

69 Station Road, Royston
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
24th September 2020



Prepared by:

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For Planning	P Middleton MCIEEM <i>P Middleton</i>	R Bell MCIEEM <i>R Bell</i>	P Middleton MCIEEM <i>P Middleton</i>	24.09.20

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Site Name 69 Station Road	Location Royston, Barnsley S71 4HZ
Local Authority Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Grid Reference SE 36032 11980
Surveyor Peter Middleton MCIEEM	Date of Survey 14/09/2020
National Character Area The Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield (NCA 38)	Designation of Site None

Phase 1 Habitat Types on Site A2.2 Scattered scrub, A3.3 Mixed scattered trees, C3.1 Tall ruderal, J1.2 Amenity grass, J3.6 Buildings, J4 Bare ground.
NVC Communities on Site None
Protected/Notable Species, Constraints on Site None
HPIs and SPIs under NERC Act 2006 None
Barnsley BAP None

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1. Summary

- 1.1.1 The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the site in Royston, Barnsley was commissioned by architect Mark Booth on behalf of the client Mr & Mrs Gill on 6th September 2020. The extended Phase 1 habitat survey was undertaken on 14th September 2020 with a nocturnal bat survey of the dwelling undertaken on 16th September.
- 1.1.2 The survey was commissioned to inform a planning application which includes the construction of a large extension to the existing dwelling.
- 1.1.3 Site habitats are not considered to be of importance to nature conservation at greater than the site level. The site is not considered to be of importance to any species or species group at greater than the site level.
- 1.1.4 The following ecological constraints and associated recommendations to avoid/mitigate/compensate for potential impacts have been identified.
- Potential damage to the roots of trees to be retained. Root protection measures detailed in British Standard 5837 (2012): Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction, should be followed.
 - Nesting birds - vegetation clearance should take place at a time when it will not affect nesting birds (outside March to August). If works are to be undertaken during this time, then they should be preceded by a nesting bird check, to be undertaken by an ecologist.
- 1.1.5 Enhancement recommendations include:
- One house sparrow terrace, either integral to the fabric of the building or under soffit.
 - One wall integrated cavity bat box or tube, to be installed in the new extension.
 - Boundary fences designed to not impede the free movement of hedgehogs throughout the site.
- 1.1.6 The findings of this survey are considered to be valid for up to 24 months of the survey date. After this time re-survey of the site may be necessary.

2. Introduction

- 2.1.1 The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the site in Royston, Barnsley was commissioned by architect Mark Booth on behalf of the client Mr & Mrs Gill on 6th September 2020. The extended Phase 1 habitat survey was undertaken on 14th September 2020 with a nocturnal bat survey undertaken on 16th September. The survey was commissioned to inform a planning application which includes the construction of a large extension to the existing dwelling.
- 2.1.2 The purpose of this report is to present the results of an extended Phase 1 habitat survey which includes determining the potential for, or presence of, protected and notable species, plus an appended map of the site showing the Phase 1 habitats present. Where impacts can be confidently determined, recommendations in relation to avoiding, mitigating and compensating for these impacts are included in this report, together with biodiversity enhancement recommendations.

- 2.1.3 Ecological impacts associated with the scheme have been assessed with the focus on identifying significant impacts. Mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures are detailed.
- 2.1.4 Key legislation relating to designated sites and protected species and habitats is presented in Appendix 3. The implications of legislation are detailed in the body of the report where necessary.

3. Site Description

- 3.1.1 The site consists of c.0.2ha of land comprising a detached bungalow together with associated large garden. Site habitats include scattered scrub, scattered trees, tall ruderal vegetation and amenity grassland (outgrown lawn). The site is surrounded on all sides by residential development with grassland, arable land and associated hedgerows a little further north (see Figure 1).
- 3.1.2 The site falls within National Character Area 38: The Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield. This National Character Area (NCA) comprises a generally low-lying area, with hills and escarpments above wide valleys, the landscape embraces major industrial towns and cities as well as villages and countryside. Over half of the NCA is currently designated as greenbelt land; this maintains some distinction between settlements and represents areas that are often under pressure for development and changes in land use. Very little of the NCA is designated for geology or nature conservation, but instead the landscape is dotted with many pockets and patches of habitat where species find refuge. This is often on land that was once worked for minerals or occupied by major industry.
- 3.1.3 The naturally occurring soils in the area comprise freely draining slightly acid loamy soils.

Figure 1. The site location, as indicated by red circle



4. Methodology

4.1 Data Consultation

4.1.1 Barnsley Biological Records Centre (BBRC) were contacted to request the following information for locations within a 1.5km radius of the site:

- Protected and notable species records
- The boundaries of non-statutory designated sites of nature conservation interest

4.1.2 A search of the Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website was undertaken to determine the following:

- The boundaries of statutory designated sites of nature conservation interest
- The locations of historic European Protected Species (EPS) licences granted by Natural England

4.2 Field Survey

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

4.2.1 The site was surveyed on 14th September 2020 using extended Phase 1 habitat survey methodology (JNCC, 2010) by the following personnel:

- Peter Middleton (MCIEEM)

4.2.2 Notable, rare or scarce plant species were highlighted if present. Evidence of protected species or species of nature conservation importance was recorded where present at the time of survey. Species recorded are included within the report as appropriate. Information is presented on the Phase 1 plan, using Target Notes (TN) to identify particular features of interest, where appropriate. Additionally, and where possible, habitats were classified using the National Vegetation Classification (NVC), as described in the JNCC National Vegetation Classification – Users Handbook (Rodwell, 2006).

4.2.3 Aerial photographs (Google Earth) 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 is particularly useful for identifying wildlife corridors and ponds but because the latter are often not apparent on aerial photographs, OS 1:25 000 scale maps are also used.

4.2.4 Habitats of Principal Importance (HPIs) and Species of Principal Importance (SPIs) are included on Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 were noted together with priority species and habitats as included on the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).

Nocturnal Bat Survey

4.2.5 The following personnel conducted the nocturnal survey:

- Peter Middleton and Carl Dixon.

4.2.6 The following activities were carried out in compliance with relevant Bat Survey Guidelines (Collins 2016):

- Dusk emergence survey on 16th September 2020

4.2.7 The dusk emergence survey continued from 15 minutes prior to sunset until 1.5 hours after this time.

4.2.8 The following equipment was used during the surveys:

- Wildlife Acoustics EM Touch bat detectors and iPad/iPod recorders
- Canon XA10 video camera and infra-red lights

4.3 Methods of assessment

4.3.1 The value and sensitivity of ecological features present on site were determined based on the guidance provided within 'Guidelines on Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland' (CIEEM, 2018). Individual ecological receptors (habitats and species that could be affected by the development) for the scheme were assigned levels of importance for nature conservation. The highest level is international, then decreasing in order of importance through national, regional, county, local and lastly site.

4.3.2 The assessment of the building's bat roost potential is in accordance with Bat Survey Good Practice Guidelines (Collins 2016). The system of categorisation is applied using professional judgement with the habitat feature assigned a level of suitability: negligible, low, moderate or high.

4.4 Survey Limitations

4.4.1 No limitations to an effective preliminary ecological appraisal was identified. The bat survey was undertaken late in the season when maternity roosts are likely to have dispersed. However, more roosts are typically found in August and September as a consequence. Given that the building displayed low bat roost potential and that a thorough search of buildings did not reveal any signs of use by maternity roosting bats, the nocturnal survey date is not considered a significant constraint in this instance.

5. Ecological Baseline

5.1 Data Consultation

5.1.1 Designated sites present within 1.5km of the application area are detailed in Table 1. (also see Appendix 4).

Table 1. Designated sites

Designation	Name	Interest	Distance from site
Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	Barnsley Canal	Open water, aquatic and marginal vegetation	950m northeast
	Rabbit Ings	Various habitats on post-industrial land	1.3km east

- 5.1.2 Notton wood, an ancient semi natural woodland, is located 1.1km west of the site and comprises the closest area of ancient woodland.
- 5.1.3 Records of protected and notable species obtained are discussed in the species sections of the results.

5.2 Field Survey

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

- 5.2.1 The arrangement of site habitats is shown on the Phase 1 plan in Appendix 1, whilst a field survey botanical species list is provided in Appendix 2.
- 5.2.2 Habitats on site are not considered to be of greater than site level importance to nature conservation. The site is not considered to be of greater than site level importance to other species or species groups.
- 5.2.3 A detailed description of the site habitats and the site's potential to support protected and notable species is provided below.

Habitats

A2.2 Scattered scrub

- 5.2.4 Scattered throughout the site is frequent bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg., occasional elder *Sambucus nigra* and rarely occurring false acacia *Robinia pseudoacacia* and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*. There is also a large component of bramble within the tall ruderal vegetation in the southern section of the site.

A3.3 Scattered mixed trees

- 5.2.5 Scattered trees on site comprise three species, with most specimens mature. There is frequent hybrid poplars *Populus x canadensis* on the eastern boundary and five false acacias together with linear plantings of Leyland cypress *Cupressocyparis leylandii* along two boundaries.

Plate 1. Examples of all site vegetative habitats are shown in this photograph



C3.1 Tall ruderal

- 5.2.6 This habitat constitutes the majority of the site with dominant nettle *Urtica dioica* covering approximately 60% of the site. Other species present on the periphery of the site include locally abundant hemlock *Conium maculatum*, occasional broadleaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius* and rarely occurring spear mint *Mentha spicata*. Scattered bramble is present within the nettle in the southern section of the site.

Plate 2. Nettle and bramble



Plate 3. Tall ruderal (nettle), false acacia trees in distance



J1.2 Amenity grassland

- 5.2.7 An outgrown lawn surrounding the dwelling now resembles improved grassland. The grass has become rank and comprises dominant perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne* together with frequent Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*. Occasional species include false oatgrass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*, red clover *Trifolium pratense*, white clover *Trifolium repens*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, ragwort *Senecio jacobea*, cow parley *Anthriscus sylvestris* and broadleaved dock.

Plate 4. Amenity grass (outgrown lawn) in foreground



J3.6 Buildings

- 5.2.8 There is one dwelling on site. The building and its potential to support roosting bats is discussed in the species section of this report.

Species and species groups

Amphibians

- 5.2.9 One Great Crested Newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus* record was provided by BBRC for a location within a 1.5km radius of the site centroid. The record which was collected in 1987 is for a location a little over 1.5km from the site (A recent survey at Rabbit Ings 1.5km from the site revealed a moderate population of GCN (MBE 2020), the records were not provided by BBRC). One GCN EPS mitigation licence has been issued for a location within a 2km radius of the site. The license was issued in 2009 to permit the destruction of a breeding site 1.5km east of the application site.
- 5.2.10 No ponds were identified during the pond search within a 1km radius of the site. Given the major barriers to movement between the site and ponds more than 1km away, GCN are not considered likely to be a receptor to the proposed scheme.
- 5.2.11 Four amphibian records were provided by BBRC for locations within a 1.5km radius of the site centroid. In addition to the single GCN record, there are two records of smooth newt *Lissotriton vulgaris* and one common toad *Bufo bufo*, all are for locations in excess of 1.1km from the site.

Badger

- 5.2.12 No badger records were provided by BBRC for locations with a 1.5km radius of the site. No signs of badger were recorded on site and the site is unlikely to be used as part of a wider foraging habitat by this species.

Bats

Historical records

- 5.2.13 Twelve bat records of at least two species were provided by BBRC. Species included in the records comprised common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and noctule *Nyctalus noctula*, with other records ascribed to either an unidentified pipistrelle species or an unidentified bat species. The nearest known roost record (pipistrelle) was recorded in 2000, from a location 650m west of the site centroid.
- 5.2.14 No historic bat EPS mitigation licences have been obtained for locations within 2km of the application site.
- 5.2.15 There is one site building. The building and its potential to accommodate bats and the results of a single nocturnal survey are detailed below.

Description of building

- 5.2.16 The site building is a single storey c.1960s brick-built detached dwelling beneath a pitched rosemary tile roof with a chimney/flue on its ridge. The bungalow has uPVC double glazed windows, plastic barge boards, fascia boards, soffits and gutters. At the rear is a uPVC conservatory.

Plate 5. West elevation of dwelling



External inspection of building

- 5.2.17 The external walls lack features with potential to accommodate bats and soffits are sealed. Features with potential to support roosting bats are associated with the roof, particularly, the gaps beneath tiles at the roof verge, tiles around the chimney stack and possible beneath ridge tiles.

Plate 6. East elevation of dwelling



Internal inspection of building

- 5.2.18 The roof-space has a height to the ridge of 2m and is supported by purlins, rafters, battens and a ridge board (Plate 7). The space is boarded out for storage, there is Type 1F felt beneath the tiles and there is no insulation at ceiling height. The space was found to be 'cobwebby' and no signs of bats were found.

Plate 7. Roof-space of dwelling



Trees and bat foraging habitat

- 5.2.19 No site trees display features with potential to accommodate roosting bats. Given that site trees are largely non-native, the site offers suboptimal foraging habitat for bats.

Nocturnal survey

16th September 2020 – Dusk emergence survey.

- 5.2.20 Sunset was at 19:18. The temperature at the start of the survey was 15°C with light north-easterly Beaufort Scale Force 2 and 100% cloud. The temperature decreased slightly to 14°C by the end of monitoring whilst the other conditions remained the same. It was dry throughout.
- 5.2.21 The first bat recorded was a foraging common pipistrelle at 19:47 (29 minutes after sunset), A noctule was heard at 19:49, together with a second common pipistrelle pass at 19:54. The last bat recorded was a *Myotis* species at 20:01.

Summary and evaluation of findings

- 5.2.22 The dwelling displays a low number and diversity of bat roost features and is considered to offer a low level of bat roost potential.
- 5.2.23 No bats were seen to emerge from the surveyed building and the nocturnal survey results demonstrate the likely absence of roosting bats from the surveyed building.

Birds

- 5.2.24 No birds were observed on site during the walkover survey. The site however does have the potential to support several common garden bird species during both nesting and/or foraging.

Hedgehog

- 5.2.25 No hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* records were provided by BBRC from locations with a 1.5km radius of the site.

Invasive species

- 5.2.26 No species listed as invasive on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), were recorded on site.

Invertebrates

- 5.2.27 The ubiquitous habitats present on site are likely to support a restricted assemblage of common invertebrates. Consequently, rarely occurring invertebrate species are unlikely to be present.

Plants

- 5.2.28 The soils on site are nutrient enriched and are unlikely to support notable or rarely occurring species of vascular plants. No notable plant species were recorded during the walkover survey.

Reptiles

- 5.2.29 No reptile records were provided by BBRC for locations within 1.5km of the site.

6. Assessment

6.1 Proposals

6.1.1 At the time of writing this report, no definitive plans for the site had been produced.

6.2 Assessment of Impacts

6.2.1 No impacts are anticipated upon designated sites due to the nature of the development and the distance of designated sites from the application area.

6.2.2 The potential impacts of the development are considered to comprise:

- Potential destruction of bird nests. Nesting birds receive strong legal protection as detailed in Appendix 3.
- Land-take of a small area of existing semi-natural habitats on site.
- Damage to the root systems or stems of retained site trees or boundary trees, as a result of construction works.
- Temporary increase in vehicle movements during the period of construction into and out of the site.
- Temporary increase in noise, dust and vibration caused by construction work.

6.2.3 No other significant ecological impacts are envisaged as a result of the proposed scheme. None of the ecological impacts foreseen are considered to be of importance to nature conservation at greater than the site level. Methods to avoid or mitigate for the impacts detailed above is discussed in Section 6.3.

6.3 Further Survey and Mitigation

6.3.1 Where possible, especially at the site boundaries, existing trees should be retained. British Standard 5837 (2012): Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction, should be followed. Root Protection Zones (RPZ's) should be calculated and implemented to prevent harm to trees. This should also apply to any trees out-with the site, up to 5 m from the boundary.

6.3.2 Vegetation clearance should take place at a time when it will not affect nesting birds (outside March to August). If works are to be undertaken during this time, then they should be preceded by a nesting bird check to be undertaken by an ecologist.

6.3.3 In accordance with the aims of planning policy NPPF: 15, it is suggested that the developer follows the recommendations detailed below. Please note that the enhancements have been informed by the results and findings of the field survey.

- One house sparrow terrace to be installed on the building, integral to the fabric of the building, or fitted directly under a soffit.
- The new development should include a wall integrated cavity bat box within the new extension. The box should be situated high on a south or west facing gable, away from artificial light spill. The box should not be located directly above windows or doors.
- Boundary fences designed to not impede the free movement of hedgehogs throughout the site.

6.4 Conclusion and Residual Effects

- 6.4.1 In order to further reduce scheme impacts and to ensure the scheme maximises potential benefits to nature conservation, it is recommended that mitigation and enhancement measures detailed in Sections 6.3 and 6.4 are adopted.
- 6.4.2 Whilst no bats were found to be roosting in the building during the nocturnal survey, works should proceed with caution and vigilance for unexpected bat presence, as single bats can roost almost anywhere. If bats are subsequently discovered, work should cease, and further advice sought without delay.
- 6.4.3 No further survey is required provided works commence within 24 months of the nocturnal survey date.

7. References

Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines. The Bat Conservation Trust.

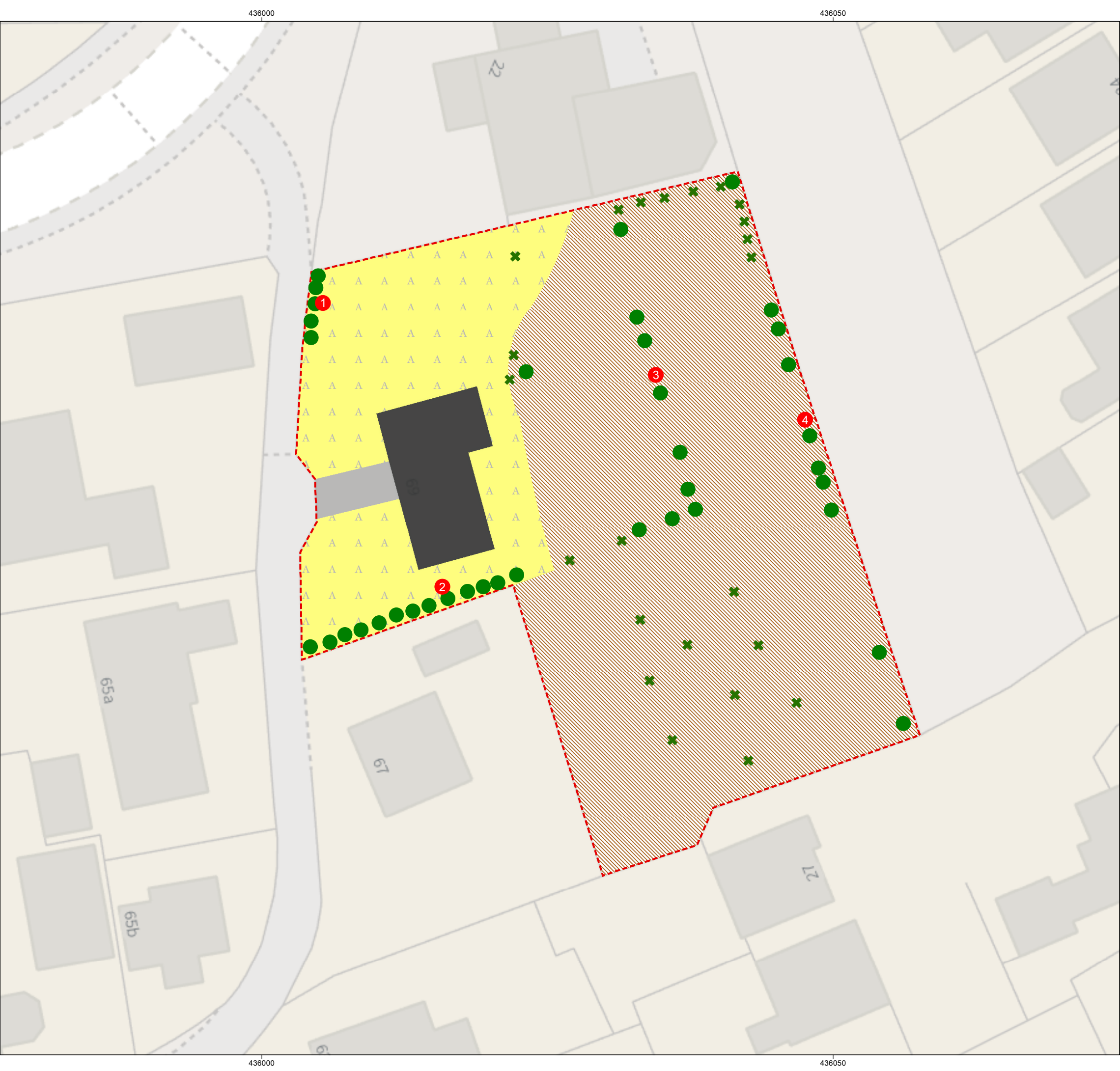
Eaton MA, Aebischer NJ, Brown AF, Hearn RD, Lock L, Musgrove AJ, Noble DG, Stroud DA and Gregory RD (2015) Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. British Birds 108, 708–746.

CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

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

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010). Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey - a Technique for Environmental Audit. Reprinted by JNCC, Peterborough.

Appendix 1. Phase 1 Plan



Survey Information	
	Site boundary (2,066.0m ²)
Phase 1 Habitat Survey	
	Tall ruderal (1,411.5m ²)
	Amenity grassland (521.1m ²)
	Building (109.4m ²)
	Hard surface (24.0m ²)
	Scattered tree
	Scattered scrub
	Target note

Target Notes:

[1] Leyland cypress
[2] Leyland cypress
[3] Row of false acacia
[4] Poplars at boundary

Source:
Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2020, All rights reserved. License Number 100049837.

0 2.5 5 10
Metres

PROJECT TITLE

69 STATION ROAD, ROYSTON

DRAWING TITLE

Figure 1. Phase 1 Habitat Plan

VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked
1.0	24/09/20	Phase 1	MP	PM

DRAWING NUMBER:

MIDDLETONBELLECOLOGY/StationRd/Phase 1

SCALE	1:325	PLOT SIZE	A3	DATUM	OSGB	PROJECTION	BNG
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Appendix 2. Plant Species Recorded on Site

Species	Common name	DAFOR Rating
Scattered scrub		
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	Occasional
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	Rare
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False acacia	Rare
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	Occasional
Scattered trees		
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False acacia	Occasional
<i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i> x <i>Xanthocyparis nootkatensis</i> = X <i>Cuprocyparis leylandii</i>	Leyland cypress	Frequent
<i>Populus</i>	Hybrid poplar	Occasional
Tall ruderal		
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle	Dominant
<i>Mentha spicata</i>	Spear mint	Rare
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock	Locally abundant
Amenity grass		
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial ryegrass	Dominant
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	Occasional
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	Frequent
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved dock	Occasional
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow parsley	Occasional
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse	Rare
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup	Occasional
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Herb bennet	Occasional
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	Occasional
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Ragwort	Occasional
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red fescue	Occasional
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common nettle	Occasional
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red clover	Occasional
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False oat-grass	Occasional
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled dock	Rare
<i>Taraxacum</i>	Dandelion	Occasional
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear	Occasional

Appendix 3. Relevant Legislation and Policy

Wildlife legislation relating to statutory designated sites and species is summarised in Table A1 and A2 below. This legal information is intended for summary only, and the original legal documents should be consulted if a detailed understanding is required.

Table A1. Legislation relating to designated sites and habitats

Designated Site	Legal Status
Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	While they have no direct legal status, Local Wildlife Sites are considered important enough to receive recognition within the planning system. National planning policy requires local authorities to identify Local Wildlife Sites and provide for their protection through local policy.

Table A2. Legislation relating to species

Species	Legal Status
European protection	
European Protected Species (EPS) (including bats, Great Crested Newt (GCN), otter and hazel dormouse)	<p>These animal species and their breeding sites or resting places are protected under Regulation 41 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012, which makes it illegal to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intentionally or deliberately capture, injure or kill any such animal or to deliberately take or destroy their eggs. • Deliberately disturb such an animal. • Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal. <p>European Protected Species (EPS) licences can be granted by Natural England in respect of development to permit activities that would otherwise be unlawful under the Conservation Regulations, providing that the following 3 tests (set out in the EC Habitats Directive) are passed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development is for reasons of overriding public interest. • There is no satisfactory alternative; and • The favourable conservation status of the species concerned will be maintained and/or enhanced. <p>Under Regulation 9(5) of the Conservation Regulations, Planning Authorities have a legal duty to 'have regard to the requirements of the EC Habitats Directive in the exercise of their functions'. This means that they must consider the above 3 tests when determining whether Planning Permission should be granted for developments likely to cause an offence under the Conservation Regulations. As a consequence, Planning Applications for such developments must demonstrate that the 3 tests will be passed.</p> <p>Natural England also allow sites to be registered on the Bat Low Impact Class Licence to permit activities that would otherwise be unlawful under the Conservation Regulations where the 3 tests can be passed and the bat roosts to be impacted are of low conservation status.</p>

Species	Legal Status
National protection	
European Protected Species and other species including water vole and white clawed crayfish	These animals receive full protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000), which makes it illegal (subject to exceptions) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intentionally kill, injure or take any such animal. • Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct any place used for shelter or protection by any such animal; and • Intentionally or recklessly disturb such animals while they occupy a place used for shelter or protection.
Common amphibians and reptile species	These animals receive limited protection under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000), which makes it illegal to intentionally kill or injure any such animal.
Badger	The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 makes it illegal to wilfully kill or injure a Badger or attempt to do so and also make it illegal to intentionally or recklessly interfere with a Badger sett. This includes damaging or destroying a sett, obstructing access to a sett and disturbing a Badger while it is occupying a sett. Licences can be granted by Natural England to permit sett closure and/or disturbance between July and November inclusive.
Schedule 1 birds	Special penalties relate to offences concerning birds listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). In addition to the offences detailed above relating to all wild birds, it is illegal to intentionally or recklessly disturb any Schedule 1 bird or their dependent young while nesting.
All bird species	All wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000), which makes it illegal (subject to exceptions) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird. • Take, damage or destroy the nest (whilst being built or in use) or eggs of any wild bird.
Invasive species	The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) contains measures for preventing the establishment of non-native species which may be detrimental to native wildlife, prohibiting the release of animals and planting of plants listed in Schedule 9 of the Act. In relation to Schedule 9 plants it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause these plant species to grow in the wild.

Species and Habitats of Principal Importance

Planning authorities have a duty under Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 to have regard to priority species and habitats in exercising their functions including development control and planning. In compliance with Section 41 of the NERC Act, the Secretary of State has published a list of species and habitats considered to be of principal importance for conserving biodiversity in England under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. This is known as the list of Habitats and Species of Principal Importance (HPI/SPI). The HPI/SPI list is used to guide planning authorities in implementing their duty under the NERC Act.

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework for England was revised in 2019. The NPPF's policy on biodiversity has been summarised by the Government as: "The Framework underlines that the planning system should seek not just to protect, but, where possible to enhance biodiversity – making sure we don't just have isolated pockets of wildlife, but rich and

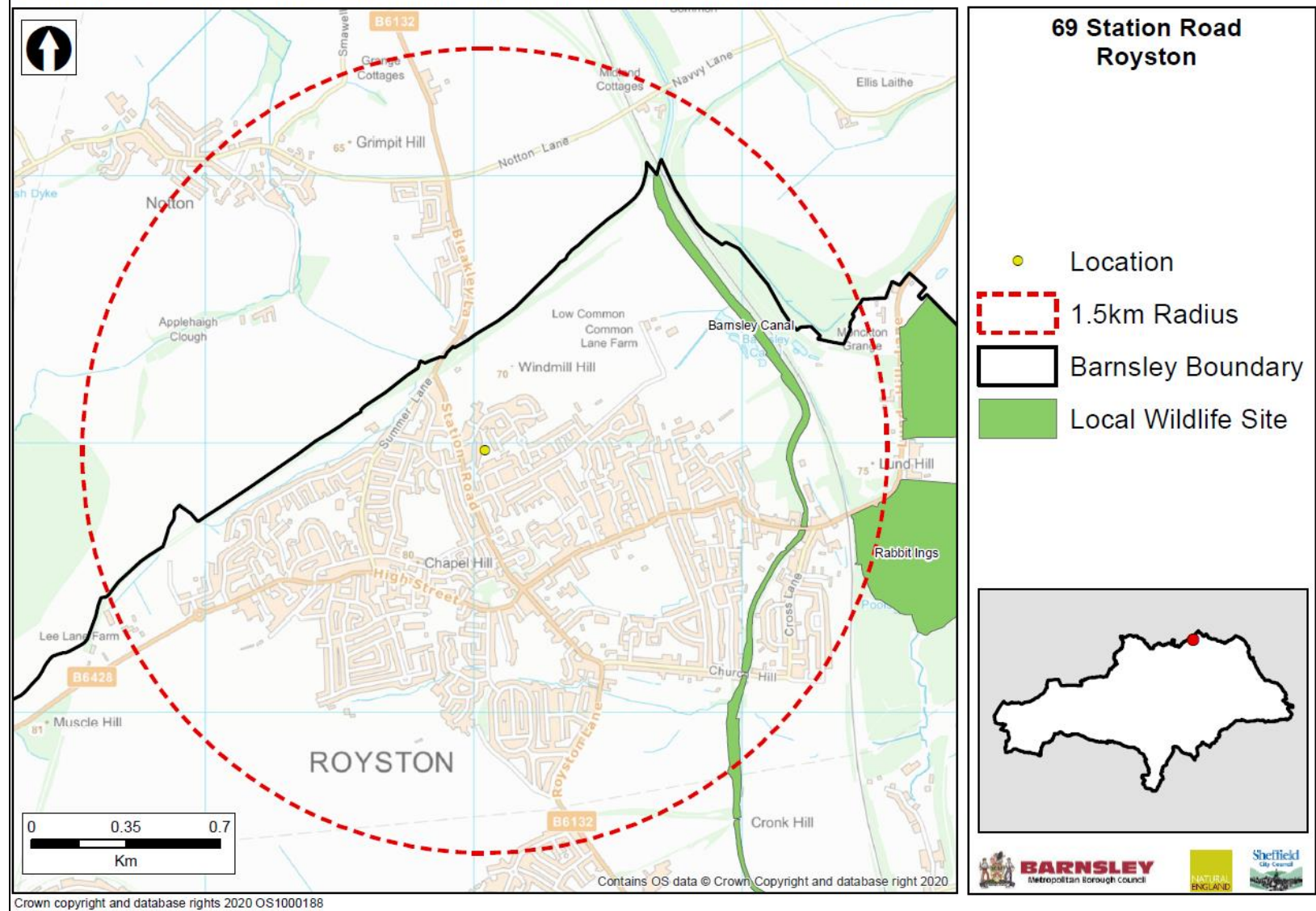
connected green spaces for all kinds of species to thrive. Planning permission should be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland.”

Local Biodiversity Action Plans

The HPI/SPI list included on Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 is supported by a series of Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs), usually set up on a local authority local authority administrative boundary basis. Each LBAP identifies those habitats and species considered to be most important in that area (usually referred to as priority habitats and species). Commonly, an LBAP will identify a number of habitats and species for which “action plans” have been prepared.

Appendix 4. Designated Sites Map

Boundaries of Statutory and Local Wildlife Sites (non-statutory) Within the Search Area



Appendix 5. Bat Records

In accordance with best practice and the requirements of bat licensing, bat records collected during surveys are supplied to the relevant biological record centres and bat groups. The records to be supplied in accordance with this survey are shown below. House names/numbers are not given out by record holding organisations except under very particular circumstances. Please let us know if you object to the distribution of these records.

Date	Species	Site Address	OS Grid Reference	Notes	No of bats
16.09.20	Common pipistrelle	69 Station Road, Royston	SE 36032 11980	Foraging	1
16.09.20	Noctule	69 Station Road, Royston	SE 36032 11980	Foraging	1
16.09.20	<i>Myotis</i> species	69 Station Road, Royston	SE 36032 11980	Foraging	1