Brindle &Green

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal REV2

Bank End Primary School, Barnsley

Report Reference: BG25.237

January 2026

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Revision Details

Revision	Approved	Revision Details
REV1	Emily Murchison	Minor amendment to red line boundary and updated plans.
REV2	Emily Murchison	Information regarding removal of invasive species on site.

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1 Summary

1.1.1 Brindle & Green Ltd were commissioned by Barker Associates to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal incorporating a UK Habitat (UKHab) Classification Survey and Protected Species Assessment at the Bank End Primary School, Barnsley. This report summarises the potential ecological constraints to the planning application for site clearance to facilitate the development of a play area with associated landscaping and car parking created. Design plans are provided within Appendix 6 of this report. The survey was carried out on the 25th April 2025.

1.1.2 The red line boundary is approximately 0.07ha in extent and comprises a bungalow used for storage, with vegetated garden immediately surrounding the bungalow. The site was evaluated to support 'Site' value on a local scale.

1.1.3 The habitats described within this report have the potential to support protected and/or notable species. As such, this report outlines important measures to protect species during site clearance, and recommendations to improve the biodiversity status of the site post development.

1.1.4 A full description of the recommendations can be found within Chapter 7. Table 1 is a summary of the ecological issues recommended for further consideration as a result of our initial investigations.

Table 1: Ecological recommendations

Ecological Consideration	Recommendations (e.g. further survey, mitigation)	Timing
Habitats	Biodiversity Impact Assessment required to inform the units required to achieve a 10% net gain, detailed in Chapter 7.	During Design Phase
Invasive Species	Removal of Buddleia (*Buddleia davidii*) and *Cotoneaster lacteus* on site and suitable disposal by a qualified contractor, detailed in Chapter 7.	Year round, during site clearance
Breeding Birds	Works should be sympathetic to this group of species, with vegetation clearance undertaken following Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) outlined in chapter 7.	During Site Clearance (Optimal timing between October – February outside of breeding bird season)

Ecological Consideration	Recommendations (e.g. further survey, mitigation)	Timing
Roosting Bats	Building 1 assessed to hold 'Moderate' suitability, a minimum of two further nocturnal surveys recommended to determine presence/likely absence of roosting bats, detailed in Chapter 7.	Two nocturnal surveys between May – September, at least one survey between May – August. Dependent on the outcome of the surveys, should a roost be identified, a further nocturnal survey (roost characterisation) will be required.
Foraging and Commuting Bats	Works should be sympathetic to this group of species through sensitive lighting, detailed in Chapter 7.	During and post construction
Badgers	Reasonable Avoidance Measures are recommended during construction phase, detailed in chapter 7.	Year Round, during development
Reptiles	Reasonable Avoidance Measures are recommended during construction phase, detailed in chapter 7.	Year Round, during development
Mammal Species of Principal Importance	Habitats on site suitable for European hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*). Reasonable Avoidance Measures are recommended during site clearance and construction.	During development

2 Introduction

2.1.1 The purpose of this assessment was to provide a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the site incorporating a UKHab Survey and Protected Species Assessment to establish the likelihood of the site supporting protected species. The survey provides detail on the need for any additional, more detailed protected species surveys, likely mitigation, and any opportunities for enhancement.

2.1.2 The site is the subject of a planning application for partial site clearance to facilitate the development of a play area with associated landscaping and car parking to be created. Design plans are provided within Appendix 6 of this report.

2.1.3 The legislation relevant to protected species within the United Kingdom is summarised within Appendix 4.

2.1.4 Results and recommendations contained within this report have been prepared by an experienced ecologist and are therefore the view of Brindle & Green Limited. The survey is based on information provided by our client, the development proposals, results of the desk study and our survey of the site. This report pertains to this information only.

3 Methodology

3.1 Desk Study

3.1.1 Table 2 lists organisations and/or resources used as part of the desk study process. Data regarding any known statutory or non-statutory sites, in addition to any records for protected species, were requested from the following sources:

Table 2: Ecological Data Resources

Consultant	Requested data	Search radius	Date requested
Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)	– National and International site Designations – Granted European protected species Development (EPS) Licenses – Priority Habitat Inventory	2km	24/04/2025

3.1.2 A data search from the local biological record centre has not been requested in this instance. Due to the small scale of the proposed development, and habitat types recorded on site, a significant impact on species/habitats within the local area is not expected. It is therefore unlikely that additional biological data would impact the assessment of ecological impacts as a result of the proposed development. Should the further surveys confirm presence of a protected species within the building, a data search will be obtained and included within the survey report to assess impacts.

3.2 Surveyors

3.2.1 The survey was carried out by Emily Murchison BSc (Hons) MSc, Qualifying Member of CIEEM, Consultant Ecologist.

3.2.2 The survey was overseen by Lucinda Sweet PhD, MCIEEM Natural England Bat Licence (Class Level 2, 2019-9122-CLS-CLS), Great Crested Newt Licence (Class Level 1, 2016-22852-CLS-CLS), Director.

3.3 Survey Conditions

3.3.1 The survey was undertaken at 11:00am on the 25th April 2025. The outside temperature was recorded as 11°C, with dry conditions, and 7/8 cloud cover.

3.4 UK Habitat Classification Survey

3.4.1 A UK Habitat Classification survey was undertaken where habitats were categorised and mapped (Appendix 1) following the UK Habitat Classification Version 2.01 (UK Hab Ltd., 2023) to establish the presence and distribution of habitat types within the site and potential ecological constraints to development

3.4.2 The UKHab System is comprised of a five-level Primary Habitat Hierarchy, with each successive level providing increasingly detailed descriptions of habitat parcels present onsite. The system encompasses all habitat types found in the UK, irrespective of scale or geographic range, including UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats and Habitats Directive Annex I habitats.

- Level 1 includes the description of each major ecosystem present; Terrestrial, Freshwater, and Marine.

- Level 2 includes nine ecosystem types; Grassland, Woodland and Forest, Heathland and Shrub, Wetland, Cropland, Urban, Sparsely Vegetated Land, Rivers and Lakes, and Marine Inlets and Transitional Waters.

- Level 3 describes the 20 broad habitat types of the nine ecosystems outlined in Level 2. Examples include Acid Grassland, Calcareous Grassland, Neutral Grassland, Modified Grassland, Broadleaved and Mixed Woodland, Hedgerows, and Dense Scrub.

- Level 4 expands the 20 broad habitat types of Level 3 into 85 detailed habitat types, including Lowland Meadows, Other Neutral Grassland, Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, and Other woodland; Mixed. This level also allows the separation of 46 UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority habitats from other habitats of lower ecological significance.

- Level 5 provides a further detailed expansion to Level 4 habitat types. 119 habitats are described within this level including 72 habitats as listed in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive.

3.4.3 Primary habitat types are accompanied by a list of Secondary Codes, which are further categorised into 'Essential' and 'Additional' codes. Each recorded habitat parcel is assigned a single Primary Habitat Code from Levels 2-4 and includes all Essential Secondary Code features relating to the habitat parcel. Additional Secondary Codes are also applied where relevant. No

more than six Secondary Codes are recommended per parcel (UKHabs Ltd. 2023) and a list of Secondary Code definitions relevant to the site have been provided within Appendix 1. Where additional details were required, Target Notes have also been provided (Appendix 2). A plant species list (Appendix 2) summarising all plants identified on site was produced during the survey and all scientific nomenclature was produced according to Stace (2010).

3.4.4 This survey was extended to note the potential for habitats on site to support protected and/or notable species and for evidence of any such species. The habitats on site were assessed for their suitability to support protected species in relation to the habitat type found at the site. Any incidental sightings or field signs were noted at the time of survey. Where evidence of, or the confirmed presence of a protected species was identified, further species-specific surveys may be recommended to ensure that the presence or otherwise of a legally protected species is fully considered prior to the determination of any planning approval or to guide an EPS development licence.

3.4.5 Legislation, guidance and methodology for species relevant to this site are presented in full within Appendices 4 and 5 of this report.

3.5 Site Evaluation

3.5.1 Following the ecological appraisal, the site was classified into one of six groups (Table 3), to indicate whether the site is considered to hold ecological value on a local, national or international scale. This evaluation is intended as a guide and only targeted survey work can establish the significance of protected species populations onsite.

Table 3: Definitions of each of the six evaluation brackets, indicating the importance of each habitat type and an example of their possible habitat status. (Table constructed following The CIEEM EcIA Guidelines, Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal (2024) pages 16 -17)

Evaluation Value	Example of habitat or species
International	An internationally designated site or candidate site, including habitat or species included within Special Protection Areas (SPA) / Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Ramsar Sites, listed under Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive.
National	Sites designated at UK level, e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), supporting species considered nationally threatened or rare. A regularly occurring regionally or county significant population/number of any nationally important species A feature identified as of critical importance within Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006).

Evaluation Value	Example of habitat or species
Regional	Key Habitat type included within BAP. A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a regionally important species.
County	Designated sites, such as Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs) or viable habitat / species populations of value at a county level (LBAP).
District	District level designated sites, such as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) or habitats / species populations of value at a district (Which have features qualifying for LWS status). Sites/features that are scarce within the district or which appreciably enrich the district habitat resource.
Local / Site	Habitats or species populations of value in a local (i.e. within ~ 5km of the site) context. Habitats of poor to moderate biological diversity e.g. established conifer plantations, species poor hedgerows and un-intensively managed grassland which supports species which are common to the local area and whose loss can be easily mitigated.

3.6 Limitations

3.6.1 It should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to provide a comprehensive description of the site, no investigation could ensure the complete characterisation and prediction of the natural environment. The protected and notable species assessment provides a preliminary view of the likelihood of these species occurring on site, based upon the suitability of the habitats, known distribution of the species in the local area and any direct evidence on site. It should not be taken as providing a full and definitive survey of any protected species group.

3.7 Report Lifespan

3.7.1 Given the transient nature of the subject, we would consider the survey results contained to be accurate for up to 18 months, at the discretion as assessed by a suitably qualified ecologist.

4 Site Context

4.1 Site Description

4.1.1 The application site can be found at SE 36168 04500, positioned within Worsbrough Dale on the south-eastern outskirts of Barnsley. The site comprises a bungalow (B1), previously occupied as the caretaker's house and now used for storage, with unmanaged vegetated garden supporting scrub and tree saplings, surrounding the property. The application site also supported an area of bare ground and modified grassland pertaining to the existing school playground. The area is fenced, with car parking and a playground pertaining to the school grounds immediately adjacent to the site boundary.

4.1.2 Residential development associated with Worsbrough Dale dominates the land to the south and west, with some limited connectivity for birds and bats provided by a network of residential gardens. The land to the north and east is dominated by the school grounds and the grounds of Barnsley Academy, supporting large areas of playing fields, with hedgerows and scrub habitat present also. Parcels of woodland are present within the wider landscape, notably ancient deciduous woodland, Dearne Valley Wetlands Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Worsbrough Country Park Local Nature Reserve (LNR) are situated approximately 950m south of the site, with connectivity to these areas limited to residential gardens. Barriers to terrestrial species dispersal are present within the locality, namely the B6100 positioned approximately 620m to south and the residential development positioned adjacent to the south and west site boundaries.

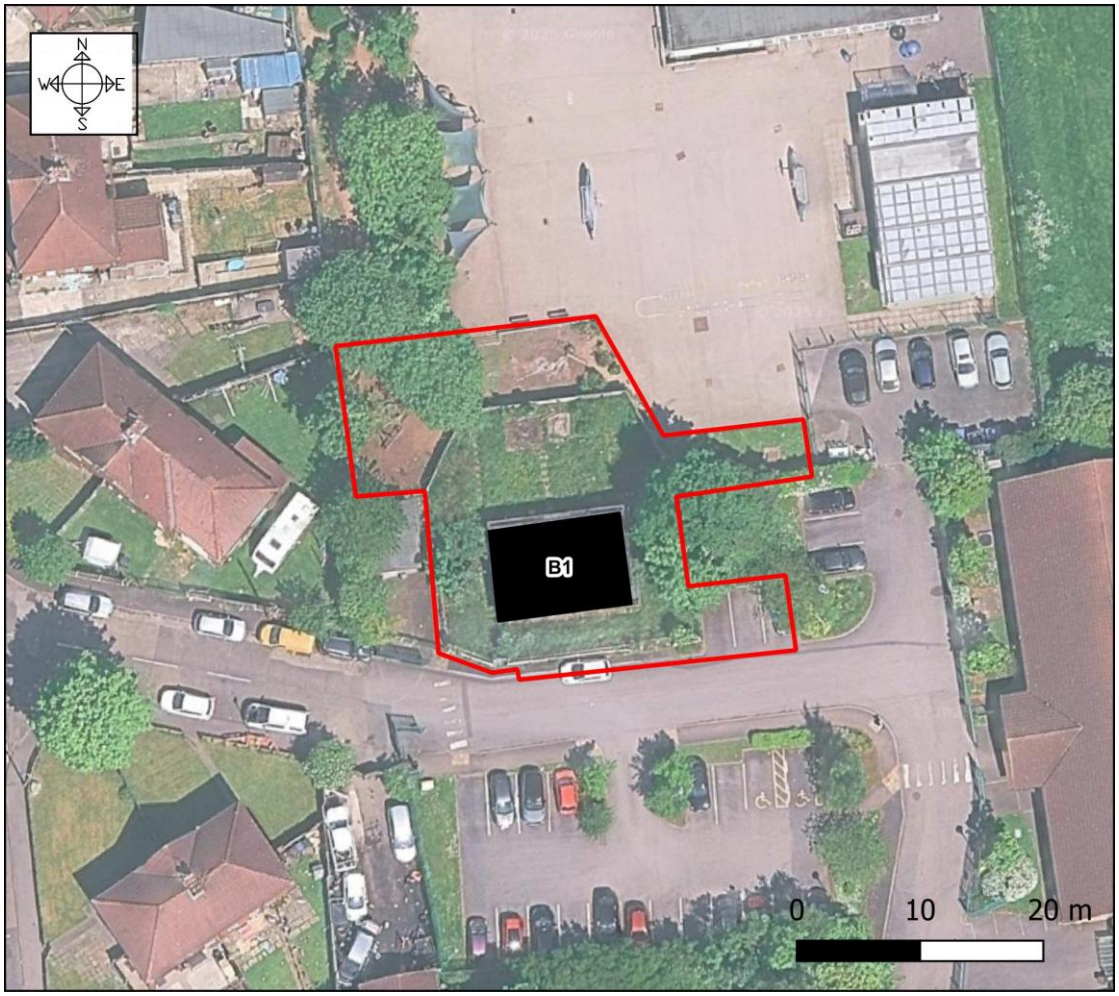


Figure 1: Satellite map of the project site and surrounding area. Red line boundary depicts application site.

4.2 Zone of Influence

4.2.1 The zone of influence describes the geographic extent of potential impacts of a proposed development. The small scale of the proposed development reduces the likelihood of impact to the surrounding area, however suitable connective vegetation could influence the presence of protected species within the application boundary. The zone of influence was considered to be 250 metres from the application boundary for amphibians and reptiles, 30 metres for terrestrial mammals such as badgers, and within the area of impact for breeding birds and bats.

5 Results

5.1 Desk Study

Designated Sites

5.1.1 The site was subjected to a search for designated sites within a 2km radius of the site using data supplied by the online desk-based resource MAGIC. Three sites with Statutory designations were identified within the 2km radius search.

Table 4: Summary of Designated Sites within a 2km radius of the application site

Site Name	Grid Ref.	Status	Reason for Designation	Distance from site
Statutory Sites				
Dearne Valley Wetlands	SE434027	Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Network of wetland parcels, with scrub and woodland areas which extends throughout the catchment of the River Dearne. Site supports diverse range of breeding and non-breeding birds.	1km S
Worsborough Country Park	SE 348 033	Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	Country park supporting a range of habitats including semi-natural broadleaved woodland, plantation woodland, grassland and hedgerows.	1km SW
Stairfoot Brickworks	SE 381048	SSSI	Site supporting exposures of Aegrianum Marine Band, an internationally important horizon for the stratigraphical correlation of Westphalian Series across North-west Europe.	2km E

Protected Species Assessment

Magic Maps revealed a single granted EPS licence within 2km of the site:

- For the destruction of a breeding and resting soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) roost, which expired in 2018, located 1.07km south from the site.

Priority Habitats

5.1.2 Data supplied by MAGIC includes a UKBAP priority habitat inventory. MAGIC returned no priority habitat on or adjacent to the application site.

5.2 Habitats

5.2.1 The habitat types recorded on site are summarised below, and the frequency and distribution of habitat types is displayed within a UKHab Survey Map (Appendix 1 and 2).

5.2.2 Table 5 provides a list of habitat types present on site along with their inclusion (or otherwise) as a National and / or Local Habitat of Principal Importance (HPI) (Previously referred to as Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)) (It should be noted that additional information is included within the text where a classification under UKHab survey methodology does not mirror habitat types considered to be conservation priorities).

Table 5: UKHab Habitat Types found on site and inclusion within UK BAP/HPI habitats

Habitat Type	N HPI	L HPI	N/A
Buildings			✓
Developed land – sealed surface			✓
Vegetated garden			✓
Bare ground			✓
Modified grassland			✓
Scattered trees			✓

Buildings (u1b5)

5.2.3 One single-storey red-brick build bungalow was present to the centre of the site (Figure 2). The building was in a dilapidated condition and full building descriptions can be found within section 5.3.

Figure 2: Building 1 on site, fenced within the area of vegetated garden.

Developed Land – Sealed Surface (u1b)

5.2.4 An area of developed land; sealed surface was present north of Building 1 onsite (Figure 3). This comprised a concreted area, likely the base of a previous garden shed structure, with vegetative cover pertaining to species present within the grass associated with the garden. Developed land was also present surrounding the house pertaining to paved areas.

Figure 3: Area of developed land within garden pertaining to paved slabs with some recolonising vegeation.

Vegetated Garden (u1 - 828)

5.2.5 An area of 'vegetated garden' was present surrounding Building 1. The garden supported ornamental species, with grassland left unmanaged to a high sward height (Figure 4). The garden supported scrub to the western and eastern sides of the site, featuring dominant buddleia (*Buddleia davidii*), with bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), with occasional small silver birch (*Betula pendula*) saplings present within the grassland. Grass species recorded within the garden were abundant false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), soft brome (*Bromus hordeaceus*), rough meadow grass (*Poa trivialis*), frequent Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and occasional cocks foot (*Dactylis glomerata*). Herb species present within the garden pertained to abundant creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), frequent white clover (*Trifolium repens*), common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), bitter dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), occasional meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) and spearmint (*Mentha spicata*).

5.2.6 The secondary code '828 – vegetated garden' was applied to this habitat parcel.

Figure 4: Vegegated garden supporting unmanaged grassland and bramble dominated scrub.

Bare Ground (u, 32, 510)

5.2.7 Bare ground present within the existing play area for the school. The area was unvegetated with wood chipping present beneath play frames.

5.2.8 The secondary code '32 – Scattered trees' was applied to this habitat parcel. Scattered trees are discussed separately within section 5.2.10.

Modified grassland (g4, 106)

5.2.9 One small area (55m^2) of modified grassland was present within the application site to the west of the vegetated garden and within the existing school grounds. The grassland sward was <5cm and recently mown for amenity purposes, with a high coverage of bare ground. The grassland was perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*) dominated, with abundant red fescue, annual meadow grass (*Poa annua*), white clover, frequent common daisy (*Bellis perennis*) and common dandelion.

Figure 5: Modified grassland present within application boundary.

Scattered trees

5.2.10 Two scattered trees were noted within the bare ground play area. One multi-stemmed, semi-mature willow sp. (*Salix sp.*) and one single stem willow sp. were present and assessed from the vegetated garden. The tree was in good condition with an even crown.

Figure 6: Individual willow tree within parcel of bare ground used as a play area.

Invasive Weeds Assessment

5.2.11 An assessment of the site was made to establish the presence of invasive weeds included on schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

5.2.12 Stands of late cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster coriaceus*) were recorded within ornamental planting in the vegetated garden. Stands of buddleia (*Buddleia davidii*) were also recorded throughout site, pertaining to the edges of the vegetated garden. Although not listed within Schedule 9, these species are still considered a pernicious non-native weed species.

5.3 Fauna

Breeding Birds

5.3.1 The assessment was undertaken during the breeding bird season. Three species of bird were recorded on site during the survey including woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*), blackbird (*Turdus merula*) and robin (*Erithacus rubecula*).

5.3.2 Scrub within the vegetative garden and scattered trees associated with the site provide suitable nesting habitat for birds observed during the preliminary appraisal and other species such as long-tailed tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*) and wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*).

5.3.3 Building 1 onsite was considered suitable for breeding birds such as house sparrow (*Passer domesticus)*. Suitable access points for bird species were recorded through the access points within the soffit boxes.

5.3.4 Based on a review of the habitat types on site and the list of bird species recorded within the data search, the site is considered to support an assemblage of common bird species.

Bats

5.3.5 The data search returned one record of a single bat roost within 2km of the site, pertaining to a soprano pipistrelle bat roost 1.07km south of the site.

Roosting Bats

5.3.6 Scattered trees were present on the site, with a series of scattered trees present in the locality of the site pertaining to the car park. Visible trees were assessed and categorised based upon Bat Conservation Trust guidance (see Appendix 5), with all scattered trees within the site boundary assessed to have 'NONE' suitability to support roosting bats.

5.3.7 Building 1 was assessed to support 'Moderate' suitability to support roosting bats. The extent of the suitability pertained to gaps within the soffit boxes providing access into the soffits, gaps at the wall tops and missing mortar on the chimney breast providing small crevices. The main structural features of the building, and their suitability for supporting roosting bats are summarised below (Table 6), and associated figures can be found with Table 12 in Appendix 8. A potential roosting features (PRF) plan has also been included in Appendix 8.

Table 6: Summary of bat roost suitability and evidence found within each of the buildings / structures on site (Supporting Figures within Appendix 8)

High	Moderate	Low	Negligible	None

Building Number	Description	Bat Evidence / potential Roosting Features (PRFs)	Roost Suitability
B1	External: One storey, red-brick bungalow previously pertaining to the caretaker's house now used for storage purposes. Building supports a single pitched roof, with bitumen felting to the roof. A single red-brick chimney was also present. The building featured two gable ends on the eastern and western elevations, with wooden soffits and facias present in poor condition. External windows and doors were constructed within UPVC frames which were flush at the time of survey.	External: – Roof tiles lifted and missing on northern elevation of building – Gaps in soffits providing access into soffit boxes – Gaps between facia and wall top – Missing mortar to chimney breast	Moderate
	Internal: The building did not support an internal loft space. Building pertained to storage of school supplies.	Internal: No evidence of previous bat activity was recorded during the assessment.	

Foraging and Commuting Bats

5.3.8 The application site was positioned within a highly urbanised area with suitable vegetative foraging areas in the wider environment, but limited onsite connectivity. As such the site is considered to provide 'Low' suitability for foraging and commuting bats, as it is expected that bats may be present in the local area.

Badgers

5.3.9 No evidence of badger setts, or activity such as mammal runs, snuffle holes or latrines were found during the ecological appraisal of the site. However, the site supported habitat features such as scrub which could support habitat suitable for foraging individuals passing through the site. The site is not considered conducive to supporting badger populations due to the small scale

and absence of badger activity identified during the preliminary appraisal, in addition to the highly urbanised nature of the surrounding habitat.

Great Crested Newts

5.3.10 The site supported grassland, scrub and roots of scattered trees within the vegetated garden that were all considered suitable to support the terrestrial phase for this species. No waterbodies were identified within a 250m of the site (Figure 7), and therefore it is considered unlikely that great crested newts would utilise the terrestrial habitats on site.

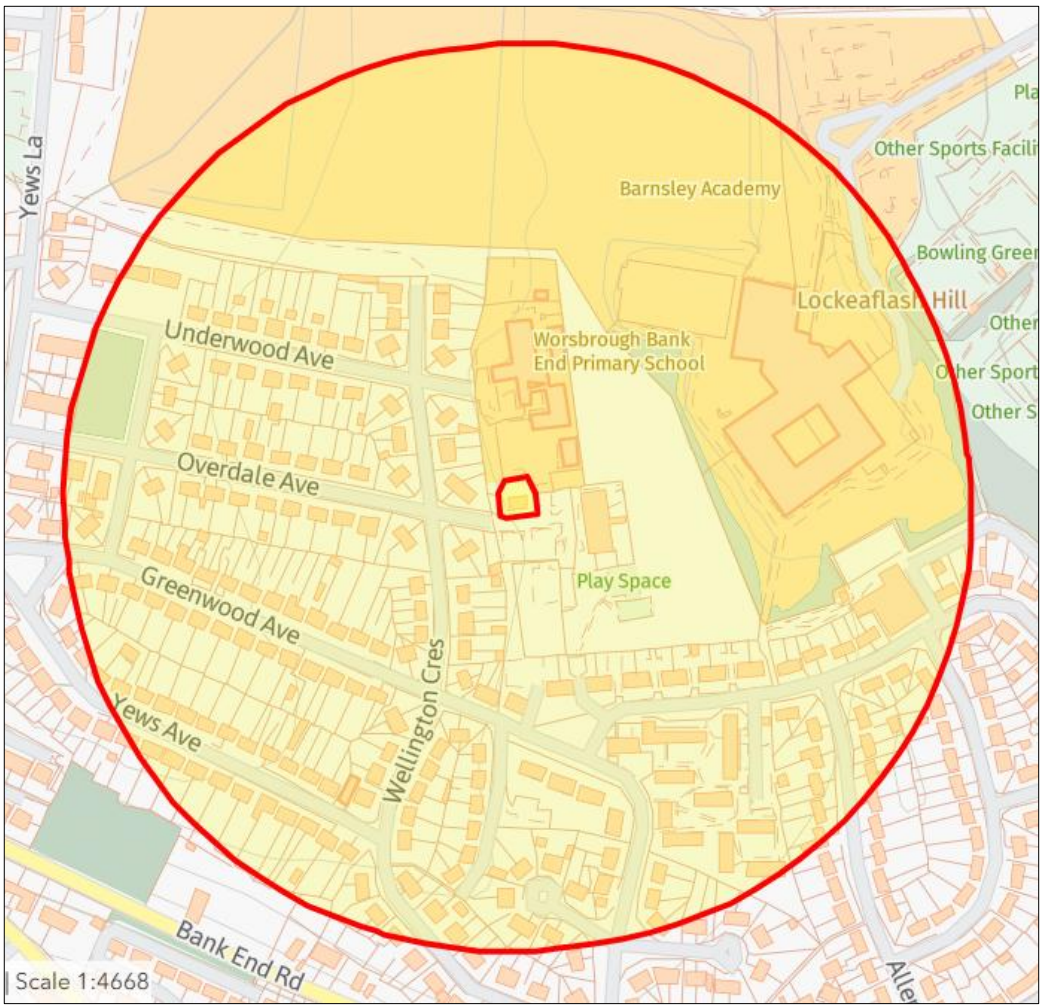


Figure 7: OS Map of a 250-metre radius of the site, no waterbodies identified within this radius.

Reptiles

5.3.11 The habitats on site were considered sub-optimal to support a resident population of reptiles. The scrub and grassland within the vegetated garden may provide habitat for foraging and commuting individuals on an episodic basis, albeit connectivity to these habitats are limited by the surrounding hard standing pertaining to the adjacent car park.

Mammal Species of Principal Importance

5.3.12 The NERC Act 2006, Section 41 highlights 17 species of principal importance within England.

Western European Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)

5.3.13 The habitats on site were considered conducive to supporting Western European hedgehog. Habitats including the grassland and scrub within the vegetated garden provide suitable foraging, refuge and commuting habitats for this species, and may also be suitable for hibernating hedgehogs.

6 Evaluation

6.1 Development Proposals

6.1.1 The site is the subject of a planning application for site clearance to facilitate the development of a play area with associated landscaping and car parking created. a. Design plans are provided within Appendix 6 of this report.

6.2 Desk Study Impacts

6.2.1 Direct impacts on nearby designated sites as a result of the proposed development are considered unlikely. The site supports habitats of low value, namely modified grassland, scattered trees and scrub pertaining to the vegetated garden on site. Three designated sites are located within 2km of the site, with the closest pertaining to Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI and Worsborough Country Park LNR, situated approximately 1km south of the site. The initial proposals set out for the site (Appendix 6) show that the extent of the development proposals are contained within the site boundary, as such, impacts on locally designated sites are considered unlikely.

6.2.2 The site lies within an Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) for Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI and Stairfoot Brickworks SSSI. It is understood that the development does not meet the criteria for consultation with Natural England, and impacts are considered unlikely.

6.3 Habitats

6.3.1 The habitats on site have been evaluated as having 'Site' value in relation to the immediate surroundings and a local context. The site was dominated by developed land pertaining to the building and paving on site, with the vegetated garden present within the site supporting grassland and scrub habitats. A small parcel of mown modified grassland, and bare ground supporting an induvial tree was also present within the boundary.

6.3.2 In England, Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is mandatory from February 2024 under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act. Therefore, the site must undergo a Biodiversity Net Gain assessment, further details of which are provided in Chapter 7.

6.4 Invasive Weeds

6.4.1 Buddleia and late cotoneaster were observed throughout garden within the site. It is understood that physical site work will come into contact with these species. The spread of these species into the 'wild' (deemed to be outside the site boundary) should be prevented and controlled. Chapter 7 provides recommendations pertaining to the removal of invasive weeds.

6.5 Breeding Birds

6.5.1 All wild birds, their eggs and nests are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure, or take any wild bird whilst nesting, or take, damage or destroy the nest of any such bird while in use or being built. In addition, species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 or their dependant young are afforded additional protection from disturbance whilst they are at their nests.

6.5.2 The vegetation on site was considered to provide suitable nesting and foraging habitat for common bird species. The habitats on site are of low value and locally frequent, as such the impact of the loss of these habitats is short term and can be offset through post-construction landscaping. However, in the absence of mitigation direct or indirect impacts on individual birds, their young, eggs and habitats could occur during site clearance. Chapter 7 provides recommendations relating to the need for precautionary working methods to safeguard this species group during vegetation clearance.

6.6 Bats

6.6.1 All bats in the United Kingdom and their habitats are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). It is an offence to damage or destroy any bat roost, intentionally or recklessly obstruct a bat roost, deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat or intentionally kill, injure or take any bat.

Roosting Bats

6.6.2 The building was identified as having 'Moderate' suitability to support roosting bats due to the presence of PRFs within the building's external roof features. The proposed plans show the demolition of this building. If the development was to continue as planned, it may lead to the destruction of a roosting site of a protected species, and increased disturbance, injury or harm to individual bats and/or their young.

6.6.3 The recommendations section of this report sets out important guidance on measures to avoid impacts on this species and measures to support its conservation status through ecological enhancement.

Foraging and Commuting Bats

6.6.4 The application boundary comprised Building 1, hardstanding and vegetative habitats of limited value, with low suitability for commuting and foraging bats. The features on site with suitability for foraging and commuting bats, and within the immediate surroundings are to be retained within the scheme. These features may be subject to increased light pollution from the scheme, impacting their suitability for foraging and commuting bats, however the extent of this impact is anticipated to be low. As these features are to be retained, Chapter 0 sets out important guidance on measures to avoid impacts on this species group and measures to support its conservation status during and post site construction.

6.7 Badgers

6.7.1 Under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, in England and Wales it is an offence to wilfully kill, injure, disturb or take any badger, or intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy, or obstruct access to any part of a badger sett.

6.7.2 There was no evidence of badger activity within the site, with the zone of influence pertaining to urban and residential land. Due to the urban nature of the site, alongside a lack of suitable sett making habitat, it is unlikely that badger are going to rely on the habitats on site. However, suitable foraging habitat was present on site with connectivity to residential gardens in close proximity. Badgers may utilise the site on an intermittent basis for foraging and commuting purposes. Chapter 0 sets out important guidance on measures to avoid impacts on this species group and measures to support its conservation status.

6.8 Great Crested Newts

6.8.1 Great crested newts and their eggs, breeding sites and resting places are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

6.8.2 There are no waterbodies identified within a 250m radius of the site. It is considered unlikely that GCN would present a constraint to the planning application, particularly given the increasingly low densities at which GCN are found at increased distances from optimal habitat and breeding

ponds. GCN are not thought to be present within the redline boundary and as such are not considered further within this report. If any evidence of GCN presence is uncovered during development works, then works should cease and the advice of an ecologist sought.

6.9 Reptiles

6.9.1 Reptiles are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) making it illegal to intentionally kill or injure reptiles.

6.9.2 No evidence of reptiles was recorded during the survey. Suitable habitat for reptiles is limited to the small parcels of scrub and the grass in the garden area. Any impact on reptiles as a result of the proposed development will therefore likely be limited to occurrences of individual reptile utilising the site incidentally during the construction phase.

6.9.3 Chapter 7 provides important guidance on measures to avoid impacts to this species and measures to support its conservation status.

6.10 Mammal Species of Principal Importance

6.10.1 The NERC Act 2006, Section 41 highlights 17 species of principal importance within England. This includes several species of bat, however these have been addressed in section 6.5.

Western European Hedgehog

6.10.2 The habitats on site were considered conducive to supporting Western European hedgehog. Habitats including the grassland and scrub provide suitable foraging, refuge and commuting habitats for this species. Chapter 0 provides recommendations aimed at safeguarding this species during construction, and measures to facilitate their use of the site post-development.

7 Recommendations

7.1.1 The site should be the subject of further ecological assessment and reasonable avoidance measures should be detailed and implemented during the construction phase of the proposed development.

7.1.2 This survey can be used to guide the Master Plan layout to ensure that mitigation is employed to retain and enhance local biodiversity where possible. Efforts should be made to support National and Local Biodiversity Action Plans, achieve a 10% Biodiversity Net Gain Post development and seek opportunities to incorporate ecological enhancements within the proposed development as detailed within the National Planning Policy Framework (2023), which seeks biodiversity enhancements through the planning process, and the Environment Act 2021.

7.2 Habitats

Habitats	Timing
Recommendations	
The site should be subjected to a Biodiversity impact Assessment to ascertain habitat value and number of post development units to achieve a minimum 10% net gain.	During design stage
Enhancement Prescriptions	
Soft landscaping proposals should seek to include areas of open space to be enhanced with native planting for the benefit of biodiversity, guided by a biodiversity impact assessment to achieve a minimum 10% net gain.	During design stage

7.3 Invasive Species

Invasive Species	Timing
Recommendations	
Buddleia and late cotoneaster were identified on site. Although these species are not Schedule 9 listed, they are pernicious species and their removal and disposal is required. The recommended removal and treatment should be followed by a qualified contactor: - Any stands should be dug out, with the root ball removed from the soil. - Remaining roots require treating with a glyphosate based herbicide to prevent further spread - Should it not be feasible for the root ball or stump to be removed, a stump killer is required such as EcoPlug Max Selective Stump Killer, or similar approved. - Disposal of the stands is required offsite, either through burning the stands or double bagging the stands and disposing of in the correct waste facility.	During clearance
Enhancement Prescriptions	
Replacement planting with native species to promote and enhance on site biodiversity.	During design stage

7.4 Breeding Birds

Breeding Birds	Timing
Recommendations	
Building and vegetation on site provide suitable habitat for breeding birds. Given their protection, development must be sympathetic to the value of this habitat and potential impacts on breeding birds, their eggs, nests and young. The breeding bird season is generally accepted as being between March and September. Consideration and implementation must be given to the following options most appropriate to the scheme. a) Undertake vegetation and building clearance between the months of October and February where possible. b) Clearance between the months of March and September should be subjected to a search for active birds' nests 24 hours prior to commencement of works.	Works outside of the breeding season (Oct-Feb) If unachievable, follow steps in recommendation.
Enhancement Prescriptions	
Soft landscaping proposals should seek to include areas of open space to be enhanced with native planting for the benefit of biodiversity, guided by a biodiversity impact assessment. 1 x bird box (Sparrow Nest Box System or similar approved) to be mounted on nearby tree within ownership to provide enhancements.	During design stage

7.5 Roosting Bats

Roosting Bats	Timing
Recommendations	
Building 1 was assessed to hold 'Moderate' suitability for roosting bats and three further presence/likely absence surveys are recommended. If evidence of roosting bats is found then survey results will (be increased to three visits) inform a license from Natural England.	Moderate Suitability Buildings: Two surveys between May – September (at least one survey May – August). Surveys to be spaced 3 weeks apart. Surveys to be carried out in suitable weather conditions, and required prior to determination of application.
Retained trees should have indirect disturbance prevented by employing a sensitive lighting scheme during construction works, and artificial security lighting should not be installed post construction in a way which directs lighting towards the notable trees (Appendix 1).	During and post development
If lighting is required, a scheme should be devised and positioned to have minimal disturbance following the guidance of an ecologist. Any lighting used during the development should be directed away from the north-western boundary with overspill less than 1lux (ideally 0) onto suitable habitats.	During and post development
Enhancement Prescriptions	
Design proposals may require amendment following the results of further survey work. 1 x permanent bat box (such as greenwood ecostyrocrete double crevice bat boxes or similar approved) mounted on nearby trees within ownership.	During construction

7.6 Foraging and Commuting Bats

Foraging and Commuting Bats	Timing
Recommendations	
The extent of disturbance to foraging and commuting bats within the area should be reduced where possible by employing a sensitive lighting scheme during construction works, and artificial security lighting should not be installed post construction in a way which directs lighting towards the hedge boundaries and mature trees If lighting is required, a scheme should be devised and positioned to have minimal disturbance following the guidance of an ecologist. Any lighting used during the development should be directed away from the north-western boundary with overspill less than 1lux (ideally 0) onto suitable habitats.	During and post development
Enhancement Prescriptions	
Soft landscaping proposals should seek to incorporate native tree and shrub species wherever possible, which are beneficial to native invertebrate species, the primary component of UK bat species' diets. Planting should consider species that attract night-flying insects such as night-scented stock (*Matthiola longipetala*) and evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*).	During design stage

7.7 Badgers

Badgers	Timing
Recommendations	
Appropriate precautions should be employed before and during construction works to prevent harm to this protected species. a) Any exposed excavations to be left overnight are to be covered at the end of each working day or include a means of escape for any fallen animals (e.g. a scaffolding plank). Any temporarily exposed open pipes are to be capped to prevent badgers gaining access. b) Should badgers or any evidence of badgers be encountered during the construction phase, all works should cease, and the advice of a suitably qualified ecologist should be sought	Pre and during development

Badgers	Timing
Enhancement Prescriptions	
Design proposals should seek to include scrub species providing fruits and nuts for foraging individuals.	During design stage

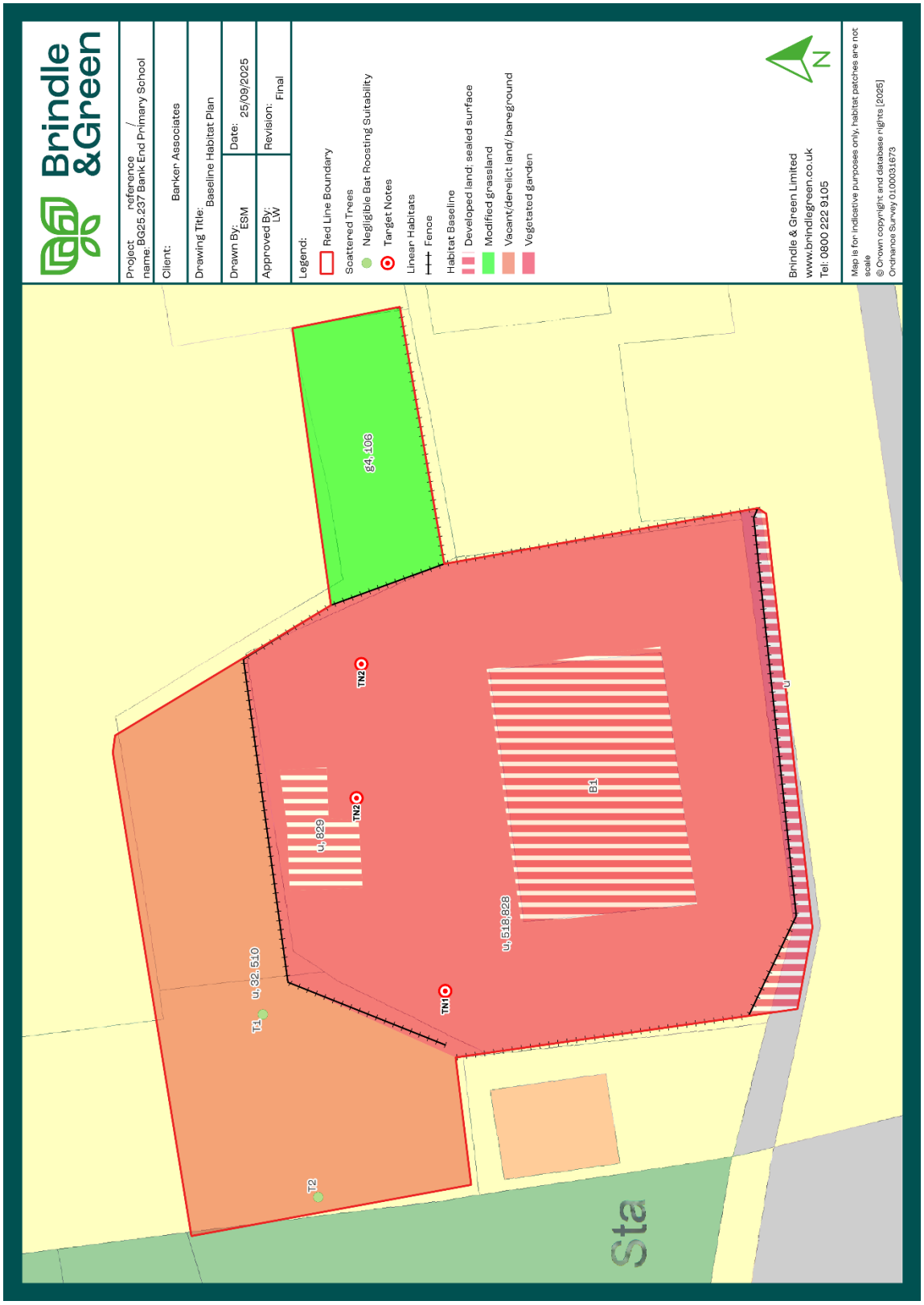
7.8 Reptiles

Reptiles	Timing
Recommendations	
The following reasonable avoidance measures should be followed during the construction phase to prevent reptiles colonising any potential habitat incidentally created by spoil, open trenches or arisings. – Any tall grass/ruderal vegetation to be directionally strimmed in a two phase process during the active season (March – October) to allow for any potential herptiles to disperse, the first cut to reduce the height to 30cm, then the second cut to 10-15cm. – All materials to be stored off the ground (for example on pallets) to minimise the likelihood of herptiles accessing them for refugia. – All spoil/waste materials to be removed from site at the end of each working day (or stored in a skip). If any evidence of reptiles is uncovered during development works, then works should cease and the advice of an ecologist sought.	During active reptile season between March – September in conditions where reptiles are most active.
Enhancement Prescriptions	
Use of native shrubs in soft landscaping proposals will provide benefits on site for native fauna post-development.	During design stage

7.9 Mammal Species of Principal Importance

Mammal Species of Principal Importance	Timing
Recommendations	
Hedgehogs may use the site for foraging or commuting purposes. The recommended reasonable avoidance measures should be followed: - Any temporarily exposed open pipes are to be capped to prevent hedgehogs or brown hare gaining access. - Undertake works during daylight hours. - The vegetation should be checked prior to removal. - Search areas of deadwood, brash, and discarded items by hand before removing. - If burning any cleared vegetation, carry out immediately after piling to prevent hedgehogs moving in prior to burning. - Any exposed excavations to be left overnight are to be covered at the end of each working day, or include a means of escape for any fallen animals (e.g., a scaffolding plank).	During clearance and development
Enhancement Prescriptions	
The inclusion of 'hedgehog highways' should be implemented into the design of the proposed greenspace connecting to the school grounds whereby a 13cm x 13cm hold should be cut into the base of fences creating a corridor across the site for hedgehogs.	During design stage

Appendix 1 – UK Habitat Classification Plan



Appendix 2 - UKHab Target Notes and Species List

Table 7: UKHab target notes

Target note number	Description
1	Buddleia present within garden.
2	Late cotoneaster present within the garden.

Table 8: Plant Species List with DAFOR Scale

Scientific nomenclature follows Stace (2010) for vascular plant species and common names follow BSBI List of British & Irish Vascular Plants and Stoneworts.

Please note that this plant species list was generated as part of a UKHab survey and does not constitute a full botanical survey.

Abundance was estimated using the DAFOR scale as follows:

D = dominant, A = abundant, F = frequent, O = occasional, R = rare, LF = locally frequent

Common Name	Scientific Name	Estimated Abundance (DAFOR)
Annual meadow grass	*Poa annua*	A
Bitter dock	*Rumex obtusifolius*	F
Bramble	*Rubus fruticosus*	A
Buddleia	*Buddleia davidii*	O
Cocks foot	*Dactylis glomerata*	O
Common daisy	*Bellis perennis*	A
Common dandelion	*Taraxacum officinale*	F
Creeping thistle	*Cirsium arvense*	A
False oat grass	*Arrhenatherum elatius*	A
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*	O
Late cotoneaster	*Cotoneaster lacteus*	O
Meadow buttercup	*Ranunculus acris*	O
Perennial ryegrass	*Lolium perenne*	D
Red fescue	*Festuca rubra*	A
Rough meadow grass	*Poa trivialis*	A
Silver birch	*Betula pendula*	O
Soft brome	*Bromus hordeaceus*	A
Spearmint	*Mentha spicata*	O
White clover	*Trifolium repens*	F
Wilow sp.	*Salix sp.*	O
Yorkshire fog	*Holcus lanatus*	F

Appendix 3 – General References

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Sutherland, W.J. (1996) Ecological Census Techniques. Cambridge University Press.

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UKHab Ltd (2023) UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 (at https://www.ukhab.org).

Appendix 4 – Legislation, Policy and Guidance

Articles of British wildlife and countryside legislation, policy guidance and both Local and National Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) are referred to. The articles of legislation are:

- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)
- Department for Communities and Local Government. National Planning Policy Framework. (2024)
- EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 79/409/EEC
- The Protection of Badgers Act 1992
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Including National and Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP / HPI))
- Hedgerow Regulations 1997
- The Environment Act 2021
- Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Appendix 5 – Legislation, Guidance and Methodology

Breeding Birds

All nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy its nest whilst in use or being built, or take or destroy its eggs. In addition, for species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly cause disturbance at, on or near an 'active' nest.

The bird breeding season is typically accepted to start in February/March and continue through until September/October, however breeding birds can be found all year round depending on the given species and climatic conditions.

A sites habitat composition, locality, association to designated sites as well as current usage and management are all considered in the decision as to whether further bird related surveys are required. In addition, surveys may be recommended based on incidental bird records collected during a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, species identified within an ecological data search or target species listed within a local biodiversity action plan.

Bird surveys are carried out in accordance with:

- Gilbert G, Gibbons DW, Evans J. (1998) Bird Monitoring Methods. RSPB.

Bats

Roosting Bats

All bats in the United Kingdom and their habitats are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). It is an offence to damage or destroy any bat roost, intentionally or recklessly obstruct a bat roost, deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat or intentionally kill, injure or take any bat.

Areas of concern; can be encountered in many types of structure and care should therefore be taken when undertaking maintenance or demolition of suitable structures and trees.

Site assessments of buildings, commuting and foraging habitat and trees are undertaken in accordance with:

- Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines, (4th edition). Bat Conservation Trust, London. ISBN-978-1-7395126-0-6 (Table 9, Table 10 and Table 11).

Preliminary Ecological Surveys look for evidence of bat presence such as feeding remains, bat droppings, roosting individuals and staining around potential access points. The suitability of site features are also assessed because absence of bat evidence, is not confirmation of a negative result.

Within trees, features searched for include; natural holes, woodpecker holes, cracks/splits in major limbs, loose bark, hollows, and dense cover of ivy over the tree. If evidence is found, or a building supports features conducive to supporting roosting bats then further presence / absence bat surveys and/or roost characterisation surveys will be recommended.

Foraging and Commuting bats

Habitat features on site are assessed for their suitability to support foraging and commuting bat populations. This assessment is independent from the suitability of the site to support roosting bats, and provides information on the likeliness of bat foraging activity within the local environment, and the dependence of individuals on these features for commuting to alternative roosting sites, foraging and migration.

Table 9: Guideline for assessing the suitability of a structure to support roosting habitat amended from Collins, J (2023)

Category	Description of Roosting Habitat	Number of additional presence / absence surveys required
None	No habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats at any time of year (complete absence of potential roosting features).	None
Negligible Suitability	Suitable cavities may exist, but these are less than ideal. Uncertainty remains as bats can use these features on occasion.	None
Low Suitability	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically. The feature and surrounding habitat do not provide enough shelter, conditions* space for larger roost types such as a maternity or hibernation roost.	One survey between May and August

Category	Description of Roosting Habitat	Number of additional presence / absence surveys required
Moderate Suitability	A structure considered to have one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions* and surrounding habitat but are unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (With regard to roost type only – assessments are made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).	Two surveys between May and September (with at least one survey undertaken between May and August). Surveys should be spaced at least 3 weeks apart.
High Suitability	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions* and surrounding habitat.	Three surveys between May and September (with at least two surveys undertaken between May and August). Surveys should be spaced at least 3 weeks apart.
Confirmed	This category is where positive evidence of bats has been recorded. For example, bats are found; bat droppings may be present at a suitable location for roosting bats; existing bat records may be associated with the structure.	

* In this context conditions refers to the level of disturbance, light, height above ground, temperature, and humidity etc

Table 10: Guideline for assessing the suitability of a tree to support roosting habitat amended from Collins, J (2023)

INITIAL STAGE (Site scoping/PEA/PRA)		
Category	**Description**	**Survey effort to establish the presence/absence of bats**
NONE	Either no PRFS in the tree or unlikely to be any	None
FAR	Further assessment required to establish if PRFs are present in the tree	Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) to further assess suitability
PRF	A tree with at least one PRF present	Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) to further assess suitability
DETAILED STAGE (PEA/PRA/GLTA)		
PRF - I	PRF only suitable for individual bats or small numbers of bats due to size or lack of suitable surrounding habitats	None – precautionary method of works for removal and provision of roosting compensation

INITIAL STAGE (Site scoping/PEA/PRA)		
Category	**Description**	**Survey effort to establish the presence/absence of bats**
PRF - M	PRF suitable for multiple bats and may therefore be used by a maternity colony	Three Climbing inspection surveys for features to be undertaken May to September with at least 2 May to August. Surveys should be 3 weeks apart. If climbing and inspection not possible, 3 dusk emergence surveys with NVAs (Night Vision Aids) to be undertaken May to to September with at least 2 May to August. Surveys should be 3 weeks apart. Should a maternity colony be confirmed less invasive methods, such as dusk emergence survey with NVAs should employed.
Known roost	Known roost present through local records, evidence, sightings, etc	Three Climbing inspection surveys for features to be undertaken May to September with at least 2 May to August. Surveys should be 3 weeks apart. If climbing and inspection not possible, 3 dusk emergence surveys with NVAs (Night Vision Aids) to be undertaken May to to September with at least 2 May to August. Surveys should be 3 weeks apart. Should a maternity colony be confirmed less invasive methods, such as dusk emergence survey with NVAs should employed.

Table 11: Potential suitability of foraging and commuting habitat within an application boundary. Features should be assessed following this guide and professional judgement. Adapted from Collins, J (2023)

Category	Description of commuting and foraging habitat	Survey effort to establish the value of commuting and foraging habitat**
Negligible Suitability	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by commuting or foraging bats.	None

Category	Description of commuting and foraging habitat	Survey effort to establish the value of commuting and foraging habitat**
Low Suitability	Habitat which could be used by low numbers of commuting bats such as an isolated gappy hedgerow, or an unvegetated stream unconnected to suitable habitat in the wider environment. Suitable, yet isolated habitat that could be used by foraging bats such as individual trees, or a patch of scrub.	Nighttime bat walk (NBW) survey: One survey visit per active season (Spring – April/May, Summer (June/July/August) – autumn – September/October). AND Static automated surveys: Data to be collected over a five-night period, per season. (Spring – April/May, Summer (June/July/August) – autumn – September/October).
Moderate Suitability	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by commuting bats, notably tree lines, hedgerows or linked back gardens. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape which could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, open water, scrub or grassland.	Nighttime bat walk (NBW) survey: One survey visit per active season (Spring – April/May, Summer (June/July/August) – autumn – September/October). AND Static automated surveys: Data to be collected over a five-night period, per month (April to October)
High Suitability	Continuous, High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape which is considered to be highly conducive to commuting bats including river valleys, stream, hedgerows, and woodland edge. High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree lined watercourses, and grazed parkland. Site is close to and connected to known roosts.	Nighttime bat walk (NBW) survey: One survey visit per active season (Spring – April/May, Summer (June/July/August) – autumn – September/October). AND Static automated surveys: Data to be collected over a five-night period, per month (April to October)

** This is only a guide for survey effort required, the complexity of the site and the proposed disturbance / loss of features will determine the extent of works required on a site by site basis

Badgers (*Meles meles*)

Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. It is illegal to wilfully kill, injure, disturb or take any badger, or attempt to do so and it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy, or obstruct access to any part of a badger sett.

Site assessments are undertaken in accordance with:

- Harris S, Cresswell P and Jefferies D (1989). Surveying Badgers.

During the PEA, the site and the 30-metre zone of Influence considered for this species are searched for evidence of badger activity. The surveyor will identify evidence of activity, or habitat suitability for this

protected species. Even If no evidence of badger activity is found, if local conditions suggest that the habitat may be suitable for badger, further surveys will be recommended.

Amphibians

The great crested newt and natterjack toad are fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The legislation protects these amphibians and their place of shelter or protection which may extend 500m from the breeding pond.

Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*)

The great crested newt, is fully protected under the Conservation of Habitat Regulations 2017 (as amended), making it an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure, disturb or take great crested newts, intentionally or recklessly damage destroy or obstruct access to any place used by the animal for shelter or protection.

The legislation protects these amphibians and their place of shelter or protection which may extend 500m from the breeding pond. Sites should be considered suitable to support great crested newts if distribution and historical records suggest newts may be present, there is a pond within 500m of the development or the development site includes suitable terrestrial habitat refuges.

Great crested newt site assessments are undertaken in accordance with:

- English Nature. (2001) Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines. English Nature, Peterborough. and
- Langton T, Beckett C and Foster J (2001) Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook. Froglife, Halesworth.

Prior to a site visit, a desk study pond search is undertaken. When searching for ponds, Brindle & Green apply a total of 4 sources to establish their location. The following online sources are used:

- OS MAPPING VIA EMAPSITE
- GOOGLE EARTH PRO,
- GOOGLE MAPS and
- MAGIC MAPS

Each identified pond (Access permitting) is subjected to a Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment providing a score for each pond. This survey should be undertaken during the summer period to be fully accurate, however assumptions can be made out of season to guide survey recommendations.

Reptiles

Two species of reptile, the sand lizard and smooth snake, and their habitats are fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. All other native British reptiles are protected against intentional killing and injury.

British reptiles are found in exposed, undisturbed areas, such as areas without cultivation with differing areas of grassland sward length. Suitable areas include abandoned sand quarries, fallow farmland land, heathland, post-industrial land, railway corridors etc. If these types of suitable features are found then further reptile surveys are recommended.

- Edgar P, Foster J and Baker J (2010) Reptile Habitat Management Handbook. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bournemouth.
- Gent T and Gibson S (2003) Herpetofauna Workers Manual. JNCC, Peterborough.

Invasive non-native weeds

Plant species such as Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) and giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) are examples of invasive non-native weeds classified under Part II of Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside act 1981. Any person who causes these species to grow or spread in the wild by dumping or other means is guilty of an offence. The plant and the soil these species are found growing in are classified as waste material and should be treated as such.

A simple walk over survey of the site to determine if these species are present was carried out during the PEA. A full list of Schedule 9 species can be found at Plantlife.org

Ecological Enhancement

In December 2024 the Department for Communities and Local Government published the National Planning Policy Framework. This sets out planning policies on protection of biodiversity through the planning system. The document states - opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged.

For new buildings guidance such as in the following will be used:

- Williams, C. (2010) Biodiversity for Low and Zero Carbon Buildings, A Technical Guide for New Build. Riba Publishing.

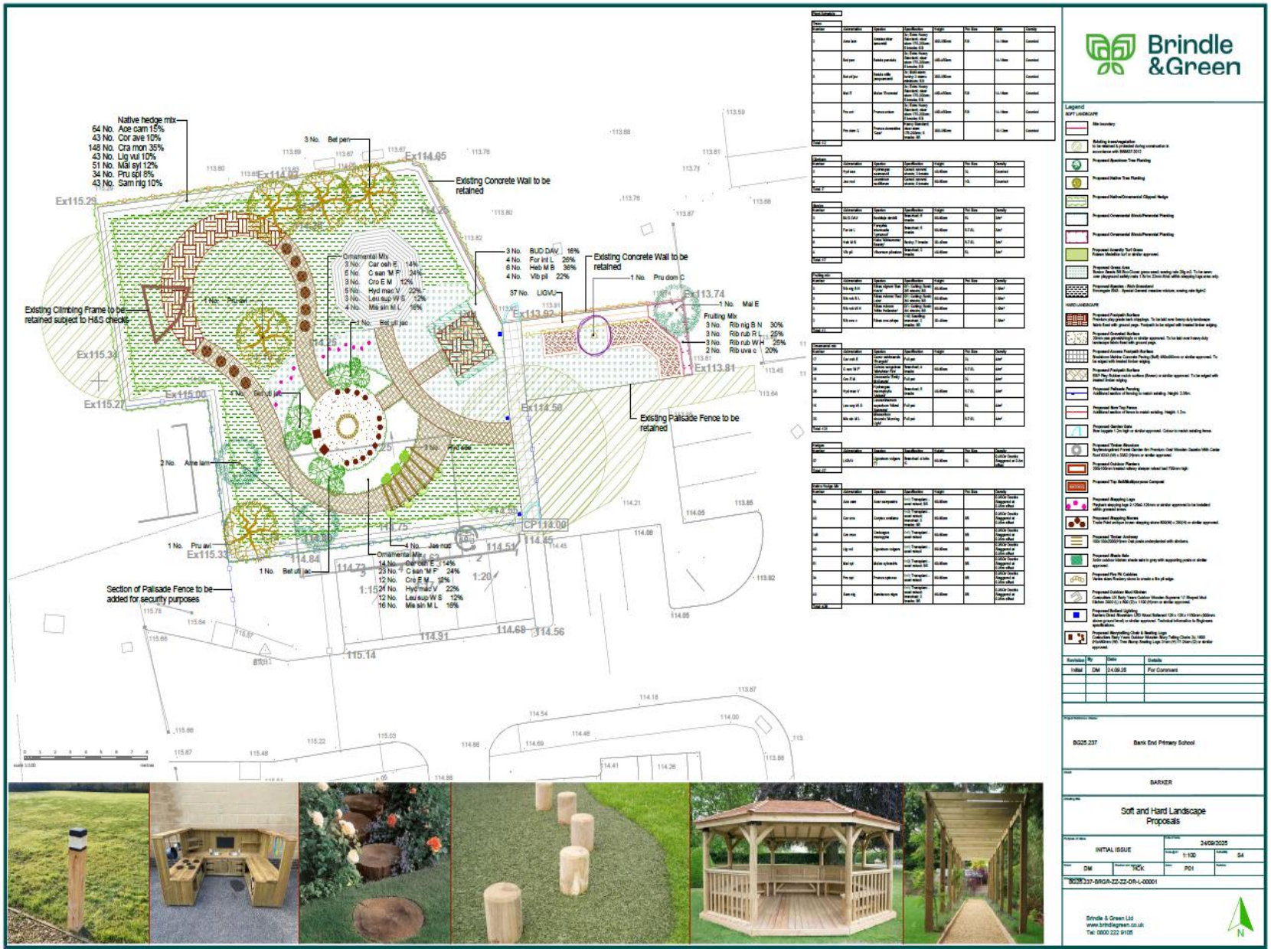
Designated Sites

Designated areas are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) while others have been designated as having European protection status. Local authorities can also designate areas for nature conservation and in doing so may impose local authority byelaws to support local nature conservation objectives.

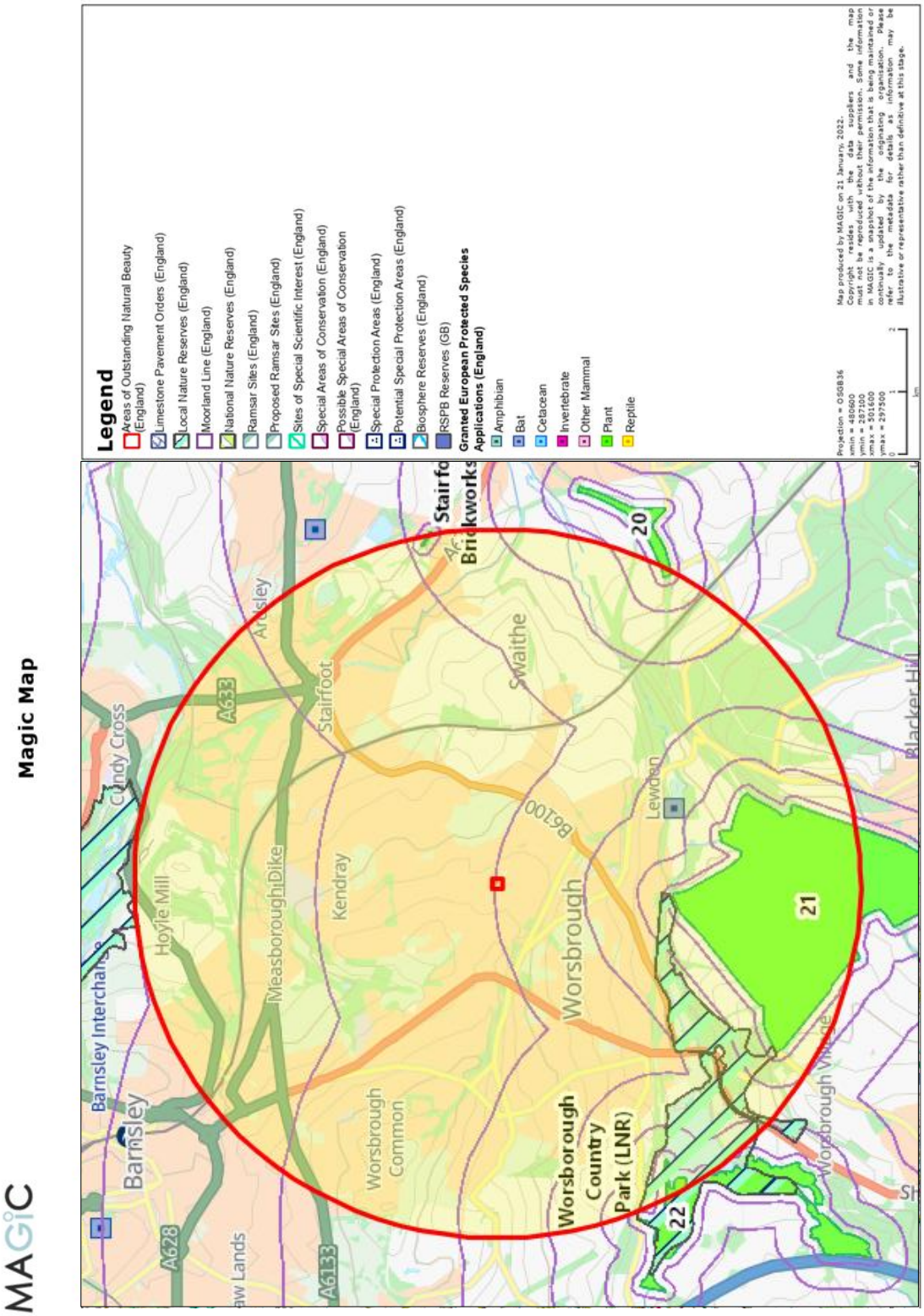
European designated status includes Special Protection Areas (SPAs) that preserve areas for birds and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) which provides protection for habitats and the species which these habitats support.

Information of Designated Protected Areas is received through Ecological Data Searches and Magic Map searches.

Appendix 6 – Proposed Plans


Native hedge mix
64 No. Ace cam 15%
43 No. Cor ave 10%
148 No. Cra mon 35%
43 No. Lig vul 10%
51 No. Mal syl 12%
34 No. Pru spi 8%
43 No. Sam nig 10%
3 No. Bet pen
Existing Concrete Wall to be retained
Existing Concrete Wall to be retained
Existing Climbing Frame to be retained subject to H&S checks
Existing Palisade Fence to be retained
Section of Palisade Fence to be added for security purposes
Ornamental Mix
3 No. Car oah E 14%
5 No. C san 'M F' 24%
3 No. Cro E M 12%
5 No. Hyd mac V 22%
3 No. Leu sup W S 12%
4 No. Mis sin M L 16%
3 No. BUD DAV 16%
4 No. For int L 26%
6 No. Heb M B 36%
4 No. Vib pli 22%
37 No. LIGVU
1 No. Pru dom C
1 No. Mal E
Fruiting Mix
3 No. Rib nig B N 30%
3 No. Rib rub R L 25%
3 No. Rib rub W H 25%
2 No. Rib uva c 20%
Brindle &Green
Legend
SOFT LANDSCAPE
HARD LANDSCAPE
Initial DM 24.09.25 For Comment
BG25.237 Bank End Primary School
BARKER
Soft and Hard Landscape Proposals
INITIAL ISSUE
24/09/2025
1:100
A4
DM
NCK
PDI
BG25.237-BRGN-ZZ-ZZ-DR-L-00001
Brindle & Green Ltd
www.brindlegreen.co.uk
Tel: 0800 222 9105

Appendix 7 – MAGIC data



Identify Results generated on Thu Apr 24 2025

The following features have been found in your search area:

You selected the location: Centroid Grid Ref: SE36600350

Granted European Protected Species Applications (England)

CASE_REF	2017-32557-EPS-BDX
SPECIES_GR	Bat
SPECIES_DE	S-PIP
SITE_COUNT	South Yorkshire
LICENCE_ST	01/04/2018
LICENCE_EN	30/04/2018
AFFECTS_BR	Y
DAMAGE_BRE	Y
DAMAGE_RES	Y
DESTROY_BR	Y
DESTROY_RE	Y
AFFECTS_HI	Unknown
NERC_AGREE	Unknown

You selected the location: Centroid Grid Ref: SE36160449

SSSI Impact Risk Zones - for LPAs to determine likely impacts on terrestrial SSSIs and when to consult Natural England

Guidance	/Metadata_for_magic/SSSI IRZ User Guidance MAGIC.pdf
IRZURL	https://irz.geodata.org.uk/IRZ/step2.html?irzcode=1000000000000¬es=&location=438145,404881%20(IRZ%20polygon%20centre)
Guidance	/Metadata_for_magic/SSSI IRZ User Guidance MAGIC.pdf
IRZURL	https://irz.geodata.org.uk/IRZ/step2.html?irzcode=1000000000000¬es=&location=434223,403485%20(IRZ%20polygon%20centre)
Guidance	/Metadata_for_magic/SSSI IRZ User Guidance MAGIC.pdf
IRZURL	https://irz.geodata.org.uk/IRZ/step2.html?irzcode=1000000000000¬es=&location=438187,403638%20(IRZ%20polygon%20centre)

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England)

NAME	Stairfoot Brickworks SSSI
REF_CODE	1006944
STAFF	Smith, (Helen J)
CONTACT_NO	0845 600 3078
MEASURE	0.12
HYPERLINK	2000298
HOTLINK	http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s2000298
Site_Feature_Condition_Hyperlink	https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteFeatureConditionSiteCode=s2000298&SiteName=Stairfoot Brickworks SSSI

NAME	Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI
REF_CODE	1481838
STAFF	Smith, (Helen J)
CONTACT_NO	0845 600 3078
MEASURE	649.99
HYPERLINK	2000814
HOTLINK	http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s2000814
Site_Feature_Condition_Hyperlink	https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteFeatureConditionSiteCode=s2000814&SiteName=Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI

Sites of Special Scientific Interest Units (England)

NAME	STAIRFOOT BRICKWORKS
REF_CODE	1044431
CONDITION	UNFAVOURABLE DECLINING
HYPERLINK	1017981
MEASURE	0.12
HOTLINK	http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1017981

NAME	DEARNE VALLEY WETLANDS
REF_CODE	1481987
CONDITION	FAVOURABLE
HYPERLINK	1038552
MEASURE	114.23
HOTLINK	http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1038552

NAME	DEARNE VALLEY WETLANDS
REF_CODE	1481988
CONDITION	FAVOURABLE
HYPERLINK	1038553
MEASURE	21.67
HOTLINK	http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1038553

NAME	DEARNE VALLEY WETLANDS
REF_CODE	1481986
CONDITION	FAVOURABLE
HYPERLINK	1038551
MEASURE	4.26
HOTLINK	http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1038551

Local Nature Reserves (England)

REF_CODE	1008867
NAME	DEARNE VALLEY PARK
MEASURE	49.34
HYPERLINK	https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteLNRDetail.aspx?SiteCode=L1008867

REF_CODE	1009900
NAME	WORSBOROUGH COUNTRY PARK
MEASURE	62.49
HYPERLINK	https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteLNRDetail.aspx?SiteCode=L1009900

Appendix 8 – Building Photographs and Potential Roost Features Plan

Table 12: Building Photographs showing Potential Roost Features

Image	Description
Building 1	
	Access into timber soffits.
Building 1	
	Access into timber soffit boxes.

Image	Description
Building 1	
	Gaps into facia and at roof top.
Building 1	
	Areas of missing mortar on chimney breast.

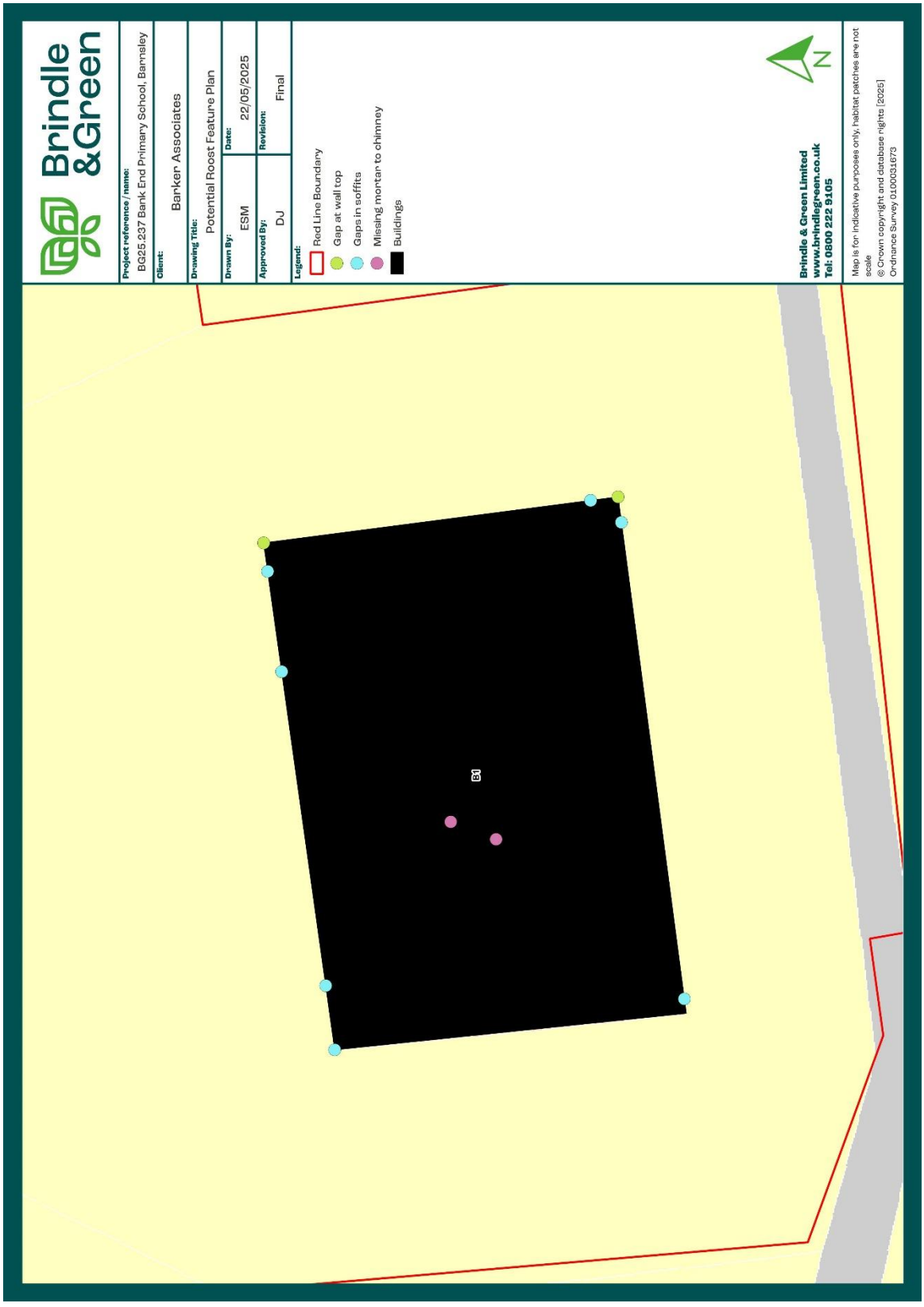


Figure 8: Plan showing Potential Roost Features