



**SMEEDEN  
FOREMAN**

Preliminary Ecological Assessment  
Land off Huthwaite Lane, Huthwaite  
near Thurgoland,  
South Yorkshire  
Revision A

Landscape Architects ■ Urban Designers ■ Ecologists ■ Horticulturists

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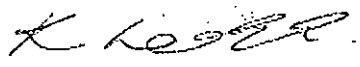
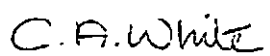
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Revision A – 08/10/2014 – Local Bat &amp; Badger Records included

|                             |                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Smeeden Foreman Limited has been commissioned by Yorkshire Land Limited to undertake an ecological assessment of land off Huthwaite Lane, Huthwaite, near Thurgoland, South Yorkshire (grid reference SE 291001). The proposals include the construction of four residential properties and an associated access road.

This report will include the following information gathered by desk study and an initial site walkover:

- Proximity to statutory and non-statutory designated sites.
- Proximity to existing records for protected species.
- Site habitat appraisal and potential to support protected species.

A review of the above information will be made to identify any features or sites of ecological interest which may be affected by the development proposals. Where potential impacts or protected species are identified the need for mitigation measures and specific species surveys will be discussed and recommendations for potential environmental enhancements will be made.

The survey was undertaken on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION



Figure 01: Aerial photograph showing the habitats within and immediately surrounding the site.

Habitats immediately beyond the site boundaries include an area of deciduous woodland and dense scrub to the south. Residential properties and associated gardens are adjacent to the west and eastern boundaries. Beyond Huthwaite Lane which aligns the northern boundary is a pasture field grazed by horses.

The site itself predominantly comprises areas of bare ground as the site has been subject to clearance to allow for a boundary and level survey. Tall ruderal and scrub species likely to have once dominated the site are beginning to become re-established. An area of grassland habitat occurs to the southern boundary. The site boundaries are predominantly marked by dry stone walls and fences, with a small section of hedgerow marking part of the western boundary.

### 3.0 BASELINE INFORMATION

#### 3.1 Methodology

The ecological interest of the site has been investigated by a combination of desk study, consultation and field survey.

Information was requested from the following organisations:-

- Sheffield Biological Records Centre (SBRC)
- South Yorkshire Bat Group (SYBG)

The following sources of information were consulted:-

- [www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk) (government web sites for nature conservation and environmental information)
- Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan
- Aerial photographs

#### 3.2 Nature Conservation Designated Sites

##### Statutory designations

There are no statutorily designated sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserves (NNR), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) or Ramsar sites within 2km of the proposed development site.

Wharnccliffe Heath Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is located approximately 0.4km to the south of the site. The reserve comprises woodland and heathland habitat.

##### Non-statutory designations

Consultation with the Sheffield Biological Records Centre provided information on eight Local Wildlife Sites\* within 2km of the proposed development site. These are detailed in the table below:

| Site Name & Reference                       | Grid Reference | Site description                               | Approx distance from site |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Black Moor Common                           | SE 276007      | Area comprising heathland, scrub and grassland | 1.4km to the north-west   |
| Mag Wood Meadow                             | SE 299012      | Grassland habitat with trees and scrub         | 1.1km to the north-east   |
| Glow Worm Silkstone Common (Candidate site) | SE 294002      | Footpath lined by trees and scrub              | 0.2km to the north        |

|                                  |           |                                   |                         |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Forge Rocher and Tin Mill Rocher | SK 291992 | Ancient replanted woodland        | 0.3km to the south      |
| Wharnccliffe Chase and Wood      | SK 297984 | Ancient and semi-natural woodland | 1.2km to the south-east |
| Hunshelf Bank                    | SK 280989 | Grassland and heathland           | 1.2km to the south      |
| Lower Ewden Beck                 | SK 293984 | Grassland and woodland habitat    | 1.5km to the south      |
| Old Haywoods                     | SK 283983 | Grassland and woodland habitat    | 1.7km to the south      |

\* Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are areas identified and selected locally for their wildlife value. The designation is non-statutory but is recognition of a site's significance with many sites being of county and often regional importance for wildlife. Examples range from field ponds, streams and reedbeds, to ancient woodlands, flower-rich meadows and hedgerows. This designation is equivalent to a SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation). This designation is used by local authorities to allow the ecological value of a site to be considered within the planning system.

Refer to Appendix 01 which shows the locations of the designated sites in relation to the application site.

### 3.3 Existing Species Records

Protected species information including UK and European Protected Species was provided by Sheffield Biological Records Centre. These records are detailed in the table below, with approximate distances from the site.

**Table 01:** Records for Protected Species from SBRC within 2km

| Species                     | Grid ref. | Notes                                    |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------|
| Grass snake (2007)          | SK2999    | 1km grid square to the south of the site |
| Noctule (2008)              | SE294003  | 0.3km to the north-east                  |
| Brown long-eared bat (1996) | SE281008  | 1.1km to the north-west                  |
| Soprano pipistrelle (1989)  | SK2998    | 1km grid square to south                 |
| Merlin (1989)               | SK2898    | 1km grid square to south                 |
| Kingfisher (1993)           | SE269000  | 0.5km to the east                        |
| Fieldfare (2003)            | SE290004  | 0.3km to the north-west                  |
| Redwing (2002)              | SK286996  | 0.7km to the south-west                  |
| Brambling (2012)            | SE288003  | 0.4km to the west                        |
| Whiskered bat (1987)        | SE278006  | 1.3km to the north-west                  |
| Daubentons (1985)           | SE 300009 | 0.9km to the north-east                  |
| Common pipistrelle (2010)   | SE 294003 | 0.3km to the north-east                  |
| Unknown bat species (2000)  | SE2901    | 1km grid square to the north             |
| Natterer's bat (1988)       | SE293001  | 0.2km to the east                        |
| Water vole (1980)           | SK2999    | 1km grid square to the south of site     |

Badger have also been recorded within the 2km search area.

**Table 2:** Bat records from SYBG within 2km

| Species              | Grid ref. | Date       | Notes          |
|----------------------|-----------|------------|----------------|
| Whiskered bat        | SE278006  | 27/09/1987 | 1.2km west     |
| Common pipistrelle   | SE270020  | 28/10/2012 | 2km north west |
| Brown long-eared bat | SE279008  | 19/05/2013 | 1.4km west     |
| Daubenton's bat      | SE279008  | 29/06/2013 | 1.4km west     |
| Leisler's bat        | SE278006  | 17/09/1987 | 1.4km west     |
| Soprano pipistrelle  | SE291007  | 17/08/2012 | 500m north     |
| Noctule              | SE304014  | 17/07/1992 | 2km north east |

**Badger**

Consultation with South Yorkshire Badger Group found records of badger setts 800m to the west of the site within Huthwaite Wood and 900m to the north-west of the site within the vicinity of the Transpennine Trail. Badgers have also been recorded using gardens along Old Mill Lane within the vicinity of the site.

Records of UK BAP priority species provided within the consultation include common toad, white letter-hairstreak, grey partridge, lapwing, cuckoo, nightjar, wood warbler, spotted flycatcher, yellowhammer, house sparrow, tree sparrow, curlew, lesser redpoll, hedgehog, dingy skipper, wall, small heath, cinnabar, brown-spot pinion moth, knotgrass moth, brown hare, sea trout, lesser spotted woodpecker, skylark, willow tit, song thrush, dunnoek, starling, linnet and bullfinch.

**3.4 Site Habitat Survey**

A site survey was undertaken in September 2014. Habitat types and key species were noted and are presented in the Phase I Habitat format proposed by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 1993. The location and extent of the habitats are illustrated in Figure 02: Phase I Habitat Plan.

The dominant habitat within the site comprises bare ground with scrub and tall ruderal species becoming re-established. A small area of grassland occurs to the southern boundary. Boundaries are marked by dry stone walls, fences and a small length of hedge to the western boundary.

**Bare ground**

The site has recently been subject to clearance and therefore predominantly comprises bare ground (**Target note 1**). Scrub and tall ruderal species which would likely have previously dominated the site are beginning to become re-established. Species recorded include rosebay willowherb *Chamerion angustifolium*, foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*, redshank *Persicaria maculosa*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, broadleaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, cleavers *Galium aparine*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping thistle *C. arvense*, wavy bitter-crass *Cardamine flexuosa*, cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, prickly sow thistle *Sonchus asper*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, field forget-me-not *Myosotis arvensis*, dandelion *Taraxacum agg.*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, groundsel *Senecio vulgaris*, common ragwort *S. jacobaea*, bittersweet *Solanum dulcamara*, dove's-foot crane's-bill *Geranium molle*, ground elder *Aegopodium podagraria* and hedge mustard *Sisymbrium officinale*. Re-developing scrub species identified include bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*. Semi-mature scrub bushes which remain to the eastern boundary of the site include hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and elder *Sambucus nigra* with associated bramble and honeysuckle *Lonicera peridymen*. Towards the northern boundary of the site within the bare ground habitat is a pile

- Purple moor grass and rush pasture
- Arable field margins
- Hedgerows
- Rivers (and streams)
- Ponds (standing water)
- Reedbeds (swamps)
- Fens
- Blanket bog
- Purple moor grass and rush pasture

There are no habitats within the proposed development site which fall under the habitat types included within the local BAP. An area of woodland lies beyond the southern boundary of the site. This habitat will not be directly impacted upon by the proposed development. The hedgerow within the south-west corner of the site predominantly comprises non-native shrub species.

Species for which action plans have been prepared for the Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) include:

- Glow worm
- Dingy skipper
- White-clawed crayfish
- Bullhead
- Salmon
- Bittern
- Lapwing
- Little ringed plover
- Grey partridge
- Tree sparrow
- Skylark
- Barn owl
- Kestrel
- Twite
- Water vole
- Otter
- Bats
- Hedgehog
- Bluebell

Bat species may utilise the woodland edge beyond the southern boundary of the site for foraging and commuting purposes. Hedgehog may utilise the debris pile on site for refuge.

## **4.0 IMPLICATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **4.1 Nature Conservation Designated Sites**

Statutory and non-statutory nature conservation sites located within 2km are considered to be at a sufficient distance so that no adverse impact upon them is anticipated as a result of the proposed development.

of debris (**Target note 2**). This was created shortly after the site was procured and comprises timber, corrugated metal sheeting, carpet, etc.

#### *Species-poor semi-improved grassland*

To the southern boundary of the site is a small area of species-poor semi-improved grassland (**Target note 3**). This also appears to have been subject to a recent cut. The grassland is dominated by Yorkshire fog, with other species including rosebay willowherb, bramble, bush vetch *Vicia sepium*, foxglove, broadleaved willowherb *Epilobium montanum*, Himalayan balsam *Imaptiens glandulifera*, common nettle and spear thistle.

#### *Hedgerow*

A small section of hedgerow marks part of the western boundary (**Target note 4**). This hedgerow predominantly comprises introduced shrubs with dominant species including privet *Ligustrum ovalifoilum* and steeple bush *Spiraea* sp. Other species within the hedgerow include elder, bramble and ivy *Hedera helix*. Small amounts of Himalayan balsam were also recorded at the base of the hedgerow.

|                                                                                    |                                                                                      |                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   |   |  |
| Target note 1 – Bare ground with re-establishing ruderals and scrub                | Target note 2 – debris pile                                                          | Target note 3 – Area of grassland                                                    |
|  |  |                                                                                      |
| Target note 4 – Hedgerow                                                           | Himalayan balsam at the base of hedgerow (TN4)                                       |                                                                                      |

### 3.5 Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Habitat types for which action plans have been prepared for the Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) include:

- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- Woodland and park-land
- Wet woodland
- Traditional orchards
- Upland heath
- Lowland heath
- Upland heath
- Lowland heath
- Lowland dry acid grassland
- Lowland meadow/neutral
- Floodplain grazing marsh

## 4.2 Habitats

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The site is considered to hold limited value in terms of biodiversity largely comprising bare ground habitat which is beginning to become re-colonised with common scrub and tall ruderal species. The hedge to the western boundary largely consists of non-native species though may be of value to nesting birds. As this hedge adjoins properties to the west of the site, it is considered likely that it will be retained.

The woodland habitat beyond the southern boundary is likely to be of value to wildlife, such as foraging and nesting birds and foraging and commuting bats. It is therefore recommended that a buffer of native tree and shrub planting is included within the landscape proposals along the southern boundary to minimise any indirect impacts, i.e. from lighting, noise, etc. Species used within the landscaping proposals would be similar to those within the adjacent woodland such as silver birch *Betula pendula*, oak *Quercus sp.*, hawthorn and elder. Such species could also be planted throughout the site as either tree or native hedgerow planting, with the addition of species such as hazel *Corylus avellana*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* and guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*. Planting to the western and eastern boundaries is recommended, where possible, with the objective to enhance site biodiversity. Protective fencing, such as Heras fencing should be installed prior to the commencement of construction works along the southern boundary to ensure no encroachment into the adjacent woodland habitat and to prevent the storage of construction materials and plant within this habitat.

Small amounts of Himalayan balsam were recorded to the southern and western boundaries. This species is a non-native invasive included under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 which should not be planted or otherwise caused to grow in the wild. This plant should therefore be treated/removed from site as part of the proposed development work. Consideration could be given to undertaking control treatment prior to the commencement of work to avoid any potential delays/minimise costs.

## 4.3 Species

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Refer to Appendix 02, which details the legal status of the species mentioned below.

### Great Crested Newts

There is no standing water habitat within the site to support breeding amphibians. Terrestrial habitats currently within the site are largely of limited value for amphibians also, with bare ground offering limited opportunities for foraging and cover. The hedgerow to the south-western corner of the site and the debris pile to the north of the site do, however, offer some opportunities for amphibians during their terrestrial phase. When consulting an OS base of the surrounding area, standing water habitat within 500m of the site is located on the opposite side of the River Don to the south of the site. The river is likely to be a dispersal barrier to newts if present within these ponds and therefore reduced the likelihood of great crested newts using the habitats within the site. Consultation undertaken with the local record centre provided no records of great crested newts within 2km of the site. No adverse impact upon great crested newts is therefore anticipated as a result of the development and no further survey for this species is considered necessary.

### Bat species

There are no buildings or trees within the site and therefore no adverse impact upon roosting bats is anticipated. Habitats within the site also offer limited opportunities for foraging bats. The woodland beyond the southern boundary of the site is likely to be utilised by foraging and commuting bats being relatively well connected with suitable habitat beyond the site such as further areas of woodland, the running water habitat of the River Don and

standing water. As recommended within section 4.2 of the report a buffer of native tree and shrub planting should be provided to the south of the site, where possible to ensure indirect impacts such as lighting and noise, is reduced and that bats occurring within the surrounding area continue to utilise this habitat. Proposed lighting within the site would ideally be low wattage where possible and would avoid illuminating the southern boundary and any new areas of planting. Further information is provided within the Bat Conservation Trust publication *Bats and Lighting in the UK*.

#### Badgers

No signs of badger were noted within the site when undertaking the survey. The walkover survey was extended into the woodland beyond the southern boundary of the site and no sign of badger was noted within this habitat. Consultation undertaken with the local record centre provided records of badger within the vicinity of the site and due to suitable habitat being within close proximity it is considered that badger may access the site for foraging and commuting purposes. It is therefore recommended that precautionary working methods are adopted during works to avoid accidental harm to badgers. This would include covering or providing a means of escape to any open trenches and capping any open pipework at the end of each working day.

#### Breeding birds

Habitats within the site are considered to offer limited opportunities for breeding birds, with only small amounts of scrub, etc. The hedge to the south-western corner of the site may be utilised by nesting birds. As this marks the boundaries of adjoining residential gardens it is considered likely that it will be retained. Any vegetation clearance to take place, including scrub bushes to the eastern boundary and the hedgerow to the south-west will be undertaken outwith the nesting bird period (March – August inclusive) unless checks by an appropriately qualified ecologist find no active nests immediately prior to clearance works commencing.

#### Reptiles

Consultation undertaken with the local record centre provided records of grass snake within 2km of the site. It is considered that the site is largely sub-optimal for reptile species, largely comprising bare ground habitat with limited areas of cover. Features within the site such as the debris pile to the north, provide potential refuge areas for such species. To avoid adverse impact upon reptiles, prior to construction works it is recommended that the debris pile is dismantled by hand and that site clearance works are directional, heading to the southern boundary so that if reptile species are present they can retreat to unaffected habitats outwith the site. Dismantling the debris pile by hand should also be carried out in the interest of hedgehogs.

#### Other species

Habitats within and immediately adjacent to the site are considered unsuitable to support protected species such as water vole, otter and white-clawed crayfish. No adverse impact upon these species is anticipated within the proposals.

- **Reptiles** – Directional clearance and dismantling debris piles within the site by hand is recommended prior to the commencement of construction works to avoid potential harm to reptile species. Dismantling debris piles by hand should also be carried out in the interest of hedgehogs.

Refer to section 4.3 for further details regarding the protected species assessment.

## 5.0 SUMMARY

Smeeden Foreman Limited has been commissioned by Yorkshire Land Limited to undertake an ecological assessment of land off Huthwaite Lane, Huthwaite near Thurgoland in South Yorkshire. A habitat survey using the standard Phase I methodology was carried out, as well as an assessment of potential for protected species. Consultation has been undertaken with the relevant local record centre and organisations. The survey was undertaken in September 2014.

### *Designated Sites*

Statutory and non-statutory nature conservation sites located within 2km are considered to be at a sufficient distance so that no adverse impact upon them is anticipated as a result of the proposed development.

### *Habitats*

The site is considered to hold limited value in terms of biodiversity largely comprising bare ground habitat which is beginning to become re-colonised with common scrub and tall ruderal species. The hedge to the western boundary largely consists of non-native species though may be of value to nesting birds. As this hedge adjoins properties to the west of the site, it is considered likely that it will be retained.

The woodland habitat beyond the southern boundary is likely to be of value to wildlife, such as foraging and nesting birds and foraging and commuting bats. It is therefore recommended that a buffer of native tree and shrub planting is provided within the landscape proposals along the southern boundary to minimise any indirect impacts, i.e. from lighting, noise, etc. Species used within the landscaping proposals would be similar to those within the adjacent woodland. Planting to the western and eastern boundaries is recommended, where possible, with the objective to enhance site biodiversity. Protective fencing, such as Heras fencing should be installed prior to the commencement of construction works along the southern boundary to ensure no encroachment into the adjacent woodland habitat and to prevent the storage of construction materials and plant within this habitat.

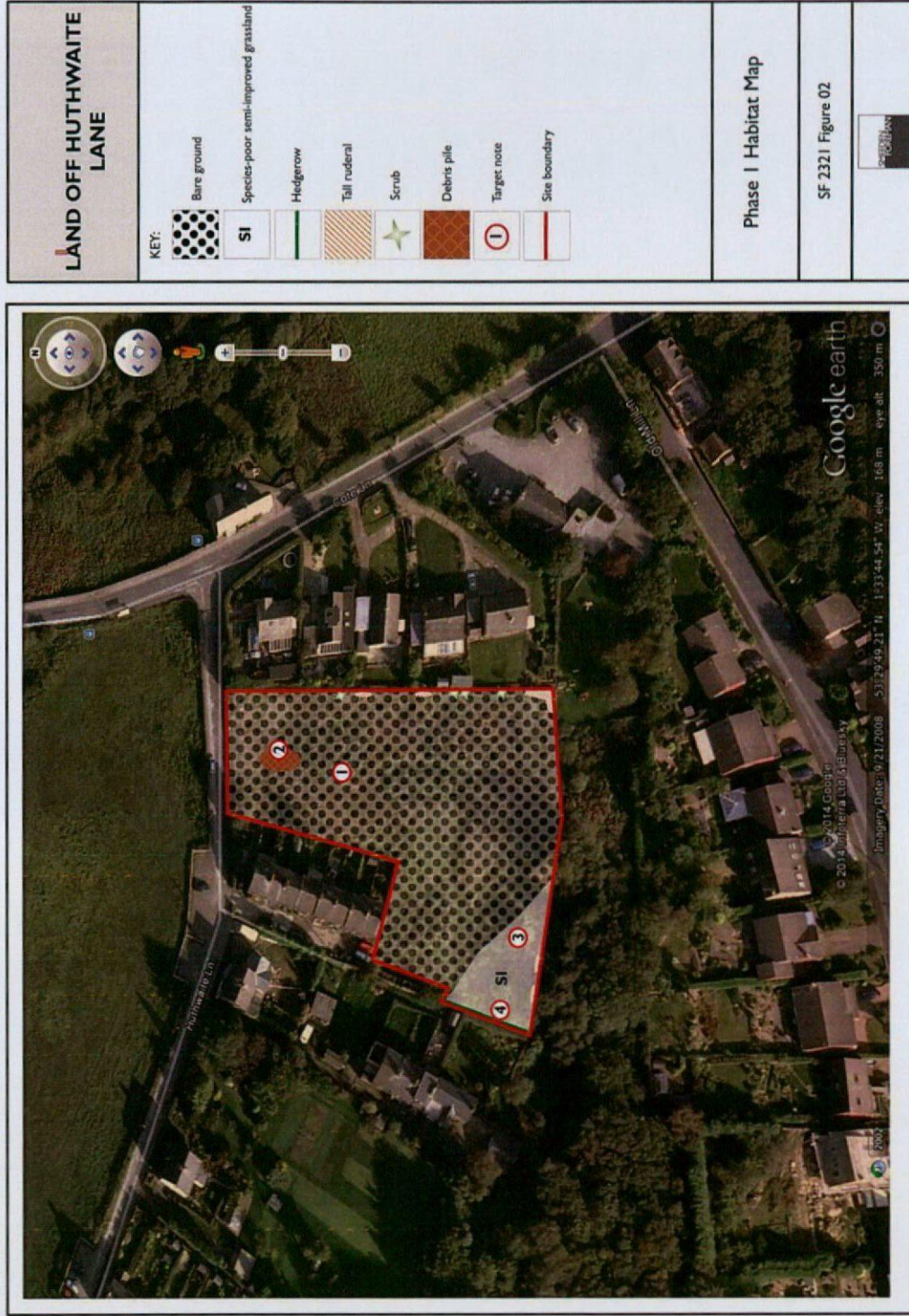
Small amounts of Himalayan balsam were recorded to the southern and western boundaries. This species is a non-native invasive included under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 which should not be planted or otherwise caused to grow in the wild. This plant should therefore be treated/removed from site as part of the proposed development work. Consideration could be given to undertaking control treatment prior to the commencement of work to avoid any potential delays/minimise costs.

Refer to section 4.2 for recommended species to be included within the proposed landscaping.

### *Protected Species*

- **Great crested newts** – No adverse impact upon this species is anticipated.
- **Bats** – Planting to the southern boundary is recommended along with the adoption of low wattage lighting, where possible to ensure the site remains attractive to foraging bats.
- **Badger** – Precautionary working methods are recommended in terms of badgers to avoid potential harm/killing of such species.
- **Breeding birds** – Vegetation clearance works should be undertaken outside the breeding bird period (March – August inclusive) unless checks by an appropriately qualified ecologist have found active nests to be absent immediately prior to clearance works commencing. Enhancement recommendations for breeding birds include the planting of native trees and shrubs.

FIGURE 02: PHASE I HABITAT PLAN

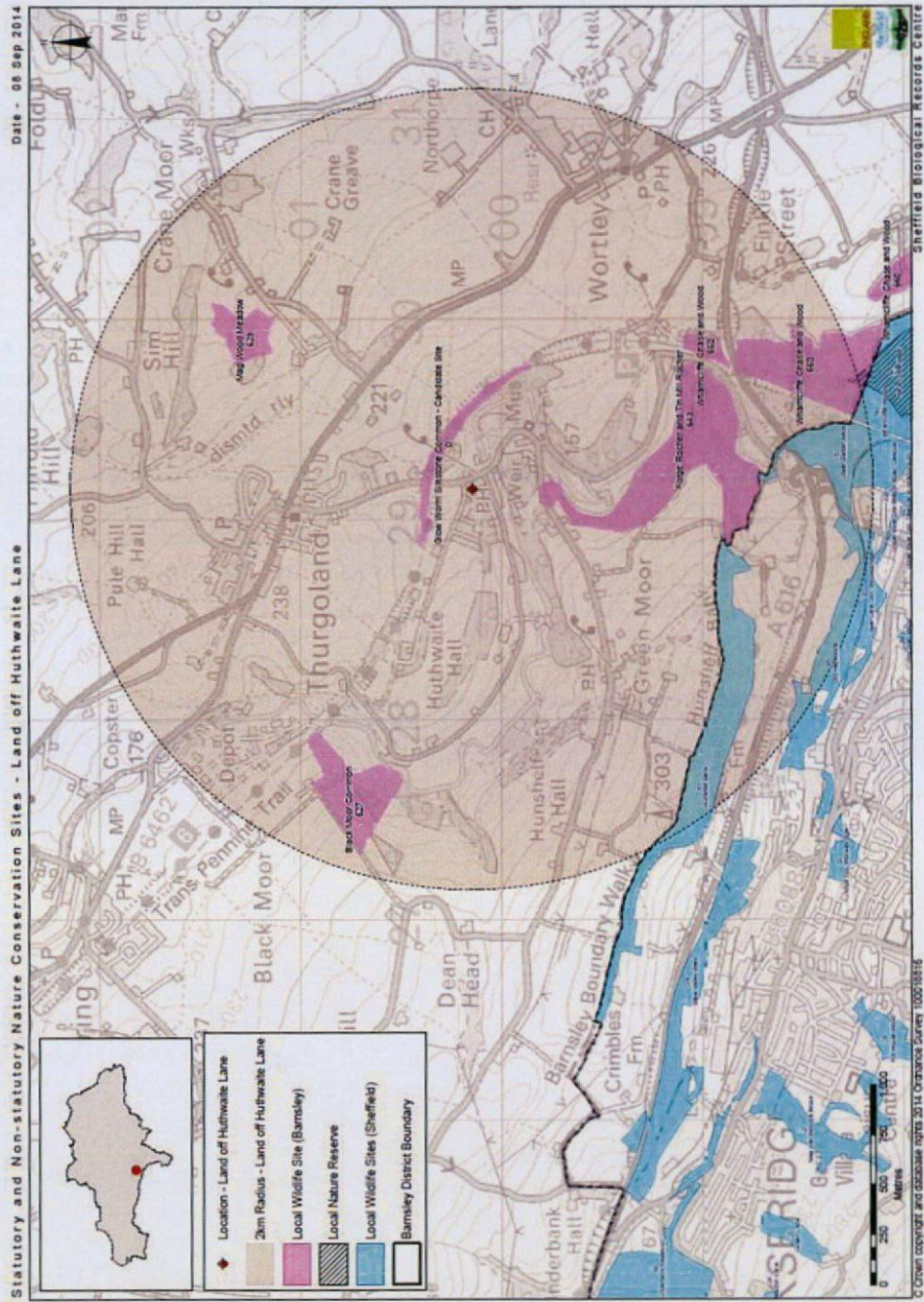


## **APPENDICES**

**APPENDIX 01: Statutory & non-statutory sites**

**APPENDIX 02: Legal Status of Protected Species**

# APPENDIX 01: NON-STATUTORY SITES



## APPENDIX 02: LEGAL STATUS OF PROTECTED SPECIES

### Great Crested Newt

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) transposes into UK law and the Convention on the Conservation of European and Wildlife and Natural Habitats (commonly referred to as the 'Bern Convention'). The 1981 Act was amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way ['CRoW'] Act 2000. The great crested newt is listed on Schedule 5 of the 1981 Act, and is therefore subject to the provisions of Section 9, which make it an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take a great crested newt [Section 9 (1)]
- Possess or control any live or dead specimen or anything derived from a great crested newt [Section 9 (2)]
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection by a great crested newt [Section 9 (4)(a)]
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a great crested newt while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for that purpose [Section 9(4)(b)]

The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (the Habitats Regulations) transpose into the UK law Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21<sup>st</sup> May 1992 on the conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (often referred to as the 'Habitats [and Species] Directive'). The great crested newt is listed on Annex II and Annex IV of the Directive. The former Annex relates to the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for this species; even where great crested newts occur outside SACs, the inclusion on Annex II serves to underline their conservation significance. Inclusion of the Annex IV ('European Protected Species') means that member states are required to put in place a system of strict protection as outlined in Article 12, and this is done through inclusion on Schedule 2 of the Regulations. Regulation 39 makes it an offence to:

- Deliberately capture or kill a great crested newt [Regulation 39 (1)(a)]
- Deliberately disturb a great crested newt [Regulation 39(1)(b)]
- Deliberately take or destroy the eggs of a great crested newt [Regulation 39 (1)(c)]
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a great crested newt [Regulation 39(1)(d)]

The legislation applies to all life stages of great crested newts.

### Bats

Bats and their roosts are afforded full legal protection under both UK and European legislation. The Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended, 2007) transpose the Habitats Directive into UK law, making it an offence to-

- deliberately disturb a bat
- deliberately kill, injure or capture a bat
- damage, destroy or obstruct access to a breeding site or resting place (note this applies to both deliberate and reckless actions).

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (Schedule 5) made it an offence to

- intentionally kill, injure or take a bat
- damage, destroy or obstruct a bat roost \*
- disturb a bat at a roost \*
- possess or control a bat or any part thereof
- sell, offer for sale, possess or transport for sale any bat or part thereof
- set traps for catching, killing or injuring bats
- possess articles for the purposes of committing offences against bats

[\*= intentional and reckless offences covered]

This protection applies whether bats are present within the roost at the time or not.

**Badgers**

Badgers and their setts are protected by the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Under this act it is illegal to: (1) wilfully kill, injure, take a badger or attempt to do so, (2) cruelly ill-treat a badger or (3) interfere with a sett, including disturbing a badger while occupying a sett.

**Breeding Birds**

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) gives protection to all wild nesting birds, which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure, or take any wild bird or their eggs or nests. This protection applies from the moment the nest is being built. Additional protection against disturbance on the nest or of dependant young is provided for birds included on Schedule 1.

**Reptiles**

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 makes it an offence to intentionally kill any of our native snakes and lizards. The sand lizard and smooth snake receive additional protection; for these species, it is unlawful to capture or possess them, or to damage/obstruct access to places they use for shelter or protection, or to disturb them whilst in such a place.