposed development located at Twibell Street, Barnsley S71 1DL;
- Prepare a Phase 1 Habitat Map with Target Notes if applicable to recognised standards;
- Produce a written summary of the survey findings;
- Provide any recommendations for mitigation, biodiversity enhancement and protection.

Methods and Limitations

The site was examined using appropriate methods generally following NCC (1990)² for Phase 1 habitat survey, with procedures appropriately selected from Institute of Environmental Assessment (1995)³ and Jermy *et al.* (1995)⁴ for species and any specialist habitat appraisal as required, and/or the current guidance on survey methods and Ecological Impact Assessment from the (Chartered) Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (*e.g.* CIEEM 2013, IEEM 2007 and updates⁵) with further reference to British Standards such as 42020⁶ and 8583 as appropriate.

It should be noted that, whilst the investigation of the site was appropriately intensive within the intended framework of the commission, and we feel it is unlikely that significant matters have been overlooked, a single visit will inevitably miss species not apparent on the date of survey by reason of seasonality, mobility, habits or chance. The month of December is outside the optimal survey period for many taxa of nature conservation interest in this part of the United Kingdom. However it is within the acceptable period for this type of field survey and habitat mapping of this type, provided the limitations are taken note of.

² Nature Conservancy Council (1990). *Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey – a technique for environmental audit*. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough, UK.

³ Institute of Environmental Assessment (1995). *Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment*. E & FN Spon, London, UK.

⁴ Jermy, A.C., Long, D., Sands, M.J.S., Stork, N.E. and Winser, S. (Eds) (1995). *Biodiversity assessment: a guide to good practice*. Department of the Environment/HMSO, London, UK.

⁵ Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2013). *Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal*. CIEEM, Winchester, UK. Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2007). *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the United Kingdom*. IEEM, Winchester, UK.

⁶ British Standards Institute (2013). *British Standard 42020: 2013 Biodiversity. Code of practice for planning and development*. British Standards Institute, London, UK.

It should always be recalled that wildlife surveys of the kind required for planning and development or similar project purposes are seldom granted sufficient time or resources to examine non-vascular plants, invertebrates or fungi in great detail, yet these are the fundamental elements of ecosystems that provide the niches and habitats for larger fauna to exploit. In an ideal world, all surveys would include results of full sampling of vascular and non-vascular plants, micro- and macro-invertebrates and mycological status at individual, population and community levels. As that involves skills, time and expense well beyond what is available, we ask readers of our general survey reports to understand that we do consider the larger species we record in their wider ecosystem context and take into account the impacts of proposals at an ecosystem level when prescribing avoidance, mitigation, enhancement and/or compensation.

“Phase 1 Habitats Plan”



Legend

 Scrub dense /continuous A2.1

 Broad-leaved scattered trees A3.1

 Fence J2.4

 Building J3.6

 Scrub scattered A2.2

 Tall ruderal C3.1

 Wall J2.5

 Bare ground J4

ITEM	OBSERVATIONS
Habitats & Vegetation (NB. Please be aware that several designated habitat types and many plants enjoy legal protection in Britain.)	
General description	<p>The development site is understood to be a former industrial site, located within a busy retail park to the eastern side of Barnsley. Residential dwellings and retail units are found to the immediate south, with retail and commercial units bounding the site to the east and west. The River Dearne corridor LWS is to the immediate north with the boundary between the river and study site demarked by a 2.4m high concrete panelled wall.</p> <p>The study site is approximately 0.7ha in area and is dominated by bare ground and a mix of scattered and continuous scrub. Species present within the continuous scrub include bramble (occasional), birch sp., (dominant), goat willow, Buddleia and self-set sycamore saplings (Plate 2). Scattered scrub is found along the majority of the southern boundary wall as well as along the eastern side of the site (Plate 3) with species to include, Birch sp., occasional young sycamore and Buddleia, some of which are starting to encroach into the cracks in the Tarmacked areas (Plate 1). An area of bare ground runs along the centre of the northern boundary between the concrete boundary wall and the continuous scrub (Plate 6).</p> <p>Three semi-mature sycamore stand in the extreme north-eastern corner of the site and a single mature cherry is found against the concrete wall on the northern boundary. Several young self-set common ash (occasional), elder, goat willow and sycamore are found in the scattered scrub along the southern boundary wall. A semi-mature common ash has a foothold in the centre of the western boundary fence line.</p> <p>Small areas of tall ruderal vegetation are found in the south-western corner along the western boundary brick wall and towards the north-western corner of the site. The cover is relatively sparse, with species including bramble (occasional), common nettle (dominant), seedling common ash and rosebay willowherb (occasional).</p> <p>The majority of the eastern boundary is a mix of varying height brick walls formed by the neighbouring buildings (Plate 5), with the northern section of this boundary defined by a relatively new 2.1m high palisade fence. The northern boundary is defined by a 2.4m high concrete panel wall, apart from the extreme western section which has a palisade fence line, which extends around the northern section of the western boundary up to a 3m high solid brick wall with 1m high palisade fencing attached to the wall top. From the brick wall running south, the remainder of the western boundary is fenced with 2.1m high palisade fencing. A small brick built electric substation stands in the south-western corner of the site.</p> <p>The southern boundary from the substation running east is a 1.8 m high timber boarded fence which in turn adjoins onto a 3m high solid brick wall for the remainder of this boundary, apart from the gated site entrance.</p>

ITEM	OBSERVATIONS
Statutory designations (on/near)	Dearne Valley Park, a Local Nature Reserve, is found at its nearest point approximately 0.09km to the north of the study site.
Non-statutory designations (on/near)	Cliffe Wood Local Wildlife Site No 26, at its nearest point stands approximately 0.48km to the east of the site. The main body of Old Mill Lane, Local Wildlife Site No 54, is found approximately 0.18km to the west of the site. However it extends easterly along the River Dearne corridor to link up to Cliffe Wood LWS to the east.
Notable hedgerows, woodland or scrub	Continuous scrub is found predominately over the northern section of the site.
Ecologically notable trees (e.g. veteran, wildlife significant) ⁷	None observed on site.
Ponds/water courses	There are no ponds within the study site. However the River Dearne is located immediately to the north of the application site.
Notable communities	None observed on site.
Notable vascular plants	None observed on site.
Notable bryophytes/algae	None noted on site during the field survey.
Notable lichens	None noted on site during the field survey.
Notable fungi	None noted on site during the field survey.
Other notable habitats/vegetation	None found within the study site.
Features that should be retained	None.
<u>Mammals</u> (NB. Several species and their habitats have very strict protection in law.)	
Badger	None observed and no field signs observed.
Otter	No suitable habitat on site, but suitable habitat exists along the River Dearne, which is in close proximity to the study site, approximately 10m from the northern boundary; however, the distance between the two is considered to provide sufficient a barrier to potential disturbance. In addition, the majority of the northern boundary is demarked by a 2.4m high concrete panelled wall.
Other mustelids	None observed on site.

⁷ Please note that we do not check TPO status as this is a landscape/amenity planning classification.

ITEM	OBSERVATIONS
Bats	<p>No suitable trees on site for roosting due to their age and structure.</p> <p>The only building is a small electrical substation to the south-west corner adjacent to Twibell Road. The brick walls, fascia boards and steel doors are all in good condition. The mono-pitched roof is constructed from concrete, possibly reinforced and again is in good condition. The interior was not accessed as the building is securely locked (Plate 4).</p> <p>The site offers limited foraging capacity, however the River Dearne corridor would be expected to be the main foraging and commuting route into the wilder landscape for a number of bat species.</p> <p>A known and well surveyed Daubenton's bat maternity roost is present approximately 0.23km to the west of the study site.</p>
Water vole	<p>None observed on site. The River Dearne is in close proximity to the study site northern boundary, however the distance between the two is considered to provide sufficient a barrier to potential disturbance. In addition the majority of the northern boundary is demarked by a 2.4m high concrete panelled wall.</p>
Common or hazel dormouse	<p>No signs were observed during the field survey.</p>
Deer	<p>No signs were observed during the field survey and unlikely to use the site as it is located in an industrial area, which is fenced and walled.</p>
Hedgehog	<p>No signs were observed at the time of the field survey as during December they would be expected to be hibernating, but species may occasionally use the site.</p>
Shrews	<p>None observed but may use the scrub to the north of the site.</p>
Others	<p>Evidence of European Rabbit with a few droppings observed to the north east corner of the site, although no warrens were seen within the study site.</p>
<p>Birds (NB. With the exception of eleven derogated pest or very common species, the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981 and amendments) gives protection to all wild birds in Britain from killing, injuring or taking as well as taking, damaging or destroying nests in use or being built, and taking or destroying eggs. Many species are also protected by international statutes to which Britain is a signatory.⁸)</p>	
Red list	<p>None observed.</p>
Amber list	<p>None observed.</p>
Active nests	<p>None observed during the field survey as it was undertaken outside the optimum breeding season.</p>

⁸ Please also see www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdguide/status_explained.aspx and www.bto.org/sites/default/files/u38/downloads/home-news/2011-11/SUKB%202011%20final.pdf for red and amber lists etc., and explanations.

ITEM	OBSERVATIONS
Other	No historical nests observed during the field survey. Bird species observed during the field survey include blackbird, great tit and long-tailed tit.
Comments on ornithology	The areas of scrub could provide suitable nesting, foraging habitat and linkage to habitat beyond the site boundary, primarily the northern boundary onto the River Dearne corridor for a number of bird species. Therefore precautions have been recommended in the earlier relevant section for avoidance measures for active nests.
<u>Herpetofauna</u> (NB. The grass snake, slow-worm, viviparous (common) lizard and adder (viper) are all protected from intentional killing or injury under Schedule 5, Section 9(1), of the Wildlife and Countryside Act as amended/reinforced by the CROW Act 2000. They are also protected under Schedule 5, Section 9(5) which prohibits selling, offering for sale, possessing or transporting for the purpose of sale, or advertising for sale, any live or dead animal, or any part of, or anything derived from the species. Other rarer species and their habitats have stricter protection.)	
Adder	None observed on site as the species would be expected to be in hibernation in the month of December. The present habitat structure is considered sub-optimal for the species. No Public Record Centre records for this species within the 1.5km search area.
Grass snake	None observed on site due to the time of year. Habitat on site not considered to be suitable for the species, no areas of coarse grass. No Public Record Centre records for this species within the 1.5km search area.
Slow-worm	None observed on site due to the time of year. Habitat on site not considered to be suitable for the species, with no areas of coarse grass on site. No Public Record Centre records for this species within the 1.5km search area.
Common lizard	None observed on site due to the time of year. Habitat on site not considered to be suitable for the species. No Public Record Centre records for this species within the 1.5km search area.
Rarer reptiles	None observed on site due to time of the year. Habitat not suitable for reptiles. No Public Record Centre records for reptiles within the 1.5km search area.
Great crested newt	No ponds are found within the application site and the fast flowing River Dearne is considered not to provide optimum habitat for breeding.
Natterjack toad	Not found in this area.
Other amphibia	No ponds found within the application site and the fast flowing River Dearne is considered not to provide optimum habitat for breeding populations of newts, common frog or common toad.
<u>Fish</u> (NB. Various levels of legal protection.)	

ITEM	OBSERVATIONS
Significant fishery	No suitable habitat on site. The River Dearne is in immediate proximity to the application site. However it is outside the survey area, with the application site boundary demarked by a 2.4m high concrete panelled wall which is to be retained, which will protect the river corridor from any impacts from the proposals.
Bullhead	No suitable habitat on site and no Public Record Centre records for bullhead within the 1.5km search area.
Shad	No suitable habitat on site and no Public Record Centre records for shad within the 1.5km search area.
Lampreys	No suitable habitat on site and no Public Record Centre records for this species within the 1.5km search area.
Salmonids	No suitable habitat on site, however there is a single record for brown/sea trout located approximately 60m to the west in the River Dearne. The river will be unaffected by the proposals.
Other notable fish	No suitable habitat on site and no Public Record Centre records within the 1.5km search area.
<u>Macro-invertebrates</u> (NB. Several species enjoy legal protection.)	
Notable assemblage (terrestrial)	Potentially suitable habitat exists within the area of continuous scrub to the northern section of the site. Although the area is relatively small in context to the more advantageous habitats found within the Local Wildlife Sites.
Notable assemblage (aquatic)	No waterbodies found on site.
Crayfish	No waterbodies on site. There are three historical records relating to white-clawed crayfish within the River Dearne. The nearest being located approximately 0.17km west of the study site. The proposed development does not directly impact on the river and so long as recommendations made in this report are adhered to it is considered there would be no direct impact upon the recorded white-clawed crayfish population.
Roman snail	N/A.
Other molluscs	None observed on site.
Lesser silver water-beetle	N/A.
Stag beetle	None observed on site, not sufficient optimal habitat for the species.
Other notable beetles	None observed on site.
Butterflies/moths of note	No observed due to time of year, no suitable grassland for rare butterfly / moth species.

ITEM	OBSERVATIONS
Notable bees, wasps, flies <i>etc.</i>	No observed due to time of year.
Dragonflies/damselflies of note	No observed due to time of year.
Other notable entomological spp/groups	None observed on site.
Notable invertebrate habitat	No grassland on the site. The scrub to the north section may provide suitable habitat but is relatively small in area in comparison to the optimum habitats within the wider landscape along the River Dearne corridor.
Invasive alien species (IAS) and pathogens (There are an increasing number of these being listed by authorities. More and more are becoming subject to regulatory control that carries significant sanctions.)	
IAS (plants) (Wildlife & Countryside Act Article14, Schedule 9.)	None observed on site.
Weeds Act natives (common ragwort, creeping and spear thistles, curled and broad- leaved docks)	None observed on site.
Other exotic plants that may cause problems.	
Invasive animals (signal crayfish, killer shrimp, oak processionary moth, harlequin ladybird, zebra mussel, grey squirrel, <i>etc.</i>)	None observed.
<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> and other serious plant diseases/pathogens (ash dieback, sudden oak death, <i>etc.</i>)	None observed.

ITEM	OBSERVATIONS
<u>Policy</u> ⁹	
Are there any known conflicts with local planning biodiversity policy (if so, please describe)?	The application site along the northern boundary is adjacent to Old Mill Local Wildlife Site. However an existing 2.4m high concrete panelled wall is to be retained as part of the proposed development and will form a permeant barrier between the two sites.
Are there any known conflicts with national planning biodiversity policy (if so, please describe)?	None known
Are there any known conflicts with international biodiversity policy (if so, please describe)?	None known

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES	YES/NO	COMMENT/ACTION REQUIRED IF "YES"
Has the survey revealed, in the context of the proposed project, any likely significant adverse impacts on Ecosystem Services?	No	

GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION (Geodiversity is a material planning consideration)	YES/NO	ACTION REQUIRED IF "YES"
Are there any features of geological importance on the development site?	No	
Are there any features of geological importance adjacent to the development site or that might be affected by the development (during or post construction)?	No	
Are there any significant negative impacts predicted on	No	

⁹ It is important that projects incorporate relevant elements of Green Infrastructure Planning (please see www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/planningdevelopment/greeninfrastructure/default.aspx)

"Green Infrastructure (GI) is a strategically planned and delivered network of high quality green spaces and other environmental features. It should be designed and managed as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities. Green Infrastructure includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, allotments and private gardens."

GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION (Geodiversity is a material planning consideration)	YES/NO	ACTION REQUIRED IF "YES"
soils e.g. erosion (especially light or organic (peaty) soils), compaction, contamination, loss of good agricultural soil, waterlogging, etc.		

PUBLIC RECORDS SEARCH		
Source	Data/Response	<i>Betts</i> comment
TEP Barnsley Metropolitan Council	1.5km statutory sites	
TEP Barnsley Metropolitan Council	1.5km non-statutory sites	
TEP Barnsley Metropolitan Council	1.5km protected and notable species	
MAGIC free access service	1.5km Priority Habitats	

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The site comprises habitats of moderate ecological interest, including several semi-mature broadleaved trees and scattered tall ruderal herb and bramble scrub. The River Dearne runs close to the site's northern boundary, which is marked by a tall concrete wall, which will be retained as part of the proposals. Providing the requirements noted herein are fully implemented and followed through, subject to the results of the necessary further work and satisfactory execution of specific avoidance, enhancement, mitigation and /or compensation, there are no obvious ecological counter indications to the proposed project at this stage. Indeed, the recommended ecological protection and enhancements may be expected to deliver planning & biodiversity gains, assuring there is No Net Loss to Biodiversity and no unacceptable adverse impact on Ecosystem Services.

It is essential that the ecological recommendations of this report are securely incorporated as formal Conditions within any planning consent the Local Authority is minded to grant, and that their implementation and ongoing care are verified and monitored."

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs were taken on 03 December 2019.



Plate 1. Looking east from the south west corner of the site.



Plate 2. Looking north towards the central area of continuous scrub



Plate 3. Looking north east towards the eastern area of scattered scrub.



Plate 4. The Electrical substation in the south west corner of the site.



Plate 5. Looking south along the eastern boundary walls of the neighbouring buildings.



Plate 6. Looking east along the northern boundary concrete panel wall.

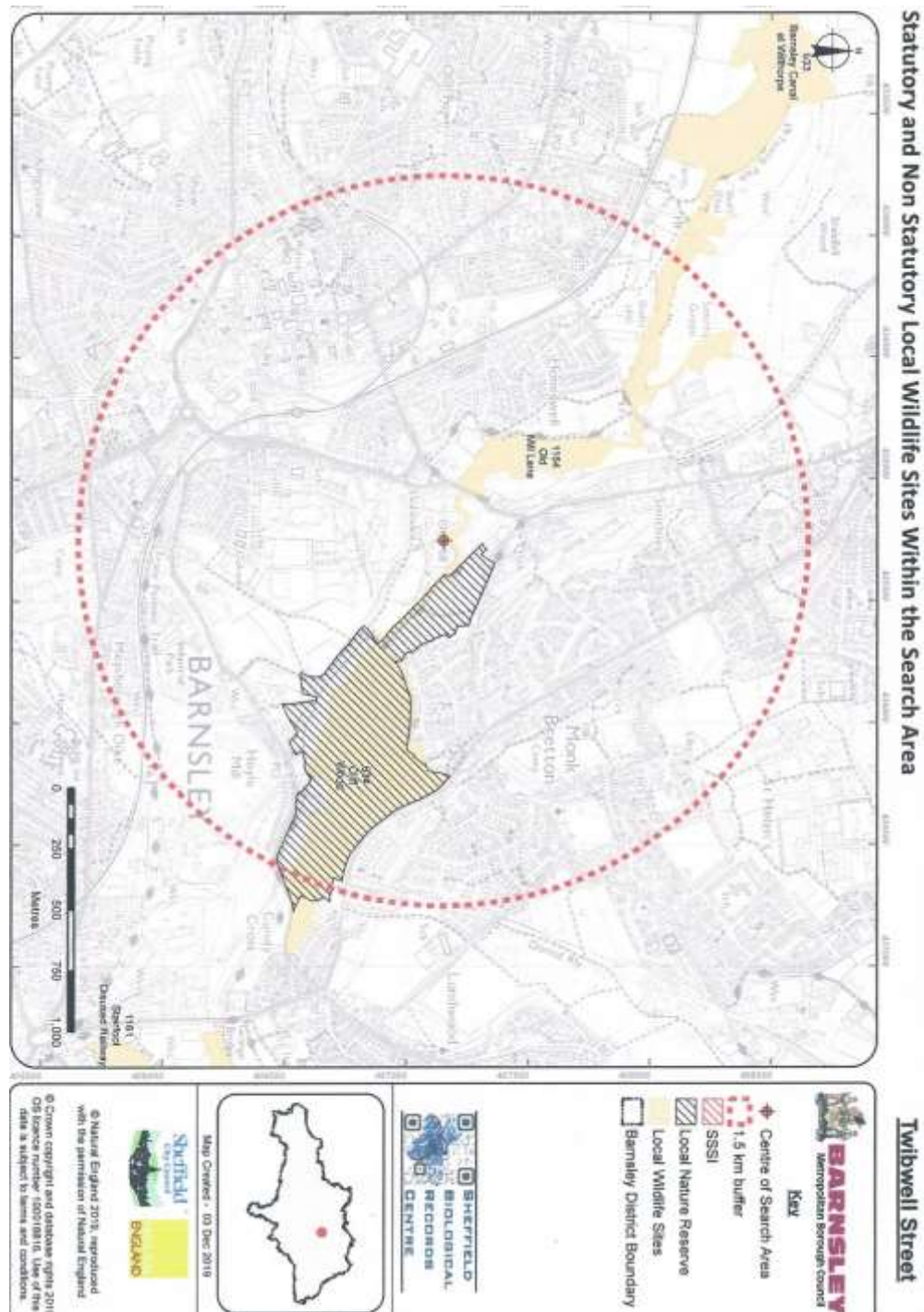
IMPORTANT

Please be aware that, because the natural environment is dynamic, ecological reports generally have a limited period of currency. Many statutory authorities now regard one year as the maximum time that should elapse before a report will need to be updated: occasionally it may be longer but it may also be less. Where a statutory wildlife licence is to be applied for, a walk-over of the site should be carried out **within three months** of an application being submitted to check that the habitats have not changed significantly since the survey was carried out.

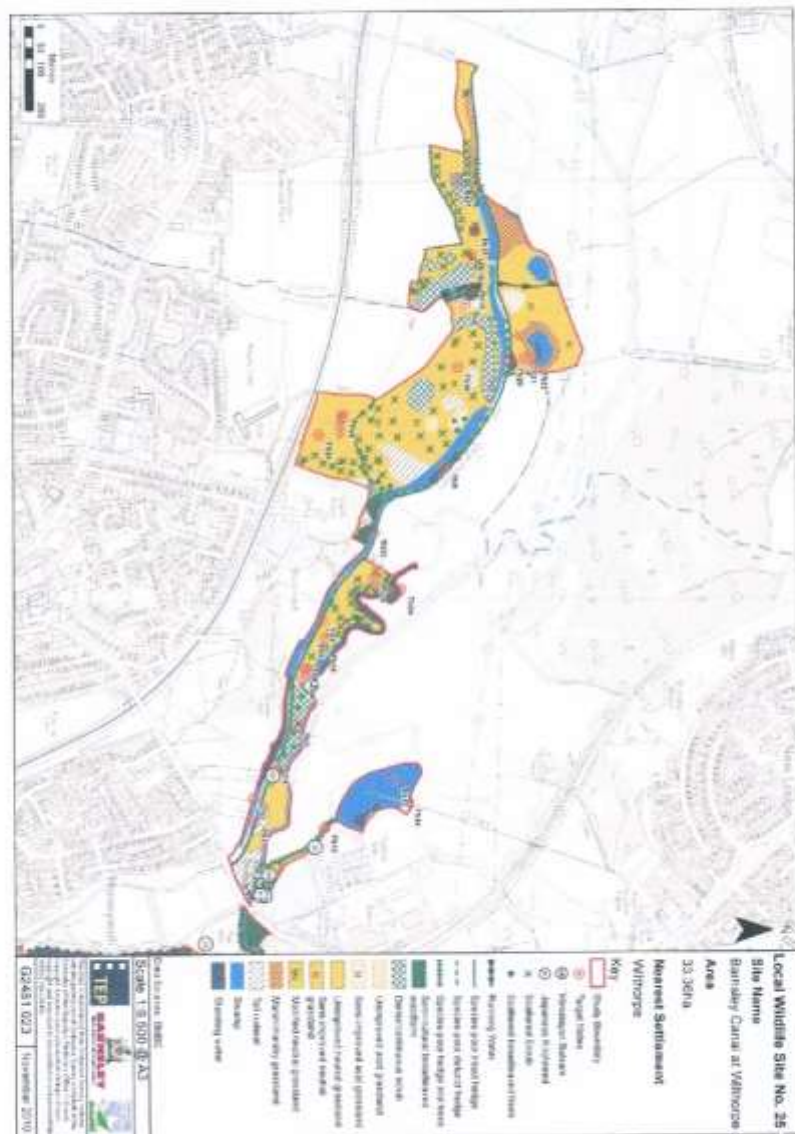
Betts are a scientific practice. Any information relating to legal matters in this report is provided in good faith but does not purport in any way to give any advice on or interpretation of the law whatsoever. Professional legal advice should always be sought. Any designs, specifications, advice, suggestions, or comments written or verbal relating to construction or supervision of building-related work of any kind are provided for consideration only and under no circumstances are to be interpreted as provision of design, management or supervision *sensu* the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007.

APPENDIX

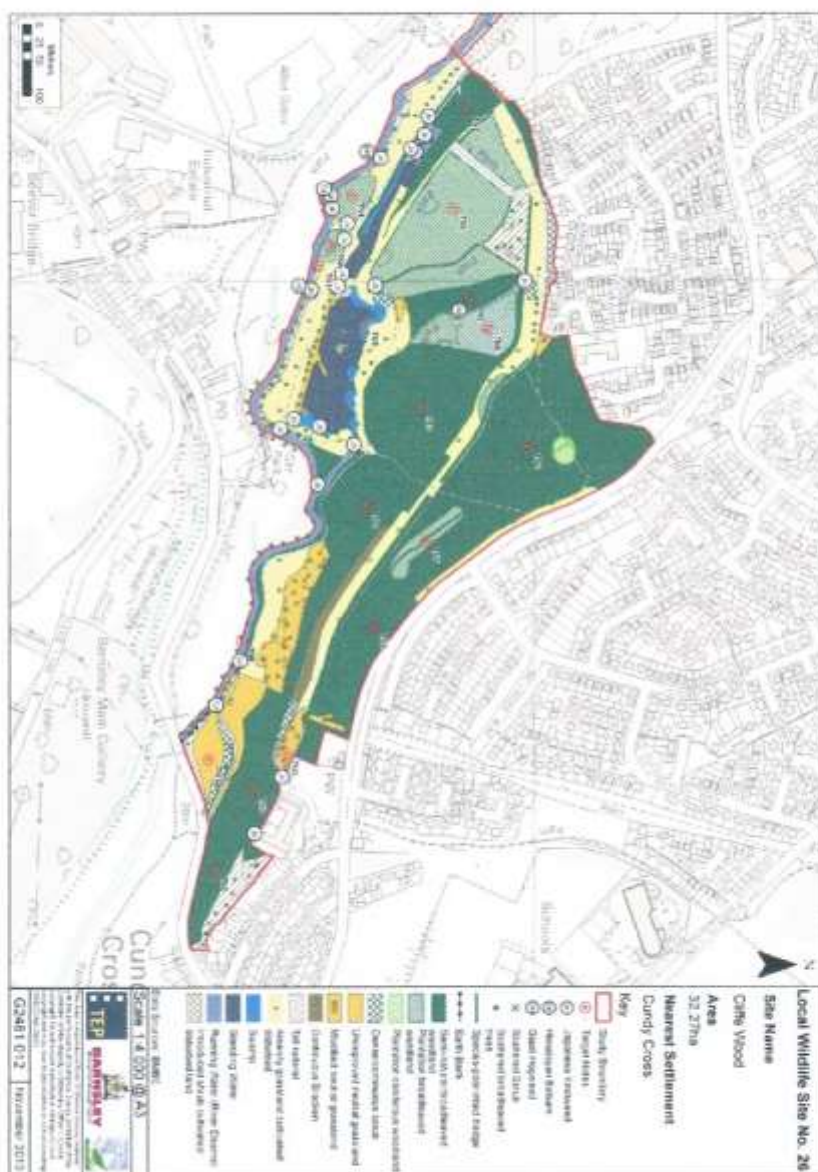
Data Search Third Party Responses



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CAPABILITY and QUALITY ASSURANCE

Founded in 1985 to provide high quality professional services to meet an increasing market demand in applied environmental sciences, the Practice stems from the original Betts family business which was established in 1760 for the refining and recycling of high value industrial wastes and mineral ores. Betts thus offer an unusual blend of technological and practical expertise in a range of environmental disciplines, allied particularly to the biological conservation legislation and biodiversity policies of recent years. Contracts undertaken cover a wide spectrum of projects at local, national and international levels in the construction, extractive, agricultural, leisure, energy and general industrial sectors. Scientific staff belong to appropriate professional institutes by whose codes of practice they abide. Due consideration of the British Standards on Biodiversity is included in relevant work and applied where appropriate.

Roger Curtis FdSc.

Roger has 12 years field experience undertaking over 530 bat activity surveys and around 220 Preliminary Roost Assessments. Roger also prepares Natural England Bat Mitigation Licences and is a committee member of the East Yorkshire Bat Group and East Yorkshire Bat County Recorder. Other field work experience extends to Great crested newt surveys, Preliminary Ecological Appraisals, Otter & Water vole surveys, writing Construction Method Statements and Ecological & Management Enhancement Plans. Roger holds (Class 2 licences) for Bats and Great crested newts and also holds a Personnel licence for the care and rehabilitation of up to 10 bats at any one time.

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Please note that this report is a baseline ecological site audit of factors and features that may be significant for regulatory compliance and biodiversity policies relating to change of use or other disturbance. Such reports may not, on their own, contain sufficient information for a planning application and may require further more detailed study to assure compliance.

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