



Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

**Land off New Smithy Avenue,
Thurlstone**



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& Partners**
Planning. Design. Economics.

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The information which we have prepared and provided is true and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the CIEEM's Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions. This report does not constitute legal advice.



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Summary

Purpose of report

This report is produced to present an initial assessment of the potential ecological constraints and opportunities relating to a Site known as Land off New Smithy Avenue, Thurlstone; to inform the Site's potential for development.

The report has been prepared to advise the client of potential ecological constraints and opportunities, in preparing an application for planning permission.

The report provides a sufficient baseline for the Site, and is suitable in its current form for submission to planning.

Methodology

The report is based on a Desk Study of designated wildlife sites and records of protected or notable species, and an extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey carried out in October 2016.

Findings Key-Points

The Site is occupied by common habitats, of low ecological value, the presence of which will not pose a constraint to development. Efforts should be made to retain the western hedgerow, any reduction in this feature should be compensated for through high quality native planting elsewhere on Site.

Given the Site's low value to any protected or notable fauna, further survey in this respect is not deemed necessary to inform a planning decision.

Introduction

1. Brooks Ecological Ltd was commissioned by NLP Planning to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of land off New Smithy Avenue, Thurlstone, South Yorkshire, Grid Ref. SE 232 035.
2. This report is produced with reference to British Standard BS42020 'Biodiversity Code of Practice for Planning and Development' and the CIEEM (2013) Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.

Scope

3. The application site 'the Site' is occupied by an enclosed pasture. It is defined in figure 1 below.
4. The assessment uses a 2km area of search around the Site for records of protected and notable species and locally or nationally designated wildlife sites.

Figure 1 The Site



Proposals

5. The purpose of this report is to inform an outline planning application for the Site. This will detail proposals to erect c.21 dwellings with associated infrastructure and open space. At this stage in the project a detailed layout has not yet been drawn up.

Site context

6. The Site is located within the small village of Thurlstone, found in the foothills of the Peak District, to the north of Sheffield. The Site is found over Grenoside Sandstone, a member of the Lower Coal Measures Formation. Depending on superficial deposits, the presence of sandstone bedrock may give rise to locally acid rich soil conditions.
7. It is bound by existing residential development to the north, east and south. A large pasture field is found beyond the western boundary.
8. The wider landscape is characterised by pastures of varying size, with occasional small arable fields interspersed throughout. Fields are generally separated by dry stone walls. The larger settlement of Penistone is found to the east while the Peak district rises to the west.

Water bodies

9. A single standing water body is shown on mapping within 500m of the application Site. This appears to be a former mill pond, located c.350m south west of the Site boundary.

Wildlife corridors

10. The River Don flows west – east a short distance south of the application Site. This provides the major corridor through the area, which is supported by the railway line to its south; this appears to have vegetated boundaries along much of its length in this area.
11. This corridor links a number of areas of woodland along its length and ultimately links to Thurlstone Moors and the South Pennine SPA/SAC to its west. However, the Site is separated from this corridor by two roads, including the A628 (the main road through Thurlstone) and a narrow band of residential development. For this reason, it is considered that development at the Site is unlikely to impact on the functionality of the corridor or affect habitats to which it is linked.

Figure 2 Analysis of wildlife corridors (dashed white lines) and higher value habitat (orange shading) in relation to the Site.



Designated Sites

Statutory Designations

12. A search has been made to identify any nationally designated sites within a 2km radius of the Site, and for internally designated sites within a 10km radius. The results are shown in the below table.

Table 1 Statutory designations

Site name	Distance	Designation	Summary Interest
South Pennine Moors/Peak District Moors	4.3km south west	SAC/SPA	Habitats being the primary reason for selection of the SAC include European dry heath, blanket bog and old sessile oak wood. SPA qualifying species include breeding golden plover, merlin, peregrine and short eared owl.

13. The Site is found without functional links to the area covered by the above designations. Impacts on the qualifying interests of these designations arising from development at this Site are considered unlikely.

SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZs)

14. The Site lies within the 3km IRZ for Spring Meadows, Alderman's Head and Cow Croft Meadow SSSI, but does not fall into one of the highlighted categories which requires consultation between the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and Natural England (NE). The development is of a scale and nature which is unlikely to impact on this SSSI.

Non-Statutory Designations

15. There are four locally designated sites within 2km of the Site, all of which are listed as Local Wildlife Site's (LWS). These are:
 - Small Shaw and High Bank LWS, 550m west.
 - Royd Moor Reservoir LWS, 890m north west.
 - Scout Dike reservoir LWS, 950m north
 - Hartcliff Hill LWS, 1.25km south west.
16. The Site shares no functional links with any of these local designations and impacts are not anticipated.

Habitats

Method

17. The survey was carried out during October 2016¹ and followed Phase 1 habitat survey methodology (JNCC, 2010).

Limitations

18. The survey was carried out in October when a number of plant species have died back however the habitat type and likelihood of supporting notable species or communities could still be assessed at this time by the experienced surveyor.
19. Sufficient time was afforded the surveyor to carry out the survey. The survey was not constrained by poor weather.

¹ This Report has been prepared during October 2016 following a visit to the site in October 2016 and our findings are based on the conditions of the site that were reasonably visible and accessible at that date. We accept no liability for any areas that were not reasonably visible or accessible, nor for any subsequent alteration, variation or deviation from the site conditions which affect the conclusions set out in this report.

Results

20. The Site is occupied by a single enclosed pasture surrounded by housing on three of its boundaries.



Figure 3

Characteristic picture of the Site looking east.

21. The following habitats were identified within the Site and on its immediate boundaries:

- Semi improved grassland
- Trees & hedgerow
- Scrub

Semi improved grassland

22. The Site is almost entirely occupied by semi improved grassland, as seen in Figure 3, above. This is dominated by a number of common grasses found in relatively even levels of cover, these being perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and red fescue (*Festuca rubra* agg.). Additional grasses found in far lower cover include bents (*Agrostis* spp.), false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*).
23. Forbs present within the sward include ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), cats ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*) and ragwort which are found frequently. Occasional constituents include yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) and dandelion (*Taraxacum vulgare* agg.).

Trees and Hedgerow

24. The majority of the Site is bound by post and wire fencing or dry stone wall, however, the western boundary is marked by a mature hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) hedge. This is found to be approximately 1.5m wide and 2.5m high. Occasional saplings of sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) are also present in association with this hedge.
25. The field layer is occupied by a typical range of common, shade tolerant competitive species including bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and very occasional rosebay willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*), hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*) and broad leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), all of which spread somewhat (c.2-3m) into the field.
26. At the time of survey the northern end of this hedge gave way to a double tree line of early mature sycamore and willow (*Salix* sp.); however, through consultation with the Site owner we are aware that the sycamore have since been removed. Saplings of these species, along with holly, ash and bramble form the understorey, with the field layer reflecting that of the hedgerow.



Figure 4

Looking north along
western hedge row
towards boundary trees

Scrub

27. Very small pockets of scrub are found along the north, east and south boundaries, this is dominated by bramble with occasional additions such as spirea and snowberry spreading from neighbouring gardens.

Fauna

Bats

28. Sixty-six bat records have been returned from Sheffield Biological Record Centre, these cover common and soprano pipistrelle, as well as indeterminate pipistrelle species bats, noctule, whiskered bats, brandts and daubentons bats, as well as a number of records of indeterminate species. No records relate to land within the application Site.
29. None of the trees on Site contain any potential roost features (PRF's). The site provides only low value habitat for bats, and as such, foraging activity is likely to be very low. The western hedge provides a link between areas of housing to the north and south, and this may contribute to a commuting route used by bats moving from roosts to the north to high value foraging grounds to the south associated with the River Don. With this feature retained, development of the Site is unlikely to have any detrimental impact on local bat populations.

Amphibians

30. There are no standing water bodies on Site, and only one shown on mapping within 500m of the Site boundary. This is found 350m to the south-west and shares no functional link to the Site, being separated by existing development and the main road.
31. Four records of the protected great crested newt are held within the search radius, each relates to ponds associated with Royd Moor Reservoir to the north west, the most recent record from this area was taken in 2016, at a location over 1.5km from the Site. Despite the presence of this population, the absence of suitable breeding habitat on Site or within influencing distance makes the presence of this species on Site very unlikely and no further consideration is considered necessary.
32. Common frog, common toad and smooth newt are also recorded in the wider area, though once again, the distance from any potential breeding habitat greatly reduces the chance of these species occurring within the Site.

Birds

33. The Site is found just over 4km from the South Pennine Moors SPA, within the range where its contribution as supporting habitat to the designation, and the birds for which it is designated, should be considered.

34. While the Site is occupied by short grassland, such as that used by golden plover and dunlin (qualifying species) for feeding, it is surrounded on three sides by residential development, likely to lead to relatively high levels of disturbance, and is enclosed and of limited scale, reducing sight lines from within the Site. These factors reduce the value of the Site sufficiently to ensure it is unlikely to be used by important assemblages of birds.
35. The western boundary hedge, associated trees and scrub provide a small area of potential nesting habitat for ubiquitous urban fringe birds. Additionally, the grassland is likely to provide foraging habitat for such species. These species are unlikely to have dependence on this habitat.
36. An extensive list of bird records has been returned, these cover a range of common species as well as a small number of species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act. No records relate to land within the application Site.

Invasive Species

37. No species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) were found at the Site during the survey.

Conclusions and Recommendations

38. The Site is almost entirely occupied by species poor, semi improved neutral grassland, which is assessed as being of low ecological value; its presence will not pose a constraint to development.
39. The Site's western boundary is marked by a mature hawthorn hedge and short tree line, although neither feature is of particularly high ecological value, in the context of the Site and wider landscape they provide areas of higher value and should be retained. Hedgerows are listed as a priority habitat on the Local Biodiversity Action Plan, reinforcing the need for retention of this feature.
40. The Site is of very limited value to protected or notable fauna, it is concluded that its development is unlikely to lead to detrimental impacts on such groups. Further survey is not required in support of this conclusion.

Ecological Enhancement

41. The requirement for development to make a positive contribution to biodiversity is clearly set out guidance such as the NPPF and BS:42020 - **beyond mitigating or compensating any potential impacts.**
42. The following themes provide opportunities for the proposals to deliver such a contribution:
 - The development should seek to include large scale green infrastructure designed to provide corridors through and around the site to aid the movement of wildlife. This could be achieved through the planting of species rich native hedges, or tree lines of native species.
 - The development could include a range of artificial bat and bird boxes, built into the fabric of buildings. Modern developments often fail to provide features suitable for occupation by these species; the inclusion of bat boxes and nest features aimed at species such as starling, sparrow and swift would all be beneficial and can be installed cheaply without creating any conflict with home owners.
 - Where possible individual plots should be separated by hedges as opposed to fences or walls. This not only provides additional habitat and food sources but prevents fragmentation of habitats provided by gardens.

Appendices

1. Extended Phase 1 Habitat Plan
2. Explanatory Notes and Resources
3. Bat Activity Survey Rationale
4. Information on legislation / protection

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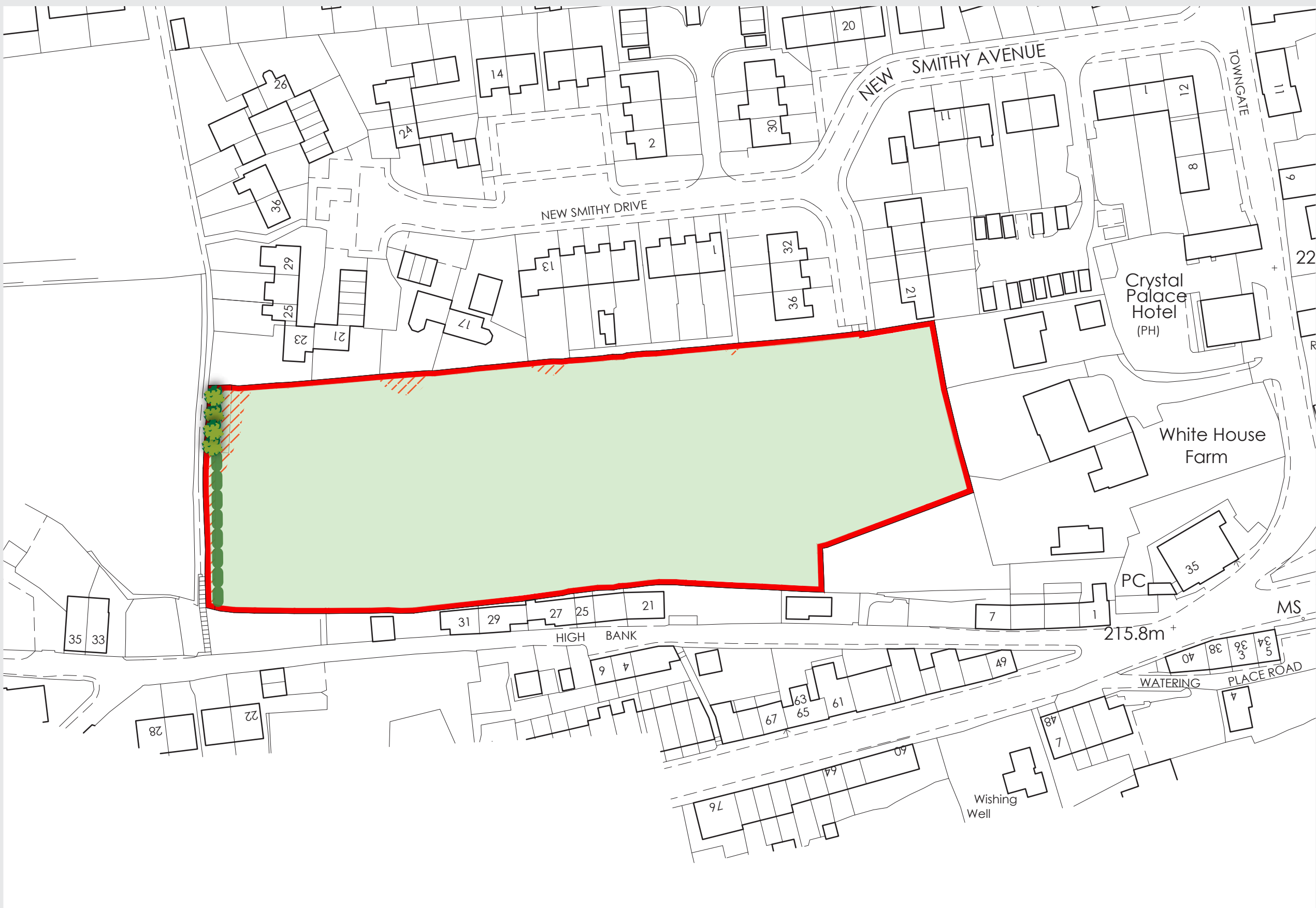
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Appendix 1 – Extended Phase 1 Habitat Plan



-  Semi improved grassland
-  Developing scrub
-  Hedgerow
-  Trees



Appendix 2 – Explanatory Notes and Resources Used

Site context

Aerial photographs published on commonly used websites were studied to place the site in its wider context and to look for ecological features that would not be evident on the ground during the walkover survey. This approach can be very useful in determining if a site is potentially a key part of a wider wildlife corridor or an important node of habitat in an otherwise ecologically poor landscape. It can also identify potentially important faunal habitat (in particular ponds) which could have a bearing on the ecology of the application site. Ponds may sometimes not be apparent on aerial photographs so we also refer to close detailed maps that identify all ponds issues and drains. We use Promap Street + scale maps for this purpose.

Designated Sites

A search of the MAGIC (Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside) website was undertaken. The MAGIC site is a Geographical Information System that contains all statutory (e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest [SSSI's]) as well as many non-statutory listed habitats (e.g. ancient woodlands and grassland inventory sites). It is a valuable tool when considering the relationship of a potential development site with nearby important habitats. In addition, information from the local record holders was referred to on locally designated sites.

Functional linkage with off-Site habitats

When assessing these we consider whether the Site could be functionally linked to them, considering links such as;

- Hydrological links - is the Site upstream downstream, or could ground water issues affect it?
- Physical links - is the site in close proximity and could it be directly or indirectly affected by construction and operational effects? Conversely it may be that despite proximity major barriers separate the two.
- Recreational links - Do footpaths and roads make it likely that increased recreational pressure could be felt?
- Habitat links - Is the site part of a network of similar habitat types in the wider area? These could be joined by linear corridors or could simply be 'stepping stones of habitat of similar form or function.

Method

Phase 1 habitat survey methodology (JNCC, 2010). This involves walking the site, mapping and describing different habitats (for example: woodland, grassland, scrub). The survey method was "Extended" in that evidence of fauna and faunal habitat was also recorded (for example droppings, tracks or specialist habitat such as ponds for breeding amphibians). This modified approach to the Phase 1 survey is in accordance with the approach recommended by the Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment (IEA, 1995) and Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM 2012).

Faunal appraisal

This section first looks at the types of habitat found on Site or within the sphere of influence of potential development, then considers whether these could support protected, scarce or NERC Act 2006 Section 41 species (referred to collectively as 'notable species'). Records of notable species supplied from a 2km area of search by West Yorkshire Ecology(WYE) are used to inform this appraisal.

We discuss further only notable species or groups which could be a potential constraint due to the presence of suitable habitat and their presence (or potential presence) in the wider area. We screen out and do not present accounts of notable species or groups which do not meet these criteria – in some cases it may be necessary to explain this reasoning.

Evaluation

In evaluating the site the ecologist will take into account a number of factors in combination, such as;

- the baseline presented above,
- the site's position in the local landscape,
- its current management and
- its size, rarity or threats to its integrity.

There are a number of tools available to aid this consideration, including established frameworks such as Ratcliffe Criteria or concepts such as Favourable Conservation Status. Also of help is reference to Biodiversity Action Plans in the form of the Local BAP and Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006) to determine if the site supports any Priority habitats or presents any opportunities in this respect.

The assessment of impacts considers the generic development proposals from which potential effects include:

- Vegetation and habitat removal
- Direct effects on significant faunal groups or protected species
- Effects on adjacent habitats or species such as disturbance, pollution and severance
- Operation effects on wildlife such as noise and light disturbance

Consideration is given to the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP), which for this site is the '**Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan**'.

Species/group	Habitat
Hedgehog	Upland Oakwood
Bats	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Water Vole	Wet Woodland
Otter	Wood Pasture and Parkland
Grey Partridge	Hedgerows
Bittern	Arable Field Margins
Kestrel	Floodplain Grazing Marsh
Little Ringed Plover	Lowland Meadows
Lapwing	Lowland Dry Acidic Grassland
Barn Owl	Lowland Heathland
Skylark	Upland Heathland
Tree Sparrow	Blanket Bog
Twite	Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture
Great Crested Newt	Reedbeds
Salmon	Ponds
Bullhead	Rivers
White-clawed Crayfish	Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land

Appendix 3 – Bat Activity Survey Rationale

The Bat Conservation Trust Guidelines (BCTG) (Collins 2016) is now widely accepted as providing a basis and rationale for scoping and conducting bat surveys. It is acknowledged that the guidelines provide a wealth of background and are a very useful tool in standardising approaches to survey, it is also felt that an over reliance on some of the guidelines within this document can result in the provision of complicated surveys where they have significant consequences for the cost, or timescale of a large project, but could never deliver positives for bat conservation.

Taking the BCTG document as a whole, Chapter 2 helps the reader understand whether or not surveys are required, and that in the context of planning and development survey is required in relation to ensure;

- the avoidance of legal offences, and;
- the provision of a sufficient level of information - such that will allow the Local Planning Authority to make an informed decision on the proposals and their potential impacts on the Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) of bats.

Attendance at seminars presented by, and discussions with, those involved in production of the BCTG document has emphasised the point that it is within the remit of the consultant ecologist to make a decision on the necessity and scope of surveys - they will use the guidelines in doing so but are not in any way bound by them: this is reflected in Section 1.1 of the guidelines -

'The Guidelines do not aim to either override or replace knowledge and experience. It is accepted that departures from the guidelines (e.g. either decreasing or increasing the number of surveys carried out or using alternative methods) are often appropriate. However, in this scenario an ecologist should provide documentary evidence of (a) their expertise in making this judgement and (b) the ecological rationale behind the judgement.'

Such decisions require a consideration of the potential of the project to impact on bat habitat, alongside analysis of the value of habitat on and around the site and of local records and the likelihood that bats might occur in significant numbers. Our reports aim to present information on how we have arrived at our decision on the site, what assumptions we have based this on, and where further survey is recommended we indicate what the objective of this survey should be and how best this would be achieved.

The Site offers low value habitat for bats with the western hedge providing a single feature with the potential for use by commuting bats, and as the focal point of a low value foraging resource. Given the absence of potential features, although of interest, gathering data on bats use of the site would not further the aim of maintaining the favourable conservation status of bats at this Site.

Appendix 4 Wildlife Legislation, Policy and Guidance

This is not an exhaustive list but sets out briefly the relevance of Legislation, Policy and Guidance in terms of planning applications and this assessment.

Legislation

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EC Habitats Directive).

Provides framework at an international (EU) level for the consideration / protection of European Protected Species (EPS), and habitats through the designation of sites.

Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of wild birds (EC Birds Directive) and The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971)

Provides framework at an international (EU) level for the consideration / protection of important bird populations and the sites on which they are dependant.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010)

This transposes 1) into UK law and provides the basis on which all EPS are protected and impacts on them can be licensed in the UK.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended

This provides the basis on which UK species are legally protected or restricted and confers protection on Sites of Special Scientific Interest SSSIs. It contains annexes of plants and animals which are legally protected as well as those which are considered to be invasive or harmful. It provides the basis on which impacts on such species can be licensed in the UK and provides controls on work on or near SSSIs.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW)

Provides a statutory basis for nature conservation, strengthens the protection of SSSIs and UK protected species and requires the consideration of habitats and species listed on the UK and Local Biodiversity Action Plans (UKBAP / LBAP).

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC)

Sets out the responsibilities of Local Authorities in conserving biodiversity. Section 41 of the Act requires the publishing of lists of habitats and species which are "of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity". At present these largely reflect those making up the UKBAP lists.

Hedgerows Regulations (1997)

Define and provide protection for Important Hedgerows.

Protection of Badgers Act (1992)

Protects badgers from persecution, this includes excavation / development in the proximity of setts.

Protected Sites

Statutory EU / International Protected Sites

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs); and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar Sites contain examples of some of the most important natural ecosystems in Europe. Work on or near these sites is strictly protected and Local Authorities will be expected to carry out 'Appropriate Assessment' of development in proximity of them. In this case there is often an increased burden on the developer in relation to provision of information and assessment.

Statutory UK Protected Sites

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs); National Nature Reserves (NNRs); Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) all receive strict protection under UK legislation. Work in or in proximity to these sites would be restricted with any needing to be agreed with Natural England. Natural England now provide guidance on the nature of development which could impact on SSSIs through Impact Risk Zones.

Locally Protected Sites

Local Authorities have a variety of protected wildlife sites designated at a local or regional level. These are gradually being brought under the banner of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) but at present a plethora of different designations exist - all subject to local policy.

Protected Species

European Protected Species

A number of species (most relevantly bats, great crested newts [GCN], and otters) receive strict protection from killing, injury and disturbance under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010). Protection is also conferred on the habitats on which they rely such as roost space in the case of bats and ponds and fields etc. in the case of GCN.

UK Protected Species

A number of species (including bats, GCN, water vole and white clawed crayfish) are strictly protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended, from killing, injury, disturbance and damage or destruction of their resting places etc. Certain species (such as reptiles) and some birds (such as barn owl) receive partial protection e.g. at certain times of the year or from certain activities only. All nesting bird species are protected from damage or destruction of their nests - whilst active.

Invasive species

Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended, lists these species and makes it an offence to cause or allow their spread in the wild. This often has impacts on development and planning in relation to the presence of invasive plant species such as: himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*).

Planning Policy / Guidance

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The National Planning Policy Framework was published in 27 March 2012 replacing the majority of previous Planning Policy Guidance notes (PPGs) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). The most relevant paragraphs from the NPPF are set out below.

The general approach to assessing the natural environment is now embedded within the definition of what 'sustainable development' is. Paragraph 7 (P7) of the NPPF states that sustainable development should "contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural environment" and "help to improve biodiversity". There is also a need for positive inclusion of the natural environment in development design and "moving from a net loss of bio-diversity to achieving net gains for nature" (P9). P14 sets out the Frameworks presumption in favour of sustainable development.

The natural environment is stated within the NPPF core principles: development should "*recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside*" and contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution. Allocations of land for development should, "*prefer land of lesser environmental value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework*" (P17).

Section 11 of the NPPF details the approach to the natural environment. The Framework states that development should “*minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity, where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures*” (P109).

The Framework sets out ways to minimise the impacts on biodiversity through “*promoting the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets*” (P117).

The NPPF requires the consideration of the impacts of development on the natural environment. The Framework also encourages “*opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments*” (P118). Importantly this paragraph (P118) sets out the hierarchy of avoiding, mitigating and compensating harm from development - plans should ensure that they can demonstrate engagement with this hierarchy when required.

Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services.

This strategy builds on the Natural Environment White Paper (June 2011) - The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature. Setting out the current UK Government's approach to nature conservation. It promotes a more coherent and inclusive approach to conservation and the valuing in economic and social terms of economic resources.

The strategy promotes initiatives such as Biodiversity Offsetting, Nature Improvement Areas and a focus on well-connected natural networks and introduces the concept of securing a 'no net loss' situation with regard to UKBAP / Section 41 habitats and species.

ODPM circular 06/05 (2005) Biodiversity and Geological Conservation - Statutory Obligations and Their Impact Within the Planning System

Provides guidance to Local Authorities on their obligations to biodiversity – particularly in relation to assessing planning applications and ensuring the adequacy of information.

BSI (2013) British Standards Institute BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity — Code of Practice for Planning and Development.

Provides a standard for the biodiversity assessment and development industries and decision makers such as Local Planning Authorities to work to.