



Ecological Impact Assessment

The Old Post Office

Tesla UK

CRM.3030.014.EC.R.001



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Ecological Impact Assessment

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Non-Technical Summary

- i. In March 2023 Enzygo Ltd was commissioned by Tesla UK (the Client) to undertake an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) of Land at The Old Post Office, 600 Huddersfield Road, Haigh, Barnsley S75 4DE (central grid reference: [SE 29871 11579]), located within the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council planning authority.
- ii. Identified impacts from the works include:
 - **Green Infrastructure and Priority Native Hedgerow** (*Boundary hedgerow priority habitat and adjacent area of woodland provide a limited extent of green infrastructure and wildlife corridor function*) – Retained hedgerow and trees to be protected and enhanced to increase the value for biodiversity. Precautionary measures will be implemented during the construction phase to protect existing tree and hedgerow habitats, including the use of protective fencing and a sensitive lighting scheme to minimise the potential for habitat degradation;
 - **Bats** (*No buildings or structures impacted by the works, and limited potential roosting features associated with boundary trees outside of redline boundary. Hedgerows and woodland area provide a limited extent of suitable foraging and commuting habitat*) – The above recommendations will serve to retain and protect suitable bat roosting, foraging and commuting habitat. No further pre-determination survey necessary in accordance with current guidance;
 - **Breeding and Priority Birds** (*Hedgerows and boundary trees provide a limited extent of suitable nesting habitat for a restricted range of nesting birds likely to be present in the local area*) – Recommended site clearance is conducted outside of the nesting season, or if necessary, within the nesting season, an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) to advise and supervise works to ensure no active nests to be affected. No further Breeding Bird Surveys deemed necessary or proportionate in this instance; and;
 - **Common Reptiles and Priority Species** (*Boundary habitats provide a limited extent of suitable shelter, refuge, and foraging habitat for other wildlife such as Common Toad, Hedgehog and Common Lizard*) – Precautionary measures to be adhered to during the construction phase to minimise the risk of killing/injury of Priority Species. No further detailed Reptile Survey deemed necessary.
- iii. No pre-determination protected species surveys or specific need for consultation with statutory consultees has been identified prior to granting of planning permissions. However, it should be confirmed with the planning officer that as recommended within this report there is no need for further considerations. Additionally, the County Ecologist should be consulted to confirm agreement with the findings of the ecology report, and scope of any protected species surveys undertaken (particularly where new or amended planning permissions are being sought), they may also wish to agree a draft.
- iv. The following works are required prior to/upon commencement of site works:
 - A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) DEFRA Metric 4.0 will demonstrate at least +10% gain in accordance with the Environment Act 2021.
- v. Additional biodiversity enhancements are outlined within this report including a landscape planting strategy, bat boxes, bird boxes, and informal deadwood hibernacula.

- vi. This report has demonstrated that, if the outlined mitigation measures are implemented in full then no significant residual impact could be expected, and the proposed application will result in 'no net loss in biodiversity' in accordance with NPPF and Local Planning Policy.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Commission

1.1.1 In March 2023 Enzygo Ltd was commissioned by Tesla UK (the Client) to undertake an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) of Land at The Old Post Office, 600 Huddersfield Road, Haigh, Barnsley S75 4DE (central grid reference: [SE 29871 11579]), located within the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council planning authority.

1.2 Proposed Development/Identification of Impacts

1.2.1 The study will inform proposals for the development of electric vehicle superchargers. A corresponding zone of influence has been considered (this includes any transboundary effects regardless of administrative areas). The proposed works will involve the installation of 12no. EV superchargers, 3no. equipment cabinets and 1no. DNO substation (to be enclosed by a 2.25m fence). All charging units are universal and can be used by any EV user. Works will require localised cutting back of boundary vegetation. This report does not assess any connection routes outside of this redline boundary.

1.2.2 Refer to Appendix A for Proposed Site Layout.

1.3 Aims and Objectives

1.3.1 The purpose of this report is to provide biodiversity information which succinctly identifies ecological features on site and within the corresponding zone of influence, confirmed impacts resulting from the proposed application, associated effect to identified ecological features, confirmed proportionate avoidance/mitigation/compensation strategies, and confirmed enhancements that will be implemented in accordance with the British Standard for Biodiversity BS42020:2013 (BSI, 2013).

1.3.2 This information will support the planning application and assist the Planning Officer in making an informed decision on whether the application can demonstrate 'no net loss in biodiversity' and a 'biodiversity net gain' in accordance with National Planning Policy Frameworks (NPPF) and Local Planning Policy.

1.3.3 This report has been produced with reference to current Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland, Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine (CIEEM, 2018), Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing (CIEEM, 2017), Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 3rd edition (Collins, 2016), Surveying for bats in trees and woodland BS8596:2015 (BSI, 2015), Reptile Survey: An introduction to planning, conducting and interpreting surveys for snake and lizard conservation (Froglife, 1999), and is in accordance with Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning and development BS42020:2013 (BSI, 2013).

1.4 Background/Acknowledgments

1.4.1 A search of the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council website has revealed no recent planning applications with ecological information pertinent to this assessment.

1.4.2 It is our understanding that to date there has been no correspondence with the County Ecologist or any statutory consultees i.e. Natural England, regarding this application.

1.4.3 There are Local Validation Requirements related to Ecology which outline when ecological surveys are required for development and provide guidance and details of further information (BMBC, 2021).

1.5 Local Planning Policy

1.5.1 The Barnsley Local Plan (BMBC, 2012) comprises a range of policies related to ecology and biodiversity, which are provided here in summary form only:

- **Policy GI1 Green Infrastructure**
- **Policy GS1 Green Space**
- **Policy BIO1 Biodiversity and Geodiversity**
- **Policy GB1 Protection of Green Belt**

1.5.2 The Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) applicable to biodiversity include the Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD (BMBC, 2019), the Trees and Hedgerows SPD (BMBC, 2019), the Barn Conversions SPD (BMBC, 2019).

1.5.3 Refer to Appendix B for relevant details of European and National Legislation, and National Planning Policy.

1.6 Site Context

1.6.1 The approximately 0.15 ha site is located within the car park of The Old Post Office – a restaurant and Public House positioned just off from junction 38 of the M1 motorway, which lies between Barnsley and Wakefield. The application site comprises existing car parking spaces located on the southern boundary of the car park, with a small area of woodland to the immediate south and south-west, a grassland area with scattered trees to the west which leads up towards the access road joining on to Huddersfield Road, The Old Post Office building to the north, and a hedgerow lining the eastern perimeter. Immediately to the east is an access track which runs parallel to the car park, beyond which is a strip of lowland mixed deciduous woodland that lines the bank of the M1 motorway. The wider area consists primarily of open agricultural land and woodland.

1.6.2 Please note that the survey area may differ from the red-line application boundary, as off-site areas may have been included where relevant to this assessment.

1.6.3 The site lies within the National Character Area 38 – Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and Yorkshire Coalfield (Natural England, 2019) which is characterised as 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.

Figure 1 – Survey Area



Image courtesy of Google Image Pro 7.3.6. Imagery date 20/05/2022, Accessed on 17/05/2023.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Desk Study

2.1.1 Desk study details were obtained from the following sources on the associated dates to provide background on ecological features in the vicinity of the site. In each case the search included the site and the specified area beyond the site boundary based on the expected zone of influence. Candidate and potential designations are considered too as these are also legally protected. Records obtained included:

- Statutory sites designated or classified under international conventions or European legislation within a 5km radius, statutory sites designated under national legislation (including Marine), Natural England GCN Pond Surveys for District Level Licensing data (and GCN Risk Zones), and existing EPS Licence applications within a 2km radius, and Priority Habitat & Ancient Woodland Inventory within a 0.5km radius [17/05/2023] (DEFRA, 2022);
- Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and Biodiversity Conservation Areas within the immediate zone of influence [17/05/2023] (BMBC, 2023);
- Waterbodies within a 0.5km radius (Online mapping sources including: Google Maps; MAGIC; and Ordnance Survey Street View, 17/05/2023); and
- Locally designated wildlife sites & any notified Local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Habitats, Legally protected species, any Priority species (which includes: National Biodiversity Species, Local BAP Species, Species of conservation concern and Red Data Book (RDB) species, Birds of Conservation Concern (BOCC), nationally rare and nationally scarce species, and OSPAR Commission list of threatened/declining species) and Invasive species (listed under section 14 of Schedule 9 only) within a 2km radius, and any important hedgerows/veteran trees within the immediate zone of influence [17/05/2023] (Sheffield City Council; West Yorkshire Joint Services; West Yorkshire Bat Group).

2.1.2 Data received has been extracted and summarised using QGIS 2.18, with original sources not extracted directly. Data has also been edited where relevant to prevent sensitive or confidential records being made public in accordance with Guidelines for Accessing, Using and Sharing Biodiversity Data in the UK (CIEEM, 2020).

2.2 Field Survey

2.2.1 Field Surveys were undertaken on the following dates by the identified staff, all of whom satisfy necessary field survey competencies as stipulated by the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). Weather conditions on the day of survey have been included and where relevant survey/class licence numbers referred to.

Table 1 – Survey Dates and Conditions

Survey	Date	Staff/Licence	Environmental Conditions
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal	24/04/2023	Melissa Finch MSc BSc (Hons) QCIEEM – Assistant Ecologist	Dry with light wind, 8°C and 90% cloud cover.

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

- 2.2.2 In accordance with Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal 2nd Edition (CIEEM, 2017) the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) survey included the following.

Mapping of Habitat Types

- 2.2.3 This assessment has utilised the UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) methodology (UKHab, 2020) as the recommended published method of habitat classification. It has been used to categorise and map the primary habitat types present within the survey area using a standard set of habitat categories, with associated secondary codes/features identified where applicable. Details of current management and habitat condition have also been recorded where appropriate.
- 2.2.4 Each of the main habitats has been described; including details of component plant species abundances (recorded using the DAFOR scale: D=Dominant, A=Abundant, F=Frequent, O=Occasional, R=Rare). Additionally, any stands of non-native invasive plant species were recorded. Habitat extents have been visually mapped onto a topographic plan, with approximate location/areas recorded only (a GPS unit has not been utilised to accurately recorded these).

Assessment of possible presence/likely importance for Protected & Priority Species

- 2.2.5 An assessment of the possible presence of protected or priority species, and the likely importance of habitat features present for such species has also been undertaken, particularly where uncommon or specialised habitats are present in accordance with current PEA guidelines (CIEEM, 2017). However, no specific protected species survey has been undertaken unless listed under additional surveys as below. Any incidental sightings of protected or priority species, or field signs of such species has also been recorded. Species assessed include: Plants; Terrestrial invertebrates; Amphibians; Reptiles; Breeding, wintering and migratory birds; Bats (including potential roost sites, foraging and commuting habitats/features), Badger, and Other mammal species.

Additional Surveys

- 2.2.6 No additional surveys have been undertaken.

2.3 Assessment

- 2.3.1 A level of importance has been assigned to each ecological feature, where sufficient baseline data is available to do so, in accordance with current guidance (CIEEM, 2018). This is defined within a geographical context as follows: International and European; National; Regional; Metropolitan, County, vice-county or other local authority-wide area; River Basin District; Estuarine system/Coastal cell; and Local (plus Negligible where no associated value has been identified). For example, importance of designated sites reflects the geographical context of the designation (where designated sites no longer meet designation criteria and those formally 'de-notified' OR where an undesignated site meets published selection criteria must also be considered). When considering habitats and species contextual information about distribution and abundance of that habitat/species in the area must be considered (if the habitat/species status is currently in a degraded or unfavourable condition its potential value should be considered).
- 2.3.2 The assessment then considers potential impacts (both positive and negative) generated during the construction and operational phase of the proposed application. Only impacts that are likely

to be significant are considered. Impacts that are either unlikely to occur, or if they did occur are unlikely to be significant, are not considered.

- 2.3.3 Cumulative impacts are then considered where the application meets criteria in accordance with national EIA screening guidance (GOV.UK, 2019), and where agreed with the competent authority during scoping. This takes into consideration existing background levels of threat or pressure, looks at critical thresholds, and assess both additive/incremental and associated/connected impacts and effects.
- 2.3.4 Relevant aspects of ecological structure and function are then considered when determining if identified impacts will have a significant effect upon ecological features. Where necessary, this assessment utilises information from other specialists i.e. air quality, hydrology etc, to determine the level of impact. In accordance with current guidance (CIEEM, 2018) these are described using the following characteristics, where relevant: positive or negative; extent; magnitude; duration; frequency and timing; and reversibility.
- 2.3.5 The mitigation hierarchy is then explored in accordance with BS42020:2013 (BSI, 2013). This seeks as a preference to avoid impacts, then to mitigate unavoidable impacts, and as a last resort, to compensate for unavoidable residual impacts that remain after avoidance and mitigation measures. Justification has been provided by the client/their planner where the mitigation hierarchy cannot be followed, or for example where compensation is a preferred approach where the competent authority has adopted a County wide strategy i.e. District Level Licensing Schemes (GOV.UK, 2019). In this instance current national Biodiversity Offsetting guidance has also been consulted (GOV.UK, 2019). Additional information has also been provided by the client/their planner where the applicant wishes to demonstrate exceptional circumstances or where they wish to pursue alternative strategies. Any residual impacts following mitigation measures etc are then identified.
- 2.3.6 All mitigation measures follow species specific current best practice guidance and the source has been identified accordingly. Deviation from guidance has been explained by the ecologist and is proportionate to the predicted degree of risk to biodiversity and to the nature and scale of the proposed works.
- 2.3.7 It is important that planning decisions are based on up-to-date ecological data, and the specific timeframe over which survey data is considered valid should follow general advice (CIEEM, 2019). Although it should be noted that the presence/absence and status of protected species can change seasonally/annually. The age of data should also be assessed separately when considering the submission of an EPS Licence (i.e. Natural England may require data to be from the current season).
- 2.3.8 Local Environmental Records Centres (LERC) issue a licence for use of provided biodiversity data for 1 year only, after which time this should be renewed to validate an application (and reports updated accordingly to incorporate any new records). Following completion of surveys all relevant biodiversity data will be submitted to the relevant LERC and other groups as appropriate.

2.4 Limitations

- 2.4.1 Data held by consultees may not be exhaustive. The absence of evidence, does not indicate evidence of absence. Enzygo cannot take responsibility for the accuracy of external data sources and as such discrepancies and inaccuracies may occur.
- 2.4.2 Natural England do not hold information of Ancient Woodland less than 2ha in size.

- 2.4.3 Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council do not have the locations of important hedgerows or veteran trees available for public access on their website.
- 2.4.4 Records over 10 years old for transient species (as these are likely to have moved during the interim) and species protected from sale only under the W&C Act 1981 and amendments, are excluded (as these are not relevant to a planning application). Additionally, given the large number of priority species, these have only been included if identified from the desk study and/or habitats recorded on site have been assessed as providing suitable conditions.
- 2.4.5 Sites designated for Landscape or Geological reasons have not been included within this report.
- 2.4.6 The Habitat Survey was undertaken at an optimal time of year when a large proportion of floral species are visible, and habitats can be easily classified.
- 2.4.7 This document does not contain a comprehensive list of botanical species on site. Only plant species characteristic of each habitat and incidental observations of notable plant species were recorded. In addition, many plant species are only evident at certain times of the year and so some plant species may have gone undetected.
- 2.4.8 All areas of the site were fully accessible.



3.0 Baseline Ecological Conditions


3.1.1 Ecological features identified by the desk study/field survey are presented below, along with their details and associated ecological value. Refer to Drawing CRM.3030.014.EC.D.001 for the location/extent of ecological features where relevant.

Table 2 – Ecological Features

Ecological Feature	Details	Ecological Importance
Statutory sites designated or classified under international conventions or European legislation		
Denby Grange Colliery Ponds Special Area of Conservation (SAC) 4.25km NW	Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: - Great crested newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>).	European
Statutory sites designated under national legislation (& Impact Risk Zones)		
SSSI IRZ	LPA should consult Natural England on likely risks from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airports, helipads, and other aviation proposals. • Any industrial/agricultural development that could cause AIR POLLUTION (Incl: industrial processes, livestock & poultry units with floorspace > 500m², slurry lagoons & digestate stores > 750m², manure stores > 3500t). • General combustion processes >50MW energy input. Incl: energy from waste incineration, other incineration, landfill gas generation plant, pyrolysis/gasification, anaerobic digestion, sewage treatment works, other incineration/ combustion. • Any discharge of water or liquid waste of more than 20m³/day to ground (i.e. to seep away) or to surface water, such as a beck or stream. 	N/A <i>Proposals do not meet the criteria for which consultation with Natural England is required.</i>
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)		
Bretton Country Park LNR 775m North	Bretton Country Park is a 39.56 Ha LNR comprising a mixture of habitats, including wetland and mixed and deciduous woodland. Section of River Dearne flows through the park, which is frequented by Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>) and Grey Wagtail (<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>). Bretton Lakes is used by overwintering wildfowl.	County

England HPI, Local BAP Habitats, Ancient Woodland, Important Hedgerows, Veteran Trees, TPOs and Conservation Areas		
Deciduous Woodland HPI 180m North	There is approximately 4.47 Ha of deciduous woodland priority habitat within a 500m radius of the site, predominantly situated within and around the Huddersfield Road roundabout to the north, which connects with the M1 motorway.	Local
Ancient Woodland HPI	There is no ancient woodland within a 500m radius of the site.	N/A
Tree Preservation Orders	Barnsley Council Interactive Planning Map has revealed no nearby TPOs.	N/A
Conservation Area	Barnsley Council Interactive Planning Map has shown that the site does not lie within a Conservation Area.	N/A
Green/Blue & Aquatic Infrastructure, Dark Zones, and Local Policy		
Green Infrastructure	Habitats immediately outside of the redline boundary including the boundary woodland to the south, modified grassland to the west, and hedgerow to the east provide a limited extent of green infrastructure function. The broadleaved woodland to the immediate east (bordering the M1 motorway) provides further green infrastructure and wildlife corridor function, connecting with agricultural fields, hedgerows, and mature trees to the south. Predominantly bare ground habitats within the redline boundary do not provide or contribute to any green infrastructure function.	Local
Blue Infrastructure	The River Dearne flows to the north and east of the site and is located 175m east of the site at its closest point. The M1 motorway and associated road network are situated between the site and the watercourse, restricting hydrological connectivity. There are three main waterbodies within a 500m radius of the site, including 200m south-east, 326m east, and 400m north. Again, roads form significant barriers between the site and the ponds, limiting hydrological connectivity.	Negligible
Dark Zones	Although the site is situated in a rural area, it likely features artificial light overspill from the adjacent M1 motorway and the A637. In accordance with the standard guidance specified in the Guidance Notes for Reduction of Obtrusive Lighting (Institution of Lighting Professionals, 2020), the application site likely falls under Environmental Zone E3 (Sub-urban – Medium district brightness).	Negligible

Habitat Types		
<p>Developed Land Sealed Surface (u1b)</p> 	<p>The majority of the site is a hardstanding tarmac and comprises an access road and car parking area to the south. This habitat remains significantly disturbed with no notable associated vegetation assemblage.</p> <p>Developed land sealed surface does not represent a local or UK BAP Priority habitat.</p>	<p>Negligible</p>
<p>Modified Grassland (g4)</p> 	<p>There is a thin strip of managed species-poor modified grassland lining the northern boundary of the area of car park to be developed. The grassland features abundant Yorkshire Fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>) and Perennial Rye Grass (<i>Lolium perenne</i>), with frequent Dandelion (<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>), and occasional Common Ragwort (<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>), Common Nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>), Doves Foot Cranes Bill (<i>Geranium molle</i>), Herb Robert (<i>Geranium robertianum</i>), Daisy (<i>Bellis perennis</i>), Wavy Bittercress (<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>), Greater Plantain (<i>Plantago major</i>), and Ribwort Plantain (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>).</p> <p>Modified grassland does not represent a local or UK BAP Priority habitat.</p>	<p>Negligible</p>

<p>Hedgerow (Priority Habitat) (h2a)</p> 	<p>A managed native priority hedgerow borders the site to the east. This hedgerow appears regularly harshly cut and was approximately 0.5 high by 0.5m wide at the time of survey. No bank, ditch or wall is associated with it, nor any standard trees.</p> <p>It comprises abundant Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>) and Blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>), with occasional Elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>), and Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>), and rare Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>), Bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>), and White Poplar (<i>Populus alba</i>). At ground-level, species observed include frequent Doves Foot Cranes Bill, Garlic Mustard (<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>), Cleavers (<i>Galium aparine</i>), and Common Nettle, with occasional Herb Robert, Dandelion, Common Nipplewort (<i>Lapsana communis</i>), and Spear Thistle (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>), and rare Wild Lettuce (<i>Lactuca virosa</i>).</p> <p>Native priority hedgerow does represent a local and UK BAP Priority habitat.</p>	<p>Local</p>
<p>Legally Protected & Priority Species (& Functionally Linked Land [FLL], Core Sustenance/Consultation Zones [CSZ/CZ] where applicable)</p>		
<p>Bats, Buildings/Structures</p>	<p>There are no buildings or structures within the redline boundary to be assessed for roosting bats.</p>	<p>Negligible</p>
<p>Bats, Tree PRFs</p>	<p>Whilst there are no trees within the redline boundary that could support roosting bats, there are mature trees in the immediate surrounds that could support Preliminary Roosting Features (PRFs), including woodland to the south and east, as well as free-standing mature trees.</p> <p>MAGIC Maps returned four granted EPS licences for bats within a 2km radius of the site, with the closest being 1.78km northwest. Licences were for Common Pipistrelle (2015-7685-EPS-MIT), and Common Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle (2016-23324-EPS-MIT), (2016-23324-EPS-MIT1), (2016-23324-EPIs-MIT2).</p> <p>The data search returned records of Common Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>), Soprano Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>), Noctule (<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>), Lesser Noctule (<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>), Brown Long-eared Bat (<i>Plecotus auritus</i>), and <i>Myotis spp.</i> within a 2km radius, with the closest being 1.5km southeast.</p>	<p>Local</p>
<p>Bats, Foraging/commuting/FLL & CSZ</p>	<p>There are no habitats within the redline boundary providing any notable potential for foraging and commuting bats. However, offsite mature trees and adjacent areas of woodland and hedgerow offer suitability for foraging and commuting bats and connects with more suitable habitat in the wider area.</p>	<p>Local</p>

<p>Badger, Setts, foraging/commuting & social</p>	<p>No evidence of Badger identified on site or within immediately adjacent habitats. The hardstanding habitat onsite is wholly unsuitable for the Eurasian Badger (<i>Meles meles</i>) sett creation, and the site is isolated within a major road network, impairing suitability for foraging and commuting. Agricultural fields and hedgerows to the south may provide suitability for this species, but it is significantly unlikely that they would access the site due to frequent disturbances and a lack of attractive habitat features.</p> <p>There is one record of Badger from 2016 located >1.5km southeast, though the exact location is kept confidential to protect this specie's whereabouts.</p>	<p>Negligible</p>
<p>Dormouse</p>	<p>The boundary hedgerows provide limited suitable habitat for Dormouse, however, the site is in an area of the Country where this species is significantly rare, if not extinct.</p> <p>No records of Dormouse returned in the data search.</p>	<p>Negligible</p>
<p>Otter and Water Vole</p>	<p>No watercourses or waterbodies within or immediately adjacent to the site, and no habitats suitable for Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) or Water Vole (<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>).</p> <p>One record of Otter from within a 2km radius in the past 10 years, located 1.25km northwest. No records of Water Vole within a 2km radius in the past 10 years.</p>	<p>Negligible</p>
<p>Mammals, Other Protected</p>	<p>The hardstanding habitat onsite provides negligible suitability for other protected mammals.</p> <p>No records of any other protected species of mammal within a 2km radius of the site.</p>	<p>Negligible</p>
<p>Birds, Specially Protected</p>	<p>The hardstanding habitat onsite provides negligible suitability for Schedule 1 specially protected birds, and there are no features which may attract species such as Kingfisher, who require riparian habitat, and Barn Owl, who favour rough tussocky grassland with high numbers of small mammal prey. In addition, there is an abundance of more suitable habitat in the wider area.</p> <p>The local record centre returned records Barn Owl (<i>Tyto alba</i>), Brambling (<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>), Fieldfare (<i>Turdus pilaris</i>), Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>), Green Sandpiper (<i>Tringa ochropus</i>), Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>), Hobby (<i>Falco subbuteo</i>), Kingfisher, Little Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius dubius</i>), Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>), Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>), Red Kite (<i>Milvus milvus</i>), Redwing (<i>Turdus iliacus</i>), and Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>).</p>	<p>Negligible</p>

<p>Birds, Breeding & Priority</p>	<p>Whilst the predominantly hardstanding habitats onsite provide negligible value to breeding and priority birds, habitats bordering the site such as the hedgerow to the east, individual trees, and areas of woodland to the south and east are potentially suitable for some species.</p> <p>The local record centre returned records of UK BAP and Local BAP species, including Cuckoo (<i>Cuculus canorus</i>), Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>), Grey Partridge (<i>Perdix perdix</i>), House Sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>), Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>), Reed Bunting (<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>), Kestrel (<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>), and Yellowhammer (<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>).</p>	<p>Local</p>
<p>Birds, Ground/Farmland</p>	<p>The regularly disturbed and enclosed hardstanding habitat onsite provides negligible suitability for ground-nesting and farmland birds. In addition, there is an abundance of more suitable habitat in the wider area.</p> <p>The local record centre returned records of ground-nesting and farmland birds, such as Lapwing and Curlew, which are described in the above Breeding and Priority section.</p>	<p>Negligible</p>
<p>Birds, Wintering/Migratory & FLL</p>	<p>The hardstanding habitat and the limited size of the site provides negligible suitability for wintering and migratory bird species. In addition, there is an abundance of more suitable habitat in the wider area.</p> <p>The local record centre returned records of wintering and migratory birds, such as the Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>); all others are described in the above bird sections according to designations.</p>	<p>Negligible</p>
<p>Reptiles, Common</p>	<p>The predominantly hardstanding habitats onsite offer negligible suitability for Common Reptiles, however neighbouring habitats such as woodland and hedgerow may provide limited opportunities for these species.</p> <p>The local record centre returned records of Common Lizard (<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>), with the closest being 630m east.</p>	<p>Local</p>
<p>Great Crested Newt</p>	<p>GCN presence at the site is considered to be significantly unlikely as no watercourses or waterbodies are present within or near to the site to support reproductive behaviour (i.e. no ponds within an unobstructed 500m radius), and no terrestrial habitats onsite providing any notable extent of suitable foraging, shelter or refuge for GCN.</p>	<p>Negligible</p>

	The data search returned no records of GCN within 2km of the site form the past 10 years. MAGIC Maps indicated that a pond 1.94km northwest tested positive for GCN DNA in 2015.	
Herpetofauna, Other Protected	No suitable habitats onsite for other protected species of Herpetofauna, and no records returned in the local data search.	Negligible
Fish/Marine, Protected	No watercourses or waterbodies within or immediately adjacent to the site, and no habitats suitable for protected species of fish. The local data search returned no records of protected fish species.	Negligible
White-clawed Crayfish	No watercourses or waterbodies within or immediately adjacent to the site, and no habitats suitable for White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>). The local data search returned records of White-clawed Crayfish, with the closest record being 1.14km northwest.	Negligible
Invertebrates, Protected	The predominantly hardstanding habitats onsite provide negligible suitability for protected species of invertebrate. The data search returned no records of protected invertebrates within 2km of the site.	Negligible
Flora, Protected	No protected species of flora were identified during the survey, and no specific opportunities for colonisation due to the site being predominantly hardstanding. There are records of Bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>) (Schedule 8, in respect of section 13(2) only) within 2km of the site.	Negligible
Invasive Flora	No species of invasive flora were identified during the survey. There are records of Canadian Waterweed (<i>Elodea canadensis</i>), Himalayan Balsam (<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>), Rhododendron (<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>), Japanese Knotweed (<i>Fallopia japonica</i>) within 2km of the site.	Negligible

<p>Invasive Fauna</p>	<p>No invasive fauna was observed during the survey, and the habitats onsite offer no specific opportunities for these species.</p> <p>The local records search returned records of American Mink (<i>Neovison vison</i>) and Signal Crayfish (<i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i>) within 2km of the site, but no watercourses on or near to the site to support these species.</p>	<p>Negligible</p>
<p>Priority Flora</p>	<p>No priority flora was observed during the survey, and no records returned in the data search.</p>	<p>Negligible</p>
<p>Priority Invertebrates</p>	<p>The predominantly hardstanding habitats onsite offer little value to priority invertebrates, however, boundary hedgerows, grassland, scrub, and woodland may provide a limited extent of suitable habitat for these species.</p> <p>The local records search returned records of Small Heath (<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>), Dingy Skipper (<i>Erynnis tages</i>), Cinnabar (<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>), Latticed Heath (<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>), Shaded Broad-bar (<i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>), and Small Blue (<i>Cupido minimus</i>).</p>	<p>Local</p>
<p>Priority Amphibians</p>	<p>There are no waterbodies on or near to the site to attract priority species of amphibians, however species such as Common Frog (<i>Rana temporaria</i>) may be present in the adjacent agricultural land and utilise hedgerows and woodland for foraging and commuting.</p> <p>The local records search returned records of Common Frog and Common Toad (<i>Bufo bufo</i>) within a 2km radius from the past 10 years.</p>	<p>Local</p>
<p>Priority Mammals</p>	<p>Whilst the predominantly hardstanding habitats onsite offer little value to priority mammals, adjacent habitats such as the hedgerow, grassland, fields, and woodland may support these species, and the site may be used for foraging and commuting.</p> <p>The local data search returned records of West European Hedgehog (<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>) and Brown Hare (<i>Lepus europaeus</i>).</p>	<p>Local</p>

4.0 Assessment and Mitigation

- 4.1.1 Assessment of impacts and the associated ecological effect to identified ecological features are presented below. To clarify, ecological features have been screened out where these are of negligible importance, no likely significant impacts have been identified or where impact is unlikely to occur i.e., no impacts to stat sites/wider woodland etc as no recreation pressure/air pollution etc. The proposals are of a type, scale and distance that any direct or indirect construction or operational impacts on the other identified ecological features are reasonably discounted. Specifically, no impacts of the proposals have been identified on Denby Grange Colliery Ponds SAC to the north-west, with no potential direct or indirect impacts identified on the qualifying Great Crested Newt population (e.g. hydrological connectivity between the site and SAC). It is considered that a separate Stage 1 Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is not necessary in this instance in order to confirm that there are no likely significant effects of the proposals on the qualifying features of the Denby Grange Colliery Ponds SAC. Mitigation measures can be subject of a condition where appropriate.
- 4.1.2 Enzygo Ltd are not considered to act as a Principal Designer for any mitigation/enhancement strategies identified within this document, in accordance with the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CITB, 2016). It is our understanding that the client has confirmed all site conditions, including geology & hydrology etc as necessary, to ensure the proposals are feasible, and consulted with landscape & building architects etc where relevant.

Table 3 – Assessment of effect and mitigation measures

Ecological Feature	Impact	Avoidance/Mitigation	Compensation	Significance of Residual Effect
Green Infrastructure and Priority Native Hedgerow	Risk of loss, damage and/or degradation of adjacent green infrastructure and priority hedgerow habitat. <i>Minor adverse, permanent, reversible impact.</i>	All retained trees and hedgerow and trees shall be protected in accordance with BS5837:2012 <i>Trees in relation to design, demolition, and construction. Recommendations</i> , including installing and maintaining appropriate protection fencing (to be informed Arboricultural Impact Assessment). All contractors are to be made aware of the purpose of the fencing, with signage used where necessary, and no works are to occur beyond this established boundary, including no storage of materials or machinery. In addition, to avoid potential degradation of these habitats through excessive artificial lighting overspill, a sensitive lighting scheme shall be implemented making use of suitable products such as directional, low-level, capped, screened and/or low-lux lighting.	None required.	No significant effect anticipated.

Ecological Feature	Impact	Avoidance/Mitigation	Compensation	Significance of Residual Effect
Bats	<p>Risk of loss and/or degradation of suitable bat foraging and commuting habitat.</p> <p><i>Minor adverse, permanent, reversible impact.</i></p>	<p>The protection measures highlighted above in relation to physical protection and lighting will minimise the risk of degradation of the suitable bat foraging and commuting habitats. The lighting scheme should be designed in accordance with the recent guidance <i>Bats and artificial lighting in the UK</i> (Institute of Lighting Professionals, 2018).</p> <p>No specific mitigation or survey is required to inform the proposals.</p>	None required.	No significant effect anticipated.
Breeding and Priority Birds	<p>Risk of disturbance of nesting birds during construction phase.</p> <p><i>Minor adverse, temporary, irreversible impact. (no significant loss of habitat)</i></p>	<p>To avoid an offence being committed in respect of nesting birds, vegetation clearance will be planned to be conducted outside of the bird nesting season (March to August inclusive), where possible. If it is necessary to undertake these works during the bird nesting season, a suitably trained ECoW would supervise the clearance to ensure no active nests are affected. If any active nests are detected, an appropriate protection area around the nest(s) will be established until it can be determined that the nest is longer active.</p> <p>Considering the size and nature of the proposals, no further pre-determination survey is necessary to inform this assessment.</p>	None required.	No significant effect anticipated.

Ecological Feature	Impact	Avoidance/Mitigation	Compensation	Significance of Residual Effect
<p>Common Reptiles and Priority Species</p>	<p>Low risk of killing/injury of individual numbers of common reptiles and other priority species during the construction phase.</p> <p><i>Minor adverse, temporary, irreversible impact.</i></p>	<p>To minimise the low risk of killing/injury of common reptiles and other Priority Species, vegetation clearance should be undertaken in an ecologically sensitive manner under the supervision of an ECoW. In each instance, an ecologist will check any potential habitats/refugia immediately prior to clearance. Vegetation will then be cut/felled to a height of 0.15m to encourage any wildlife present to move outside of the working area. Any remaining wildlife shall be carefully moved to the safety of suitable off-site refugia by the ECoW, using gloves and a clean bucket as necessary. The cut habitats and any remaining refuge habitats will again be checked by the ECoW prior to the stripping of topsoil.</p> <p>Construction phase to implement a series of best practice precautionary measures to minimise the risk of killing/injury of wildlife by avoiding leaving open any pits or trenches in which wildlife may become trapped. Any trenches or pits in which wildlife may become trapped should either be covered, infilled, or a suitable means of escape provided (e.g., plank of wood) overnight.</p> <p>Considering the significantly low potential for common reptiles and the limited scale of the development, a precautionary approach is considered reasonable and realistic in this instance. it is not considered any detailed further Reptile Survey is required in this instance to inform the assessment of potential impacts or design of appropriate mitigation.</p>	<p>None required.</p>	<p>No significant effect anticipated.</p>

5.0 Enhancement and Monitoring

5.1.1 Opportunities for biodiversity enhancement (above and beyond those required to mitigate for any identified impacts) have been determined through consideration of: Ecological Features identified on site and within the zone of influence; Historical records of protected species/habitats present within the locality; National and Local planning policy including National and Local Biodiversity habitats/species; Local Development Plans including consideration of Green/Blue Infrastructure Resource; Consultation with third parties/stakeholders where applicable; and Other influencing factors such as underlying Geology/Hydrology, intended operational activities, and existing disturbance activities within the locality. This makes specific reference to Biodiversity Net Gain, Good practice principles for development (CIEEM, IEMA, CIRA, 2019).

5.1.2 In accordance with the Environment Act 2021 there is a requirement to demonstrate at least +10% biodiversity net gain, and a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) calculation i.e., DEFRA 4.0 metric, may be requested. The following enhancements, in combination with the above-described mitigation measures, will demonstrate an overall net gain for biodiversity. Additional biodiversity enhancements will include the following. The specific location and details of the proposals can be detailed within a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy (BES) in accordance with BS42020:2013 if necessary.

Table 4 – Enhancement and Monitoring

Ecological Feature	Enhancement & Monitoring
Landscape Planting	The landscape planting scheme shall incorporate a range of native species and species which are known to be of value to wildlife and which are suitable to the site location and conditions. Planting should be focussed on complementing and contributing to the existing value of boundary hedgerows and woodland, providing enhanced habitat connectivity and wildlife corridor function at the site.
Bat boxes	To provide enhancement opportunities for nesting birds the development will incorporate bird nest boxes suitable for a range of species likely to present at the developed site (e.g., House Sparrow, Starling etc.). Boxes should be positioned 2.5 to 5 metres above ground level, away from major sources of human disturbance.
Bird boxes	To provide enhancement opportunities for roosting bats the development will incorporate provision of bat roost boxes. The boxes should be positioned 2.5 to 5 metres above ground level, away from major sources of human disturbance and artificial lighting and should face onto suitable foraging and commuting habitats (e.g., retained hedgerows and new landscape planting).
Deadwood Hibernacula	Informal deadwood hibernacula are to be created at the site boundaries to provide enhanced refuge, shelter, and hibernation opportunities for a range of wildlife including small mammals, common amphibians, and invertebrates. The woody arisings from required tree/shrub clearance would provide suitable materials for the creation of these piles rather than any requirement to import materials.

5.1.3 No post-determination monitoring is currently required.

5.1.4 To comply with guidance set out in BS42020:2013, a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) which includes consideration of biodiversity would normally be produced prior to the commencement of construction activities, including site clearance works. However, due to the limited number of ecological features identified, this EclA report (specifically the mitigation details outlined within section 4.0) will sufficiently serve to advise site contractors of any measures necessary to avoid/mitigate impacts to any protected habitat/species. A Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) would also normally be produced prior to operation

of the site. Again, due to the limited features that will be incorporated into the landscape, this will not be produced.

6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1.1 Suitable mitigation measures can be incorporated into the proposed application to avoid/ mitigate/ compensate any potential impacts to ecological features and to demonstrate 'no biodiversity net loss' in accordance with NPPF and local planning policy. As such, no significant residual impact can be expected which would prevent determination of a planning application or development of this site.
- 6.1.2 Additionally, the site re-development allows the opportunity to provide local enhancements to demonstrate a 'biodiversity net gain'.

7.0 References

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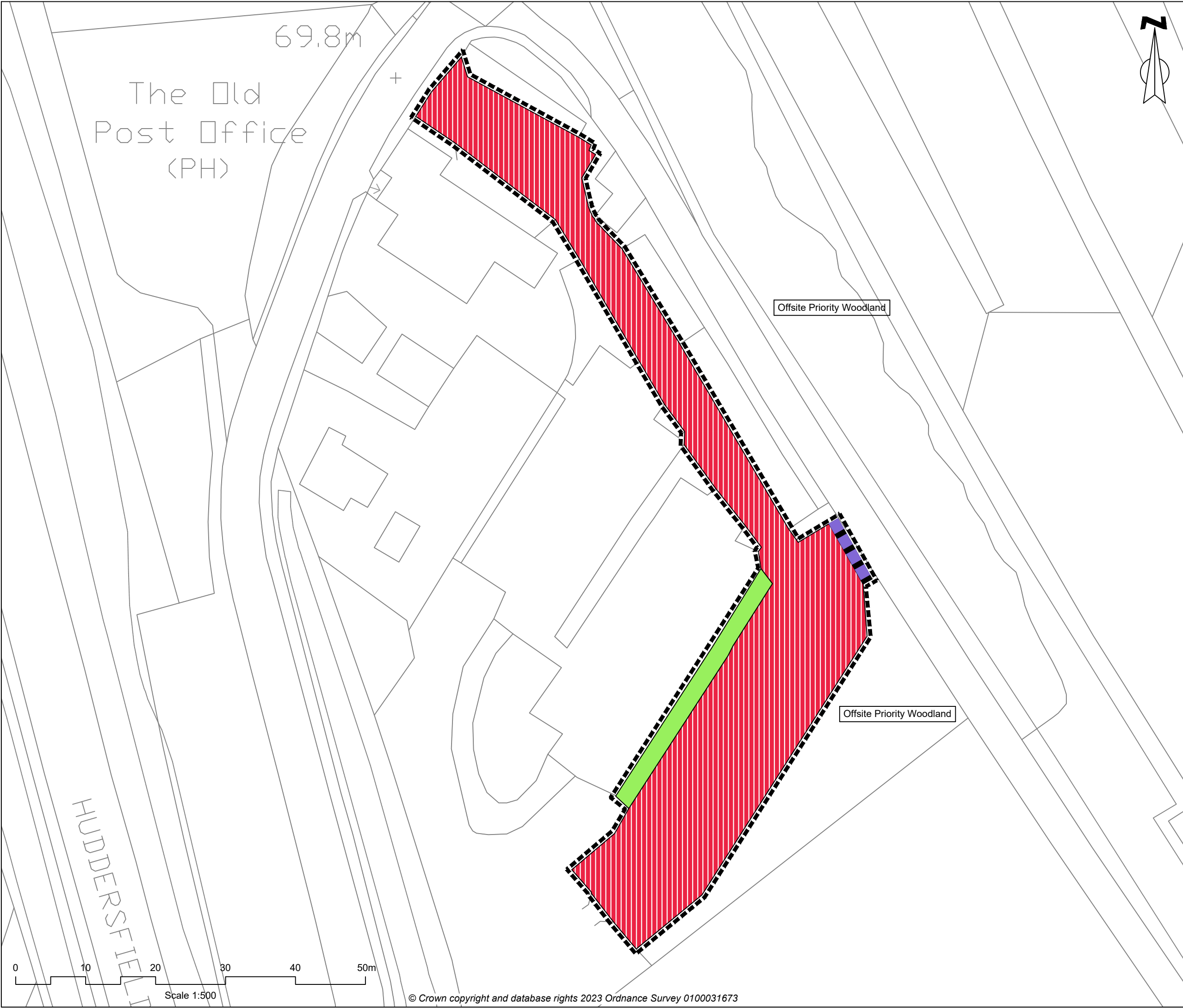
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Drawing CRM.3030.014.EC.D.001 – Habitat Map



Key

- Site Boundary
- Developed Land, Sealed Surface (u1b)
- Modified Grassland (g4)
- Hedgerow (Priority Habitat) (h2a)



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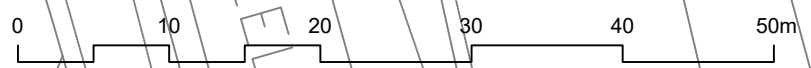
SCALE: **1:500@A3** PROJECT REF: **CRM.3030.014**

DRAWN: **SD** CHECKED: **MF** DATE: **May 2023**

PROJECT:
The Old Post Office

TITLE:
UK Habitat Classification Map

DRAWING NO:
CRM.3030.014.EC.D.001



Scale 1:500

Appendix A – Proposed Site Layout

Appendix B – Legislation and National Planning Policy

Wildlife legislation and policy relevant (or potentially relevant pending further survey) to the proposed works, based on the findings of the desk study and field survey are set out below. This legal information is a summary only, and the original legal documents should be consulted for definitive information.

Legislation Protection Afforded to Sites/Habitats that could Potentially be Affected by the Proposed Works

Designated Site/Habitat	Legal Status
-	-

Legislation Protection Afforded to Species that could Potentially be Affected by the Proposed Works

Species	Legal Status
European Protected	
Bats	<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"> • 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>
Nationally Protected	
Bats	<p>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:</p> <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.

Species	Legal Status
Nesting Birds (general)	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.
Common Reptiles (e.g., Viviparous Lizard, Grass Snake and Slow-worm)	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.
Wild Mammals	The Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 makes it illegal to mutilate, kick, beat, nail, or otherwise impale, stab, burn, stone, drown, crush, drag or asphyxiate any wild mammal with intent to inflict unnecessary suffering.

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (the NERC Act) places a legal duty on public bodies, including planning authorities, to ‘have regard’ to the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their normal functions, which includes consideration of planning applications.

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), of which there are 56 habitats and 943 species. The HPI/SPI list is used to guide planning authorities in implementing their duty under the NERC Act.

National Planning Policy

The NPPF (2021) set out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development.

The NPPF states that:

‘To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

- Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping-stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and
- promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.’

‘When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

- if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
- development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;

- development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists;
- development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate

'The following should be given the same protection as European sites:

- potential Special Protection Areas (SPA) and possible Special Areas of Conservation (SAC);
- listed of proposed Ramsar Sites; and,
- site identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on European sites, potential SPAs, possible SACs, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.'

The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on European sites (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), unless an appropriate assessment has concluded that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the habitats site.'



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