Crest Nicholson

Pit Lane, Wombwell

ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Report Reference Number: FE302/EcIA01

May 2025

Please note that the report is likely to be valid for a period of 12 months[1]. Where specific protected species surveys are undertaken the validation period of these surveys differs and must be considered carefully when utilising the data present within this report. For example, bat nocturnal emergency surveys are likely to be valid for a period of two seasons (a season being May – September) to support a planning application though to apply for a European Protected Species Licence surveys must be up to date and should be conducted in the current or most recent optimal survey season.

Futures Ecology Ltd
Carrwood Park, Swillington Common Farm, Selby Rd, Leeds LS15 4LG

Company Number: 12125083

REV	Issue Status	Author or Reviewer	Name & Qualifications	Position	Date
-	Draft 1	Author	K. Haymes MCIEEM, BSc (Hons)	Senior Ecologist	17.04.2025
		Reviewer	M. Baker ACIEEM, MSc, BSc (Hons)	Senior Ecologist	08.05.2025

[1] https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Advice-Note.pdf

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APPENDICES

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 An Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) was undertaken following published guidelines on the likely effects upon biodiversity as a result of development proposals. The assessment draws from a desk study and field surveys of the Site and surrounding area.

1.2 Development proposals include a residential development with associated drainage, landscaping and access.

1.3 The assessment identified the following ecological features which could be affected by proposals or warrant consideration due to the legal protection afforded them:

- Dearne Valley Wetlands Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);
- Wombwell Wood Local Wildlife Site (LWS);
- Habitats of Principle Importance (HPIs) within 1km;
- Ancient Woodland within 1km;
- Semi-natural broadleaved woodland;
- Native hedgerows;
- Treeline TL1;
- Badger *Meles meles*;
- Bat species assemblage;
- Breeding bird assemblage;
- Overwintering bird assempblage
- Grass snake *Natrix natrix*; and
- Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*.

1.4 No impacts are expected on Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI following the implementation of a sustainable urban drainage system (SuDS) and best practise working methods employed during construction phase, to be outlined in a **Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).**

1.5 Impacts during construction to retained habitats (hedgerows, trees, broadleaved woodland) and sensitive offsite designated sites / habitats (Wombwell Wood LWS, HPIs, Ancient Woodland) will be minimised through the careful control of construction activities through industry best practice and outlined within a CEMP.

1.6 Hedgerow losses will be required to facilitate the development. This will be offset through long-term habitat enhancements and compensatory planting. This will be outlined in a **Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP)**.

1.7 An **updated badger survey** will be carried out prior to works commencing on-site. In order to minimise risk to species such as badger and hedgehog, precautionary working methods are provided in this document.

1.8 Mitigation is required to avoid impacts from lighting on the retained / newly created habitats within the Site during the construction and operational phases of the development. A **sensitive lighting strategy** will be required.

1.9 To comply with relevant legislation, any removal of vegetation should be timed to avoid the bird nesting season where possible (March to September inclusive, although dates do vary depending on the species and weather conditions) or appropriate ecological clerk of works checks undertaken prior to clearance.

1.10 **Precautionary working methods** adopted during the construction phase will minimise impacts to protected / notable faunal species, including grass snake, birds and hedgehog.

1.11 The inclusion of compensation and biodiversity enhancements is provided within Sections 6 and 10 of this report to maximise the biodiversity value of the Site.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The following report has been prepared by Futures Ecology Ltd. on behalf of Crest Nicholson. It provides the results of an extended Phase 1 habitat survey and preliminary protected species survey at land south of Pit Lane, Wombwell, Barnsley (grid reference: SE 38710 02811).

2.2 The Phase 1 habitat survey and preliminary protected species surveys were undertaken on 5th July 2023, with an updated walkover undertaken on 20th January 2025.

2.3 This document has been prepared with reference to the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's (CIEEM) Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) Guidelines[2]. The key findings of the ecological assessments and the application of the mitigation hierarchy have been employed at each stage of the development design process to minimise impacts and maximise the ecological benefit of the scheme.

2.4 The key objectives of EcIA are to:

- Gain an understanding of the baseline ecology of the Site and immediate surrounding area.
- Determine whether the Site supports or has the potential to support protected species.
- Identify any likely ecological constraints and use this to inform the development design process;
- Assess the likely significant impacts of the proposals on the Important Ecological Features;
- Identify mitigation measures likely to be required;
- Identify the opportunities offered by the proposed project to deliver ecological enhancement.

[2] CIEEM (2024) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine version 1.3. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

2.5 This report should be read in conjunction with the following separate technical appendices;

- Winter Bird Survey Report, Futures Ecology Ltd., Report Ref: FE302/WBS01, April 2025; and
- Biodiversity Impact Assessment, Futures Ecology Ltd., Report Ref: FE302/BIA01, April 2025.

2.6 Breeding bird surveys (BBS) are currently ongoing in the 2025 survey period at the time of writing. A separate BBS Report will be produced with full impact assessment included, once these full suite of surveys is completed.

SITE LOCATION AND CONTEXT

2.7 The Site is approximately 7.70 ha in extent and is made up of three distinct areas: the proposed residential development (c. 7.41 ha), the additional access arrangement land in a land parcel to the north (c. 0.03 ha), and the proposed SUDS pond area (c. 0.26 ha) located in a land parcel to the west. In addition, there will be an area of blueline land approximately 0.65 ha in extent used for biodiversity offsetting. This offsite land surrounds the SUDS pond in a land parcel to the west of the proposed residential development, which will be fenced off to maximise biodiversity value of habitats created. For the purposes of this report, all these areas are referred to as 'Site'.

2.8 The proposed residential development parcel is separated from the additional offsetting land in the west by a footpath/track that forms part of the Green Way. The residential development is separated from the additional access arrangement land in the north by Pit Lane.

2.9 The proposed residential development parcel comprises three parcels of largely arable land with smaller areas of bramble scrub, poor semi-improved grassland, tall ruderal vegetation, native hedgerows and a treeline also present around the field boundaries.

2.10 The land in the west comprises a parcel of arable land with smaller areas of semi-natural broadleaved woodland present and hedgerows around the field boundaries.

2.11 The additional access arrangement land comprises a hedgerow with associated grassland and adjacent poor semi-improved grassland and hardstanding associated with a storage area and carpark.

2.12 The northern Site boundary of the residential development is adjacent to Pit Lane, with further parcels of arable land and woodland beyond that. To the east and south lies the residential area of Wombwell, with Wombwell Football and Cricket Club adjacent to the southern boundary. Broadleaved woodland and further arable field parcels are present to the west, with a railway line running southeast/southwest.

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

2.13 Proposals are for a residential development with associated drainage, landscaping and access, as per the Development Framework (Sten Architecture, March 2025, Rev A).

3.0 METHODOLOGY

PERSONNEL

3.1 The extended Phase 1 Habitat survey and preliminary protected species survey was conducted by M. Baker. M. Baker ACIEEM, MSc, BSc (Hons) has over 5 years' experience in ecological consultancy, including habitat surveys and site assessments for protected species. M. Baker is appropriately qualified for the surveys based on the CIEEM competencies for species surveys and is registered to use a great crested newt (GCN) licence Triturus cristatus (2020-49701-CLS-CLS). M. Baker was certified in May 2021 to conduct River Condition Assessments (RCA).

DESK STUDY

3.2 Prior to the field survey, aerial photographs and mapping tools were reviewed using online mapping resources at a minimum scale of 1:25,000; Google Maps[3]; and the Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)[4] to assess the landscape context of the survey area and surrounding areas.

3.3 The MAGIC website was used to obtain information about:

- Statutory designated sites of international, national and local importance;
- Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar sites;
- Approved European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) licences, and
- Natural England Environmental DNA surveys and Habitat Suitability Assessments of Ponds for great crested newt in support of District Level mitigation Licensing.

3.4 To support the field survey and compile baseline information of relevance to the site, ecological information was sought from third party organisations in July 2023. These organisations were reconsulted in September 2024 for any additional records:

- Barnsley Biological Records Centre (BBRC); and
- Natural England's Open Dataset[5].

3.5 Relevant data requested included records of protected or notable species and sites designated for nature conservation interest.

3.6 The search area for designated sites and protected species is determined by the likely Zone of Influence[6] and the likely significant affect. The search areas for the various levels of site designation and for protected / notable species is detailed below:

[3] www.google.com/maps
[4] www.magic.defra.gov.uk
[5] https://data.gov.uk/dataset/8643f1b9-b419-4ee8-8e9c-18200e0edc31/great-crested-newt-edna-habitat-suitability-index-pond-surveys-for-district-level-licensing-2017-2018-2019
[6] The Zone of Influence (ZOI) is defined by CIEEM as being the "area over which ecological features may be affected by biophysical changes as a result of a proposed project and associated activities" CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland. Terrestrial, Freshwater and Marine.

- Sites of international statutory designation such as Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Sites are searched for within a 10km radius around the application site.
- Sites of national or regional importance with a statutory designation of Site of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI) or National Nature Reserve (NNR) within 2km.
- Sites of local importance with statutory designation of Local Nature Reserve (LNR), or non-statutory designation of Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) or the equivalent Local Wildlife Site (LWS) within 1km; and
- Records of notable / protected species (i.e., including Species of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) species within 1km and bats within 2km.
- EPSM licences relating to bats within 2km and GCN within 1km.

FIELD SURVEY – HABITATS

Extended Phase 1 Survey

3.7 The survey was undertaken on 5th July 2023, during weather conditions that were clear and dry. Survey methodology followed guidance from Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) 2016[7] comprising a walkover of the survey area mapping (using JNCC standard habitat codes) and broadly describing and classifying the principal habitat types and other features of interest. The frequencies at which plant species occurred were noted using the DAFOR[8] method. Whilst the plant species lists obtained should not be regarded as exhaustive, sufficient information was obtained to determine broad habitat types. An updated walkover was conducted on 20th January 2025 to re-confirm the baseline conditions of the Site and to survey the additional parcel of land to the west.

3.8 Habitats were also assessed for their potential to support protected or notable species including any incidental sightings of birds recorded during the walkover. Where potentially suitable habitats were observed during the scope of this assessment, detailed protected species surveys were undertaken using methodology detailed below.

3.9 The distribution and extent of any invasive species listed on Schedule 9, Section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (*as amended)* were also noted during the survey.

3.10 A summary of the habitats present on site is provided within the report including UK Hab equivalent habitats (from the UK Habitats Classification methodology[9]) for the purpose of the Biodiversity Impact Assesment (BIA).

Hedgerows

3.11 Any hedgerows present within the application survey area were assessed against the Wildlife and Landscape criteria contained within the Statutory Instrument No: 1160 – The Hedgerow Regulations 1997[10] to determine whether they qualified as an 'Important

[7] JNCC (2016) Handbook for Phase1 Habitat Survey – a technique for environmental audit. ISBN 0 86139 636 7
[8] https://bsbi.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/Sampling_Guidance_-_Annex_1_v4_April_2011.pdf
[9] ukhab – UK Habitat Classification
[10] DEFRA (1997) The Hedgerow Regulations 1997: *A Guide to the Law and Good Practice,* London HMSO.

Hedgerow' under the regulations. It should be noted that hedgerows may also qualify as 'Important Hedgerows' under the Archaeology and History criteria of this Act, which is outside the scope of this assessment.

3.12 In addition, any hedgerows present are also surveyed using the Hedgerow Evaluation and Grading System (HEGS)[11]. This method assesses the hedgerows by recording canopy species composition, ground flora and climber species. Measurements are taken regarding, the structure of the hedgerows, which include height, width and gaps present, as well as associated features such as the number and species of tree standards, banks, ditches and grass verges.

3.13 Each hedgerow is given a grade using the HEGS system with the suffixes '+' and '-', which represent the upper and lower limit of each grade. The grade represents a continuum on a scale from 1+ (the highest score and also hedges of the greatest nature conservation priority) as follows:

Table 1: Nature Conservation Value of Hedgerows

Grade	Value of Hedgerow
-1, 1, 1+	High to Very High
-2, 2, 2+	Moderately High to High
-3, 3, 3+	Moderate
-4, 4, 4+	Low

3.14 All hedgerows consisting predominantly (i.e., 80% or more cover) of at least one woody UK native species are a Habitat of Principal Importance (HPI) (as described by the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Hedgerow Habitat Action Plan (HAP)) under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act in England under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006, where each UK country can define the list of woody species native to their respective country. Therefore, the percentage abundance of woody species contained within the hedgerows was recorded.

BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (BIA)

3.15 In anticipation of the requirement for a BIA, to quantity deliverable net gain for a future application the baseline value of the habitats within the site have been calculated utilising the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. This information is provided in the separate Biodiversity Impact Assessment, Futures Ecology Ltd., Report Ref: FE302/BIA01, April 2025.

[11] Clements, D.K. & Tofts, R.J. (1992) Hedgerow Evaluation and Grading System (HEGS): A methodology for the ecological survey evaluation and grading of hedgerows.

FIELD SURVEY – FAUNA

Badger *Meles meles*

3.16 A badger survey was undertaken on the 5th July 2023, within the application site and 30m beyond the boundary where possible. This survey was updated on 20th January 2025. The survey followed standard methodology as outlined by Natural England (2015)[12] and Harris *et al* (1989)[13], Creswell *et al.* (1990)[14]. Field signs searched for include: setts, earth mounds, bedding material, mammal paths, latrines, snuffle holes, prints, hairs, scratching posts etc.. The identification of some signs on their own does not necessarily provide conclusive evidence of the presence of badgers.

Bats

Daytime Bat Walkover (DBW)

3.17 The DBW was undertaken on the 5th July 2023 and updated on 20th January 2025.

Roost Habitat – Trees

Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA)

3.18 All trees to be affected by the proposals within the survey area were assessed for their potential to support roosting bats using statutory guidance (Natural England, 2019)[15] and best practice survey methodology (Collins, 2013[16] and Mitchell-Jones, A.J. and McLeish, A.P. (eds), 2004)[17].

3.19 The trees were inspected from the ground using close focussing binoculars, a high-powered torch, and an endoscope where appropriate. Potential Roosting Features (PRF) for bats such, holes / cavities, loose bark, cracks / splits, occluded bark, and gaps behind ivy stems (please note that this list is not exhaustive) were sought (Based on P16, *British Standard 8596:2015*[18]). Other factors such as orientation of the feature, its height from the ground, the direct surroundings and its location in respect to other features may enhance or reduce the potential value of the PRF. Signs indicating possible use by bats were also recorded such as bat droppings, odour, scratches, staining and audible sounds.

3.20 An assessment was made on the level of bat roosting potential offered by the trees, based on the presence of the features detailed above. Table 2 below outlines the suitability categories as per the Bat Survey Guidelines[19] which now supersedes The British Standard Document[14] which groups trees with moderate and high potential.

[12]Natural England (2015) Badger Surveys and Mitigation accessed May 2021 https://www.gov.uk/guidance/badgers-surveys-and-mitigation-for-development-projects#survey-methods (accessed December 2019)
[13] Harris, S., Creswell, P., & Jefferies, D. (1989). *Surveying Badgers.* The Mammal Society.
[14] Cresswell, P., Harris, S., & Jeffries, D.J. (1990) The history, distribution, status, and habitat requirements of the badger in Britain. Nature Conservancy Council.
[15] Bats: surveys and mitigation for development projects: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bats-surveys-and-mitigation-for-development-projects (accessed 12/11/2019)
[16] Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologist: Good practice Guidelines (4th edition), The Bat Conservation Trust, London.
[17] Mitchell-Jones, A.J. and McLeish, A.P. (eds) (2004) *Bat Workers' Manual (3rd edn*). JNCC, Peterborough.
[18] British Standard (2015) BS 8596:2015 *Surveying for bats in trees and woodland – Guide*, October 2015.
[19] Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologist: Good practice Guidelines (4th edition), The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Table 2: Suitability of Trees for Bat Roosts – Based on Table 4.2 of Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologist: Good practice Guidelines (4th edition), The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Classification / Suitability	Description	Likely Further Survey Work
NONE	Either no PRFs in the tree of highly unlikely to be any	None
FAR	Further assessment required to establish if PRFs are present in the tree.	Aerial Assessment or further GLTA required by a licensed or accredited bat licensed worker.
PRF	A tree with at least one PRF present.	PRF Inspection Survey (Aerial Assessment). If this is not possible alternative access methods such as a MEWP and / or nocturnal survey work must be considered.

3.21 Upon completion of the above assessment the PRF's are assigned the following:

- PRF-I – PRF is only suitable for individual bats or very small numbers of bats due to size of lack of suitable surrounding habitats. No further survey work may be required but a precautionary working method statement may be appropriate.
- PRF-M – PRF is suitable for multiple bats and may therefore be used by a maternity colony. These will require further aerial (close) inspection and / or nocturnal surveys which comprise 3 visits between May – September, with at least two in the period May – August. Each visit should be at least 3 weeks apart.

Foraging / Commuting Habitat

3.22 The potential for the site and immediate surrounds to support foraging and commuting bats was also assessed, with particular regard being given to the presence of continuous treelines providing good connectivity in the landscape, and the presence of varied habitat such as scrub, woodland, grassland and open water in the vicinity.

Great crested newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus*

3.23 OS mapping and online aerial imagery were analysed for the presence of on and off-site water bodies within 500m of the application site in accordance with Natural England guidance[20].

3.24 An assessment of the suitability of the terrestrial habitats within the site to support GCN was completed within the subject site. Suitable terrestrial habitat includes shelter habitat such as scrub and rank vegetation and habitat that could provide suitable hibernation sites such as rubble piles, tussock grassland and compost heaps.

Reptiles

3.25 An assessment of the suitability of the habitats present to support common reptile species was completed at the time of the habitat survey. This involved a review of habitats and habitat structure suitable for the shelter of reptiles such as areas of scrub

[20] Natural England: *Standing Advice Sheet: Great Crested Newts* Paragraph 4: 4.1

and woodpiles, grassland with well developed, varied structure; and also, the appropriate juxtaposition of areas suitable for basking shelter and forage/hunting. This assessment was based on the methodology detailed in the Herpetofauna Workers Manual (Gent and Gibson, 1998)[21], and Froglife Advice Sheet 10 – Reptile Survey (Froglife 1999)[22].

Other species

3.26 Any sightings, evidence of or suitable habitats for other protected fauna, local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species or otherwise notable species was recorded during the survey.

Survey Limitations

3.27 The updated Phase 1 Habitat survey was undertaken in January 2025, which is outside the optimal period for surveys (April – September). However, the Site was also assessed on 5th July 2023. The habitat classifications and condition assessments were based on both visits and therefore no constraint to the results is anticipated.

ASSESSMENT

Importance

4.25 Ecological features are those that are considered to be important and potentially affected by the project. Importance may relate, for example, to the quality or extent of designated sites or habitats, to habitat/species rarity, to the extent to which they are threatened throughout their range, or to their rate of decline (CIEEM 2024)[23].

Geographical Context

4.26 The importance of an ecological feature is considered within a defined geographical context. For the purposes of the assessment this is:

- International (European)
- National (United Kingdom)
- Regional (Northern England)
- County (South Yorkshire)
- District (Barnsley)
- Local (Wombwell)

4.27 The assessment of the importance of the ecological features and the potential likelihood of an effect of the development will identify which ecological features could be significantly affected by the proposal. Only these features will be taken forward for further assessment.

4.28 Where further surveys are required to determine whether an effect would be significant, the precautionary principle would be applied, and a significant effect assumed.

[21] Gent, A.H., & Gibson, S.D., *eds* 1998. *Herpetofauna Workers' Manual*. Peterborough, joint Nature Conservation Committee.
[22] Froglife 1999. Froglife Advice Sheet 10: Reptile Survey. Froglife, London
[23] CIEEM (2024) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine version 1.3. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

Further Assessment

Significance

4.29 In order to assess the significance of effects, Important Ecological Features that could potentially be affected by the development have been identified and described and the potential effects quantified using a range of characteristics:

- Positive / negative
- Extent
- Magnitude
- Duration
- Frequency / timing
- Reversibility

4.30 For the purposes of this assessment, a 'significant effect' is an effect that either supports or undermines biodiversity conservation objectives for 'important ecological features' or for biodiversity in general. Conservation objectives may be specific (e.g., for a designated site) or broad (e.g., national / local nature conservation policy) or more wide-ranging (enhancement of biodiversity)[24].

Mitigation, Compensation and Enhancement

4.31 Where significant effects have been identified, the mitigation hierarchy has been considered: avoiding significant effects where possible, applying mitigation measures to minimise unavoidable significant effects and compensating for any remaining significant effects.

4.32 The assessment will include mitigation, compensation and enhancements which are proposed.

Residual Effects

4.33 Upon completion of the above, residual significant effects will then be identified. It is then only necessary to assess and report significant residual effects (those that remain after mitigation measures have been considered).

Cumulative Effects

4.34 Consideration is given to the effects that may arise cumulatively from the development proposed in combination with other plans and projects proposed/consented but not yet built and operational.

4.0 LEGISLATION, PLANNING POLICY AND GUIDANCE

[24] CIEEM (2024) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine version 1.3. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

4.1 The policy and guidance framework for nature conservation is provided by various national, regional, and local planning policies as outlined below, with further details, as necessary, within relevant subsequent sections.

Legislative Framework

4.2 The following legislation and European Directives afford protection to wildlife and have been used to inform this assessment.

- The Environment Act 2021[25];
- The Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)[26];
- The EC Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC)[27] as translated into UK law by The Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended);
- The EC Birds Directive (Directive 79/409/EEC)[28]; as translated into UK law by The Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended);
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA)[29];
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC)[30].
- The Protection of Badgers Act 1992[31].
- The Hedgerow Regulations Act 1997[32].

National Planning Policy

4.3 The latest National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024)[33] sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied within the planning system. It provides a framework for local councils to produce local plans and determine planning applications in order to achieve more sustainable developments. In relation to ecology and biodiversity, Chapter 15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment, is of relevance to this report.

4.4 The Government Circular, Biodiversity and geological conservation: circular 06/2005[34], defines statutory nature conservation sites and protected species as a material consideration in the planning process.

4.5 The former UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has been used to compile the statutory lists of priority species and habitats as required under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (also referred to as Habitats and Species of Principal Importance). These lists continue to be regarded as conservation priorities

[25] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted
[26] HMSO. The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) - No.1012
[27] EC (1992) Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (The EC Habitats Directive).
[28] EC (1979), Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of wild birds (EC Birds Directive).
[29] HMSO. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
[30] HMSO. (2006), Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act.
[31] HMSO. The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (as amended).
[32] HMSO. The Hedgerow Regulations Act 1997
[33] Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (December 2024). National Planning Policy Framework. London
[34] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a78c5e7ed915d04220653ab/147570.pdf

under the NPPF, although the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has now been superseded by the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework[35] and Biodiversity 2020[36].

Local Planning Policy

4.6 Within Barnsley all planning decisions are expected to be based on the Barnsley Local Plan (adopted January 2019)[37], relevant adopted Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) including Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD (adopted March 2024)[38] and the NPPF, with the key local policies concerned with ecology being:

- Policy BIO1 Biodiversity and Geodiversity;
- Policy GI1 Green Infrastructure; &
- Policy GS1 Green Space.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan

4.7 Local BAPs are a key element for securing the requirements of the NPPF at a local level, consequently this assessment has taken due consideration of the priority habitats and species within Barnsley's Local Biodiversity Action Plan[39].

Other guidance

Birds of Conservation Concern

4.8 Leading governmental and non-governmental conservation organisations in the UK have reviewed the population status of 245 bird species regularly found in Britain and, using standardised criteria, have assessed and assigned all bird species onto lists of conservation concern[40].

4.9 Birds are placed into one of three lists - Red, Amber or Green and although these listings offer no further legal protection, they are meant to guide conservation action for the individual species. The listings reflect an individual species' global and European conservation status as well as that within the UK and additionally measure the importance of the UK population in international terms.

[35] JNCC and Defra (on behalf of the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group) (2012) UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. July 2012.
[36] DEFRA (2011) Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services.
[37] Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Local Plan, Adopted January 2019; Barnsley's Local Plan
[38] Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Supplementary Planning Document, Biodiversity and Geodiversity, Adopted March 2024; Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD 2024
[39] Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan
[40] Stanbury *et al* (2021), The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. British Birds 114, 723-747. https://britishbirds.co.uk/sites/default/files/BB_Dec21-BoCC5-IUCN2.pdf

5.0 RESULTS (BASELINE)

DESK STUDY

5.1 A summary of relevant information provided by third party consultees is provided below. The original data has not been included in this report and a summary of the relevant findings is provided upon Figure 1.

Statutory Designated Sites

5.2 There are no statutory designated sites within the Site boundary.

5.3 No internationally designated sites occurs within 10km of the Site boundary.

5.4 Four sites of national importance with a statutory designation were located within 2km of the Site boundary. Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI (West) located 1.9km west of the Site boundary, Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI (East) located 1.6km east of the Site boundary, Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI (North) located 0.6km north of the Site boundary and Stairfoot Brickwork SSSI located 1.9km north of the Site boundary. Further information on these SSSIs can be found in Table 3 below.

5.5 Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI would be considered of importance at a **National** level.

5.6 Stairfoot Brickworks SSSI is designated due to it's geological importance, rather than ecological importance. Therefore, this SSSI is not considered to be an IEF in the context of this assessment.

5.7 Consultation with MAGIC site check confirms that the application Site lies within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) for Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI. However, the development proposals fall within the categories that would otherwise require consultation with Natural England due to their potential impact, those being:

- Pipelines and underground cables, pylons and overhead cables. Any transport proposal including road, rail and by water (excluding routine maintenance). Airports, helipads and other aviation proposals.
- Wind turbines.
- Planning applications for quarries, including: new proposals, Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMP), extensions, variations to conditions etc. Oil & gas exploration/extraction.
- Large non-residential developments outside existing settlements/urban areas where net additional gross internal floorspace is > 1,000m² or footprint exceeds 0.2ha.
- **Residential development of 100 units or more.**
- **Any residential development of 50 or more houses outside existing settlements/urban areas.**
- Any industrial/agricultural development that could cause AIR POLLUTION (incl: industrial processes, livestock & poultry units with floorspace > 500m², slurry lagoons & digestate stores > 200m², manure stores > 250t).

- General combustion processes >20MW energy input. Incl: energy from waste incineration, other incineration, landfill gas generation plant, pyrolysis/gasification, anaerobic digestion, sewage treatment works, other incineration/ combustion.
- Landfill. Incl: inert landfill, non-hazardous landfill, hazardous landfill.
- Any composting proposal with more than 500 tonnes maximum annual operational throughput. Incl: open windrow composting, in-vessel composting, anaerobic digestion, other waste management.
- **Any discharge of water or liquid waste of more than 2m³/day to ground (ie to seep away) or to surface water, such as a beck or stream.**
- Large infrastructure such as warehousing / industry where net additional gross internal floorspace is > 1,000m² or any development needing its own water supply.

5.8 As the proposals flag the requirement for the appropriate authority to consult Natural England (NE) regarding the potential impacts, a Discretionary Advice Service (DAS) Request was sent to Natural England by the applicant on 20th December 2024. Natural England responded on 13th January 2025 and is included in Appendix A.

5.9 No sites of local importance with a statutory designation were located within 1km of the Site boundary.

Non-Statutory Designated Sites

5.10 No sites with a non-statutory designation were present within the Site.

5.11 One site of local importance with a non-statutory designation was present within 1km of the Site boundary; Wombwell Wood Local Wildlife Site (LWS) located 195m south. Further details of the LWS can be found in Table 3 below.

5.12 Wombwell Wood LWS comprises one of the largest woodland areas in the Barnsley Area and therefore would be considered of importance at a **District** level.

Table 3: Summary of Designated Sites and Notable Habitats

Site Name	Designation	Proximity to Site (approximate)	Description
Dearne Valley Wetlands	SSSI	1.7km west 1.6km east 640m north	The site comprises a network of 22 wetland, scrub and woodland areas that extends through the catchment of the River Dearne. Providing Diverse assemblages of breeding birds of Lowland damp grasslands, Lowland scrub and a mixed assemblage of Lowland open waters and their margins and Lowland fen.
Stairfoot Brickwork	SSSI	1.9km north	The site provides the best available exposure of the Aegiranum Marine Band within the Pennine Basin as well as the best-known exposure of the ammonoid bearing part of the marine band in the world.
Wombwell Wood	LWS	130m south-west	This is a large block of woodland and plantation which extends along a north-west to southeast axis across a largely agricultural landscape. Comprising more than 100ha of woodland this is one of the largest woodland areas in the

Site Name	Designation	Proximity to Site (approximate)	Description
			Barnsley area and is contiguous to other blocks and strips of woodland in the north.
Ancient semi-natural woodland	Ancient woodland	200m south	There are a total of thirteen parcels of ancient semi-natural woodland within 1km of the Site boundary.
Planted ancient woodland sites	Ancient woodland	130m west	There are a total of four parcels of planted ancient woodland sites within 1km of the Site boundary.
Deciduous woodland	HPI	Adjacent to Site boundary	There are a total of thirty-eight parcels of deciduous woodland within 1km of the Site boundary.
Additional habitats	HPI	185m south	There are a total of four parcels of HPI with no main habitat but additional habitats present within 1km of the Site boundary.

Ancient Woodland and Trees

5.13 There is a total of seventeen parcels of ancient woodland within 1km of the Site boundary, including both ancient semi-natural woodland and planted ancient woodland sites.

5.14 There are no individual notable, veteran, or ancient trees within 1km of the Site boundary.

Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI)

5.15 No HPIs occur within the Site. However, a total of forty-two HPI parcels occur within 1km of the Site, including deciduous woodland and additional habitats.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

5.16 The Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan[41] contains a total of seventeen Habitat Action Plans, including:

- Upland oakwood;
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland;
- Wet woodland;
- Wood pasture and parkland;
- Hedgerows;
- Arable field margins;
- Floodplain grazing marsh;
- Lowland meadows;

[41] http://www.barnsleybiodiversity.org.uk/Barnsley%20BAP%20II%20adopted%202010.pdf

- Lowland dry acidic grassland;
- Lowland heathland;
- Upland heathland;
- Blanket bog;
- Purple moor grass and rush pasture;
- Reedbeds;
- Ponds;
- Rivers; and
- Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land.

5.17 There are also a total of twenty Species Action Plans, including:

- Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*;
- Bats;
- Water vole *Arvicola amphibius*;
- Otter *Lutra lutra*;
- Grey partridge *Perdix perdix*;
- Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*;
- Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*;
- Little ringed plover *Thinornis dubius*;
- Lapwing *Vanellus Vanellus*;
- Barn owl *Tyto alba*;
- Skylark *Alauda arvensis*;
- Tree sparrow *Passer montanus*;
- Twite *Linaria flavirostris*;
- Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*;
- Salmon *Salmo salar*;
- Bullhead *Cottus gobio*;
- White-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*;
- Glow worm *Lampyris noctiluca*;
- Dingy skipper *Erynnis tages*; and
- Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*.

Soil Type

5.18 Information provided by Landis[42] shows that the Site is formed from two Soilscapes, the northern area of the Site is formed of Soilscape 17 and the southern area of the Site is formed of Soilscape 6. The broader details of which are provided below:

Soilscape 17: Slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils

- Texture: Loamy and clayey
- Drainage: Impeded drainage
- Fertility: Low
- Landcover: Grassland with some arable and forestry
- Habitats: Seasonally wet pastures and woodlands
- Carbon: Medium
- Drains to: Stream network
- Water protection: Main risks are associated with overland flow from compacted or poached fields. Organic slurry, dirty water, fertiliser, pathogens and fine sediment can all move in suspension or solution with overland flow or drain water

Soilscape 6: Freely draining slightly acid loamy soils

- Texture: Loamy
- Drainage: Freely draining
- Fertility: Low
- Landcover: Arable and grassland
- Habitats: Neutral and acid pastures and deciduous woodlands; acid communities such as bracken and gorse in the uplands
- Carbon: Low
- Drains to: Local groundwater and rivers
- Water protection: Groundwater contamination with nitrate; siltation and nutrient enrichment of streams from soil erosion on certain of these soils

Protected / Notable Species Records

5.19 Records of protected and notable species provided by desk study consultees are provided in Table 4 below. The species records have been filtered to comprise relevant protected and / or notable species within 1km (and bats within 2km). The locations are shown on Figure 1.

[42] https://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/

Table 4: Summary of Relevant Protected Species Records

Species	Latin	Conservation Status	Total No. of Records	Location / Minimum distance of records from Site boundary (m)	Grid ref. accuracy of nearest record
Bat species					
Common pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*	Regs (Sch2), WCA (Sch5)	Roost: 6 Field Record: 12 Total: 18	Roost: 1446m south-west Field record: 702m south-west	Roost: 1m Field record: 100m
Soprano pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*	Regs (Sch2), NERC (SPI), WCA (Sch5)	Roost: 1 Field Record: 6 Total: 7	Roost: 1455m SW Field record: 702m south-west	Roost: 1m Field record: 100m
Pipistrelle bat species	*Pipistrellus* spp.	Regs (Sch2), WCA (Sch5)	Roost: 0 Field Record: 1 Total: 1	Roost: N/A Field record: 795m south-west	Roost: N/A Field record: 1m
Noctule bat	*Nyctalus noctula*	Regs (Sch2), NERC (SPI), WCA (Sch5)	Roost: 0 Field Record: 8 Total: 8	Roost: N/A Field record: 795m south-west	Roost: N/A Field record: 1m
Leisler's Bat	*Nyctalus leisleri*	Regs (Sch2), WCA (Sch5)	Roost: 0 Field Record: 1 Total: 1	Roost: N/A Field record: 1313m west	Roost: N/A Field record: 100m
Daubenton's myotis	*Myotis daubentonii*	Regs (Sch2), WCA (Sch5)	Roost: 10 Field Record: 3 Total: 3	Roost: 1732m east Field record: 702m south-west	Roost: 100m Field record: 100m
Myotis bat species	*Myotis* spp.	Regs (Sch2), WCA (Sch5)	Roost: 0 Field Record: 2 Total: 2	Roost: N/A Field record: 1710m east	Roost: N/A Field record: 100m
Unidentified bat species	-	Regs (Sch2), WCA (Sch5)	Roost: 1 Field Record: 3 Total: 4	Roost: 1647m east Field Record: 885m north-east	Roost: 1km Field Record: 100m
Other mammal species					
West European hedgehog	*Erinaceus europaeus*	NERC (SPI)	1	795m south-west	1m
Brown hare	*Lepus europaeus*	WCA (Sch5a), NERC (SPI)	2	232m south	1km
Bird species					
Fieldfare	*Turdus pilaris*	BoCC (Red), WCA (Sch1_part 1)	2	614m north-west	100m

Species	Latin	Conservation Status	Total No. of Records	Location / Minimum distance of records from Site boundary (m)	Grid ref. accuracy of nearest record
Grasshopper warbler	*Locustella naevia*	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI)	1	970m west	100m
Grey partridge	*Perdix perdix*	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI)	3	306m north-west	100m
Greenfinch	*Chloris chloris*	BoCC (Red)	35	0.4m south	10m
House martin	*Delichon urbica*	BoCC (Red)	3	505m north-west	1km
Yellowhammer	*Emberiza citrinella*	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI)	19	On site	100m
House sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI)	32	11m south	100m
Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI)	24	205m east	1km
Lapwing	*Vanellus vanellus*	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI)	3	505m north-west	1km
Lesser redpoll	*Acanthis cabaret*	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI)	2	499m south-east	100m
Linnet	*Linaria cannabina*	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI)	6	On site	100m
Merlin	*Falco columbarius*	BoCC (Red), WCA (Sch1_part1)	1	404m north	100m
Mistle thrush	*Turdus viscivorus*	BoCC (Red)	17	On site	100m
Skylark	*Alauda arvensis*	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI)	9	226m north	100m
Spotted flycatcher	*Muscicapa striata*	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI)	1	584m south	10m
Willow tit	*Poecile montana*	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI)	10	205m north-west	2km
Yellow wagtail	*Motacilla flava*	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI)	1	836m north-east	1km
Swift	*Apus apus*	BoCC (Red)	6	232m south-west	1km
Black-headed gull	*Larus ridibundus*	BoCC (Amber)	1	633m south-west	100m
Common bullfinch	*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*	BoCC (Amber), NERC (SPI)	24	On site	100m
Dunnock	*Prunella modularis*	BoCC (Amber), NERC (SPI)	37	On site	100m

Species	Latin	Conservation Status	Total No. of Records	Location / Minimum distance of records from Site boundary (m)	Grid ref. accuracy of nearest record
Greylag goose	*Anser anser*	BoCC (Amber), WCA (Sch1_part 2)	2	836m north-west	1km
Grey wagtail	*Motacilla cinerea*	BoCC (Amber)	2	836m north-west	1km
Kestrel	*Falco tinnunculus*	BoCC (Amber)	8	136m west	10m
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	BoCC (Amber)	6	205m south	1km
Meadow pipit	*Anthus pratensis*	BoCC (Amber)	1	967m west	1km
Redwing	*Turdus iliacus*	BoCC (Amber), WCA (Sch 1_part 1)	4	On site	100m
Reed bunting	*Emberiza schoeniclus*	BoCC (Amber), NERC (SPI)	6	594m north-west	100m
Shoveler	*Anas clypeata*	BoCC (Amber)	1	205m east	2km
Stock dove	*Columba oenas*	BoCC (Amber)	8	505m north	1km
Tawny owl	*Strix aluco*	BoCC (Amber)	2	505m north	1km
Willow warbler	*Phylloscopus trochilus*	BoCC (Amber)	14	On site	100m
Song thrush	*Turdus philomelos*	BoCC (Amber), NERC (SPI)	19	28m west	100m
Woodpigeon	*Columba palumbus*	BoCC (Amber)	26	200m south	100m
Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*	BoCC (Amber)	5	205m east	2km
Sparrowhawk	*Accipiter nisus*	BoCC (Amber)	2	100m south	100m
Wren	*Troglodytes troglodytes*	BoCC (Amber)	31	On site	100m
Whitethroat	*Sylvia communis*	BoCC (Amber)	11	1m west	10m
Barn owl	*Tyto alba*	BoCC (Green), WCA (Sch 1_part 1; Sch 9_part 1)	1	505m north	1km
Green woodpecker	*Picus viridis*	BoCC (Green)	7	232m south	1km
Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*	BoCC (Green)	6	232m south	1km

Species	Latin	Conservation Status	Total No. of Records	Location / Minimum distance of records from Site boundary (m)	Grid ref. accuracy of nearest record
Goldcrest	*Regulus regulus*	BoCC (Green)	1	327m west	100m
Kingfisher	*Alcedo atthis*	BoCC (Green), WCA (Sch 1_part 1)	2	836m south-west	100m
Lesser whitethroat	*Sylvia curruca*	BoCC (Green)	1	836m north-east	1km
Amphibian species					
Great crested newt	*Triturus cristatus*	WCA (Sch5), NERC (SPI), Regs (Sch2)	2	859m south-east	100m
Common toad	*Bufo bufo*	WCA (Sch5), NERC (SPI)	3	272m west	100m
Common frog	*Rana temporaria*	WCA (Sch5)	2	795m south-west	1m
Reptile species					
Grass snake	*Natrix natrix*	WCA (Sch5), NERC (SPI)	7	476m south-east	1m
Other species					
Wall butterfly	*Lasiommata megera*	NERC (SPI)	2	836m north-east	1km
Small heath butterfly	*Coenonympha pamphilus*	NERC (SPI)	4	836m north-east	1km
Holly blue butterfly	*Celastrina argiolus*	NERC (SPI)	2	89m south	10m
Cinnabar moth	*Tyria jacobaeae*	NERC (SPI)	2	481m south-west	100m
American mink	*Mustela vison*	WCA (Sch9)	1	702m south-west	100m

Status Key: Regs - The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (*as amended*). WCA - The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (*as amended*). Sch 1 - Schedule 1. Sch 2 – Schedule 2. Sch5 - Schedule 5. Sch8 - Schedule 8. Sch9 - Schedule 9. NERC - England Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) Section 41. SPI - Species of Principal Importance. BoCC - Birds of Conservation Concern.

5.20 There are records of badger *Meles meles* within 1km of the Site and the nearest known sett is located within 1km from the Site boundary.

5.21 A search of the MAGIC online resource revealed there were no European Protected Species Licences (EPSL) relating to bats within 2km of the Site boundary.

5.22 There are no EPSL's relating to GCN located within 1km.

5.23 There were no records of GCN surveys from Natural England's Open Dataset[43] within 1km of the Site boundary.

HABITATS

5.24 The habitats recorded within the application site during the Phase 1 survey included:

- Arable;
- Poor semi-improved grassland;
- Tall ruderal vegetation;
- Bramble scrub;
- Semi-natural broadleaved woodland;
- Native hedgerows and treeline;
- Scattered scrub and trees; and
- Dry ditches.

5.25 The location of the habitats recorded, and associated target notes are presented on Figure 2 and described below. The botanical species recorded in association with each habitat are listed in Appendix B.

Arable (c1)

5.26 The majority of the Site comprised three arable field compartments which were seeded with barley *Hordeum vulgare* at the time of the initial survey (Photograph 1). Field margins were non-existent or less than 0.5m wide across the majority of the Site. Where the margins were slightly wider, and other habitats had become established, these have been described separately below.

5.27 Due to the intensively managed and homogenous nature of the arable field, this is not considered an Important Ecological Feature (IEF) in the context of this assessment.

Poor semi-improved grassland (g4)

5.28 Limited areas of poor semi-improved grassland had developed where the margins of the arable fields were wider, particularly in the southern section of the Site (Photograph 3). These comprised of abundant false oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* and locally abundant perennial rye-grass L*olium perenne.* Forbs within the sward included frequent common nettle *Urtica dioica*, occasional creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, broadleaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, common hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* and rosebay willowherb *Chamaenerion angustifolium*. Lesser burdock *Arctium minus*, mullein *Verbascum thapsus* and ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris* were noted as rarities.

[43] https://data.gov.uk/dataset/8643f1b9-b419-4ee8-8e9c-18200e0edc31/great-crested-newt-edna-habitat-suitability-index-pond-surveys-for-district-level-licensing-2017-2018-2019

5.29 Due to their limited size and the lack of species diversity / notable or rare species within the sward, the areas of poor semi-improved grassland are not considered an IEF in the context of this assessment.

Photograph 1: The arable fields on-site, viewed from the north (05.07.2023).

Photograph 2: The arable fields on-site, viewed from the north (20.01.2025).

Photograph 3: Limited areas of poor semi-improved grassland present in the southern section of the Site (05.07.2023).

Tall ruderal vegetation (16)

5.30 Alongside the poor semi-improved grassland, limited areas of tall ruderal vegetation had developed where the margins of the arable fields were wider, particularly in the southern section of the Site (Photograph 4). These areas comprised locally abundant cleavers *Galium aparine*, common nettle and creeping thistle. Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. and false oat grass were abundant and creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens* and hedge bindweed *Calystegia sepium* were occasional.

5.31 Due to their limited size and the lack of species diversity / notable or rare species within this habitat, the areas of tall ruderal vegetation are not considered an IEF in the context of this assessment.

Bramble scrub (h3f)

5.32 Two small areas of bramble dominated scrub had developed in the field margins in the south of the Site (Photograph 5).

5.33 Due to their limited size and the lack of species diversity / notable or rare species within this habitat, the areas of bramble scrub are not considered an IEF in the context of this assessment.

Photograph 4: An example of the tall ruderal vegetation found on-site (05.07.2023).

Photograph 5: An example of the bramble dominated scrub found on-site (05.07.2023).

Semi-natural broadleaved woodland (w1g)

5.34 The western arable field parcel was bordered by semi-natural broadleaved woodland (Photograph 6 and 7). Canopy species included frequent silver birch *Betula pendula*, with occasional ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, beech *Fagus sylvatica*, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus,* English oak *Quercus robur* and field maple *Acer campestre* also noted within the canopy. The scrub layer contained locally abundant bramble, with occasional elder *Sambucus nigra* and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*. The ground flora comprised locally abundant willowherb *Epilobium* sp., frequent cleavers *Galium aparine* and occasional broad-leaved dock, common nettle, cock's foot *Dactylis glomerata* and common ivy *Hedera helix.*

Photograph 5: Semi-natural broadleaved woodland bordering the arable field in the west of Site (20.01.2025).

Photograph 6: Semi-natural broadleaved woodland (20.01.2025).

5.35 Although the woodland was not particularly botanically diverse at the time of the survey (January) this was outside the optimal survey period for woodland, so it is possible the woodland represents an LBAP habitat[44]. The woodland also provides opportunities for foraging and shelter for invertebrates, birds and small mammals. Therefore, the semi—natural broadleaved woodland would be considered of importance at a **Local** level, for its value to local wildlife.

Native hedgerows and treeline (h2a, 33)

5.36 Six native hedgerows (H1, H2, H3, H4, H7 and H9) were present along the field boundaries (Photographs 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 17).

5.37 Under the HEGS assessment, one hedgerow (H4) had moderately high to high conservation value (Grade 2) and the remaining three hedgerows (H1, H2, H3, H7 & H9) had moderate conservation value (Grade 3).

5.38 No hedgerows on-site were considered important under the wildlife and landscape criteria of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

5.39 All the native hedgerows (H1, H2, H3, H4, H7 and H9) within the survey area comprised greater than 80% native UK species and as such are considered to represent Habitats of Principal Importance.

5.40 A treeline (TL1) was present along the north-western Site boundary, connected to hedgerow H2 (Photograph 12). Species present included frequent field maple and English oak alongside occasional ash. A scrub understorey was present which comprised frequent hawthorn and occasional elder.

5.41 Very limited sections of defunct hedgerows (H5 and H6), comprising hawthorn, elder and bramble, were present along the north-eastern and south-western Site boundaries (Photograph 13 and 14). An outgrown privet hedgerow (H8) was also present along the southern boundary of the western arable field parcel (Photograph 16).

5.42 The ground flora associated with boundary features comprised of a range of species including cleavers, creeping thistle, common nettle, creeping buttercup, wood avens *Geum urbanum*, common hogweed, rosebay willowherb, and bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* alongside false oat grass, soft brome *Bromus hordeaceus* and perennial rye-grass.

[44] http://www.barnsleybiodiversity.org.uk/deciduouswoodland.html accessed 13.02.2025

Photograph 8: Hedgerow H1, viewed from the south-east (05.07.2023).

Photograph 9: Hedgerow H2, viewed from the south (05.07.2023).

Photograph 10: Hedgerow H3, viewed from the north (05.07.2023).

Photograph 11: Hedgerow H4, viewed from the north (05.07.2023).

Photograph 12: Treeline TL1, viewed from the east (05.07.2023).

Photograph 13: The limited sections remaining of defunct hedgerow H5 along the western boundary, viewed from the north (05.07.2023).

Photograph 14: An example of the short sections of hedgerow H6 present along the eastern boundary (05.07.2023).

Photograph 15: Hedgerow H7 in the western parcel (20.01.2025).

Photograph 16: Hedgerow H8 in the western parcel (20.01.2025).

Photograph 17: Hedgerow H9 in the northeastern parcel, adjacent to Pit Lane (19.03.2025).

Table 5: Summary of Hedgerow Survey

Hedgerow Reference	Species Present	Length (m)	Height (m)/width (m)	HEGS Score	Important Hedgerow	>80% Native Species
H1	Common hawthorn - *Crataegus monogyna* Elder - *Sambucus nigra* Bramble - *Rubus fruticosus* agg. Field maple - *Acer campestre*	122	2-4/1-2	-3	No	Yes
H2	Common hawthorn Bramble Field maple Spindle - *Euonymus europaeus*	135	2-4/1-2	-3	No	Yes
H3	Common hawthorn Bramble Elder	176	2-4/1-2	-3	No	Yes

Hedgerow Reference	Species Present	Length (m)	Height (m)/width (m)	HEGS Score	Important Hedgerow	>80% Native Species
H4	Blackthorn - *Prunus spinosa* Common hawthorn Penduculate oak - *Quercus robur* Bramble Wild privet - *Ligustrum vulgare* Field maple Hazel - *Corylus avellana* Sycamore - *Acer pseudoplatanus* Lilac - *Syringa vulgaris* Ash - *Fraxinus excelsior* Plum – *Prunus* sp. Elder	162	2-4/2-3	2	No	Yes
H7	Common hawthorn Bramble	114	1-2m/1-2m	-3	No	Yes
H9	Common hawthorn Bramble	413	2-4/1-2	-3	No	Yes

5.43 The native hedgerows and treeline TL1 provide connectivity through the landscape and have inherent value to local wildlife. These would be considered of importance at a **Local** level.

Scattered scrub and trees (10, 32)

5.44 Scattered scrub specimens, including hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and elder *Sambucus nigra*, were present along the south-western Site boundary, likely to have historically formed a hedgerow which has become defunct.

5.45 A young self-set sycamore tree *Acer pseudoplatanus* was present in the western corner of the Site.

5.46 Due to their limited size and the lack of species diversity / notable or rare species within this habitat, the areas of scattered scrub and trees are not considered an IEF in the context of this assessment.

Dry ditches (50)

5.47 Dry ditches were present to the north of hedgerow H3 and the south of tree line TL1. The ditch associated with hedgerow H3 was overgrown with grass and ruderal species associated with the hedgerow and held no water at the time of the survey. The ditch associated with treeline TL1 largely comprised bare ground, holding no water at the time of the survey but with occasional damp areas present (Photograph 12).

Photograph 12: The dry ditch to the south of tree line TL1 (05.07.2023).

5.48 The dry ditches are not considered an IEF in the context of this assessment.

Target notes

5.49 Features recorded as target notes on Figure 2 include:

- TN1 – A localised patch of sumac *Rhus* sp. was present along the south-eastern Site boundary (Photograph 13).

Photograph 13: A localised patch of sumac present along the south-eastern Site boundary (05.07.2023).

FAUNA

Badger

5.50 From the desk study there are records of badger, including records of setts, within 1km of the Site boundary.

5.51 No evidence of badger activity was recorded during the Site visits in 2023 or 2025. However, badgers are present in the local area and can create setts in a relatively short period of time. To ensure continued compliance with the relevant legislation, badgers will be considered an IEF in the context of this assessment. As badgers are relatively common and widespread in England and whilst legally protected, the emphasis of The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 is focused on protection from persecution, rather than on conservation. As such, badgers would be considered an IEF, but as they are not of conservation concern, no scale of geographical significance would be applied.

Bats

5.52 From the desk study, eight bat species / species groups were recorded within 1km of the Site comprising roost records and field records (common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, an unidentified *Pipistrellus* species, noctule, Leisler's, Daubenton's, an unidentified *Myotis* species and an unidentified bat species.

5.53 No EPSLs relating to bats were identified within 2km of the Site.

Roosts – Trees

5.54 No trees within the Site boundary were found to provide Potential Roosting Features (PRFs) for roosting bats.

Foraging / Commuting Habitat

5.55 The arable fields, which comprise the vast majority of onsite habitats are of low value for foraging and commuting bats. However, the boundary habitats including native hedgerows, a treeline and broadleaved woodland, which provide opportunities for the local bat population.

5.56 Bat activity surveys are due to commence in April / May 2025. The baseline value of the onsite bat assemblage will be provided following the detailed surveys at the Site during the 2025 survey season.

Great Crested Newts (GCN)

5.57 From the desk study two records of GCN were returned from a pond within Wombwell Golf Course within 1km of the Site boundary, dating from 1991. These records are approximately 670m away from the Site boundary.

5.58 There are no EPSL's relating to GCN and no records of GCN surveys from Natural England's Open Dataset[45] within 1km of the Site boundary.

5.59 No waterbodies were recorded within the Site. Three waterbodies were identified within 500m of the Site boundary, details of which are provided in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Waterbodies Identified within 500m of the Site (refer to Figure 3).

Pond Ref.	Locality	Distance / Direction (m)	OS Grid Reference	Connectivity to Application Site
P1	Pond on the edge of a golf course.	Straight line distance: 495m south-east	SE 39182 02260	This pond is over 250m away, which is the maximum routine migratory range from a breeding pond (Franklin; 1993[46], Oldham and Nicholson, 1986[47]; Jehle, 2000[48]). Given that the Site supports sub-optimal terrestrial habitat, it is considered highly unlikely that newts would commute to onsite habitats from this waterbody, should they use P1 for breeding purposes. **No potential constraint.**
S1	Stream in a wooded area.	Straight line distance: 150m east	SE 38278 02656	Running water, considered sub-optimal for breeding newts. **No potential constraint.**
D1	North of Pit Lane	Straight line distance: 40m north	SE 38386 02918	Ditch found to be dry January 2025. **No potential constraint.**

5.60 The arable farmland recorded across the Site provides sub-optimal terrestrial habitat. The boundary habitats, including hedgerows, treeline, broadleaved woodland and poor-semi-improved grassland margins would provide some suitability for newts during their terrestrial phase, although these were limited in extent compared to the large swathes of arable land.

5.61 Given the lack of suitable aquatic habitat within the Site or within 250m of the Site, GCN are considered likely absent from the application Site and are not considered to be an IEF in the context of this assessment.

Reptiles

5.62 From the desk study two records of grass snake were returned from 2016 on the former Wombwell Foundry Site, 476m southeast of Site.

5.63 The arable habitats within the Site were sub-optimal for reptiles due to its intensively managed nature, lacking the varied ecotones required by this species group. The boundary habitats, however; including hedgerows, treeline, broadleaved woodland and poor-semi-improved grassland margins would provide some suitability for reptiles.

[45] https://data.gov.uk/dataset/8643f1b9-b419-4ee8-8e9c-18200e0edc31/great-crested-newt-edna-habitat-suitability-index-pond-surveys-for-district-level-licensing-2017-2018-2019

[46] Franklin, P.S (1993) The migratory ecology and terrestrial habitat preferences of the great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* at Little Wittenham Nature Reserve. M.Phil Thesis. De Montfort University. Dept of Applied Biology and Biotechnology.

[47] Oldham, R.S and Nicholson, M (1986) Status and Ecology of the warty newt *Triturus cristatus*. Final Report. Leicester Polytechnic under contract to Nature Conservancy Council.

[48] Jehle, R (2000) The Terrestrial Summer Habitat of Radio-tracked Great Crested Newts *Triturus cristatus* and Marbled Newts *Triturus marmoratus*. *Herpetological Journal* 10 (4) 137-142.

5.64 Due to the intensively managed nature of the Site, it is unlikely to support a population of grass snake, however as grass snake are present within the wider area and the boundary habitats have some suitability for this species, grass snake will be considered an IEF on a **Local** scale.

Birds

5.65 From the desk study numerous bird records were returned within 1km of the Site boundary. This included a range of species from urban edge, farmland, wetland and woodland species. Several records were returned from within the Site boundary (grid reference accuracy to 100m) this included yellowhammer, linnet, mistle thrush, common bullfinch, dunnock, redwing, willow warbler, wren, buzzard, chiffchaff, goldfinch and blackbird. Many of the other records within 1km of Site were associated with Wombwell Wood LWS.

5.66 The habitats onsite have the potential to support breeding and overwintering birds, as such further surveys are required to determine the baseline value of the Site for birds. At the time of writing, winter bird surveys (WBS) have been conducted in November 2024 – February 2025. A summary of these surveys is provided below.

5.67 Breeding bird surveys (BBS) are due to commence in March 2025. The baseline value of the onsite breeding bird assemblage will be provided following the detailed BBS at the Site during the 2025 survey season.

Overwintering Birds

5.68 Full results of the Winter Bird Surveys (WBS) undertaken at Site are provided within the separate Winter Bird Survey Report (Futures Ecology Ltd., Report Ref: FE302/WBS01, March 2025). A summary of the results is provided below.

5.69 Following four wintering bird surveys, undertaken between November 2024 and February 2025, a total of 34 species were identified within the survey area (including the 200m buffer and species flying over Site). Of these, 16 are species of conservation concern, and 11 of which were found to utilise the onsite habitats. This included black-headed gull, common gull, herring gull, and red kite found to utilise the onsite arable fields and grassland for foraging and hunting; whilst dunnock, fieldfare, house sparrow, linnet, redwing, sparrowhawk and woodpigeon were found to utilise the Site's boundary habitats.

5.70 Six species were only recorded within the 200m buffer: greylag goose, kestrel, mistle thrush, starling, tawny owl, and wren. For these species, the habitats within the 200m buffer and wider local area provided more suitable habitats rather than those onsite. Offsite habitats in which these species were observed within included broadleaved woodland, dense/continuous scrub, hedgerows, and pastural fields.

5.71 The wintering bird assemblage is considered to be of importance at a **Local** level.

Other species

5.72 Records of common toad and common frog were returned from the desk study. The arable farmland recorded across the Site provides sub-optimal terrestrial habitat for amphibian species. The boundary habitats, including hedgerows, treeline, broadleaved woodland and poor-semi-improved grassland margins would provide some suitability for amphibians during their terrestrial phase. However, the lack of suitable aquatic habitat within the Site or within close proximity to the Site, it is unlikely common frog or common toad would be present in significant numbers and are therefore not considered to be an IEF in the context of this assessment.

5.73 A single record of brown hare was returned 238m southwest of the Site. The Site provides some suitable habitat for this species; however, brown hare favour open farmland and the Site is relatively isolated given the presence of urban areas to the south and east, a trainline to the west and road to the north. No brown hare were noted onsite during the surveys undertaken to date. It is unlikely that the Site would support a significant number of brown hare, therefore this species is not considered to be an IEF in the context of this assessment.

5.74 A single record of hedgehog was returned within 1km of the Site. The boundary habitats onsite provide suitable foraging and shelter opportunities for hedgehog, an SPI species. Therefore, hedgehog would be considered of importance at a **Local** level.

5.75 Several records of butterflies and moths were returned from within 1km of the Site. This included small heath butterfly, which favours open, well-drained grassland and heathland. The Site is considered to be unsuitable for small heath butterfly due to the large extent of extensively managed arable land.

5.76 Records of holly blue butterfly were also provided, the larvae of this species feed predominantly on the flower buds, berries and terminal leaves of holly and ivy. Some occasional ivy was noted within the broadleaved woodland onsite, however no holly was present. Due to the limited occurrence of food source plants for holly blue butterfly, the Site is unlikely to represent a significant resource for this species.

5.77 The same is true for cinnabar moth, which relies on common ragwort as a food plant during the larval stages. Common ragwort was noted as a rarity within the poor semi-improved grassland field margins and is not considered a significant resource for cinnabar moth. As a result, none of the invertebrates discussed above are not considered to be an IEF in the context of this assessment.

Summary of Ecological Features & Further Assessment Requirements

5.78 The table below provides a summary of the ecological features, their importance, geographical significance and impacts based on the current Development Framework (Sten Architecture, February 2025). For ecological features on which further assessment is required please see Table 7.

Table 7: Summary of Relevant Important Ecological Features

Important Ecological Feature	Geographical Context
Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI	National
Wombwell Wood LWS	District

Important Ecological Feature	Geographical Context
Habitats of Principle Importance (HPIs) within 1km	Local
Ancient Woodland within 1km	District
Semi-natural broadleaved woodland	Local
Native hedgerows	Local
Treeline TL1	Local
Badger	N/A
Bat species assemblage	TBC
Breeding bird assemblage	TBC
Overwintering bird assemblage	Local
Grass snake	Local
Hedgehog	Local

6.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

DEARNE VALLEY WETLANDS SSSI

Potential Impact

6.1 Given the intervening distance (over 600m to the closest parcel) no direct or indirect construction phase impacts are anticipated[49].

6.2 During the operational phase of the development there is potential for increased recreational pressure upon the SSSI from new residents. The section of Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI to the east of Site (Old Moor) is managed for recreational use by the RSPB[50]. The section of SSSI to the north has limited public access, a bridleway connects Smithley Lane with the Trans Pennine Trail. The Trans Pennine Trail will attract residents and dogwalkers, though this is also managed actively for recreational use[51]. The parcel to the west of Site (Barrow Colliery) is managed by Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership (DVLP) and Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) for recreational use[52]. Given the active management of the SSSI parcels for use by the public and the alternative public footpaths through the local area, increased footfall from new residents during the operational phase is expected to be nugatory upon SSSI designated features.

6.3 The SSSI IRZ flagged any discharge of water or liquid waste of more than 2m³/day to ground (ie to seep away) or to surface water, such as a beck or stream as a potential impact to the wetlands. It is expected that the proposed development would result in more than 2m³/day of water and liquid waste discharges. Inappropriate drainage of the Site during the operational phase could adversely impact the wetland through siltation, leachate/liquid waste pollution which could adversely impact the habitats and in turn the

[49] https://iaqm.co.uk/text/guidance/construction-dust-2014.pdf accessed 17.01.2025
[50] https://www.rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/dearne-valley-old-moor accessed 17.01.2025
[51] https://www.transpenninetrail.org.uk/plan-a-route/places-central/south-yorkshire/ accessed 17.01.2025
[52] http://discoverdearne.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Barnsley-Main-Colliery-CMP-111115.pdf accessed 14.01.2025

designated bird species. Depending on the scale of the discharges, prior to mitigation the impact could range from **not significant adverse** effect at a **Local** scale up to a **significant adverse** effect at a **National** scale, prior to mitigation.

SSSI bird assemblage

6.4 The reasons for notification of the SSSI include[53];

- ***Numbers of non-breeding birds***

  The site's range of open water sizes, depths, aquatic life and marginal vegetation supports nationally important numbers of non-breeding gadwall Mareca strepera and shoveler Spatula clypeata.

- ***Numbers of breeding birds***

  The open water, reedbed, fen, grassland and scrub habitats at the site support nationally important numbers of breeding gadwall, shoveler, bittern Botaurus stellaris, garganey Spatula querquedula, pochard Aythya ferina and black-headed gull Chroicocephalus ridibundus.

- ***Assemblages of breeding birds***

  The site supports nationally important breeding bird assemblages associated with Lowland damp grassland, Lowland scrub and a mixed assemblage of Lowland open waters and their margins and Lowland fen.

- ***Breeding willow tit***

  The site supports important numbers of the rare breeding bird willow tit Poecile montanus klienschmidti. The willow tit is included in the Government's list of species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England and is classed as Red-listed (i.e. of the highest conservation concern) in the UK Birds of Conservation Concern. During the five-year period 2014 to 2018 the SSSI supported territories for an estimated 18-20 breeding pairs of willow tit.

6.5 From the habitats present onsite (largely arable land with no wetland features) we do not expect Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI designated species to utilise the application Site. Natural England agreed with this in their DAS response (Appendix A). Natural England did however, request habitat suitability assessments for willow tit and black-headed gull. These are provided below.

Willow tit

6.6 With regards to willow tit this species prefers wet woodlands, damp woodland margins, scrubby wetland margins, post-industrial sites with scrub and a high-water table, and occasionally mixed damp scrub along the edges of young plantations. The Site has very limited suitability for this species. The Site's eastern and southern boundary habitats, and small areas of the western area's boundary habitats comprise small areas of dense scrub.

[53] https://consult.defra.gov.uk/natural-england/dearne-valley-wetlands-sssi/supporting_documents/Dearne%20Valley%20Wetlands%20SSSI%20Notification%20document%2013%20May%202021.pdf

However, these areas were assessed to not be mature enough to be capable of supporting breeding willow tit.

6.7 Areas of woodland within the 200m buffer, most notably those adjacent to the western parcel and those to the north of Pit Lane do comprise enough standing deadwood that they could be considered suitable to support breeding willow tit. Both of these areas were damp with areas of standing water; however, it should be noted that the survey coincided with a period of heavy snow melt and so it is deemed highly unlikely that these damp ground conditions will be present come the breeding season. Therefore, whilst these areas are considered to be suitable, these woodland habitats are not considered optimal for breeding willow tit.

6.8 Disturbance of these offsite suitable breeding habitats during the construction phase could adversely impact breeding willow tits, if present.

6.9 No willow tits have been recorded during any of the four Winter Bird Surveys. The impact assessment will be updated following the completion of the Breeding Bird Surveys to be undertaken during the in 2025.

Black-headed gull

6.10 With no areas of open water or marshy land being present within the onsite habitats and those within the 200m buffer, the Site does not provide suitable habitat for breeding black-headed gull. This species has been recorded during two of the four Winter Bird Surveys, both as a flyover species and utilising the Site for foraging purposes on one survey occasion.

6.11 Given that black-headed gull were only recorded foraging within Site on one survey occasion and in relatively low numbers (peak count of 11), the Site is not considered to be a significant overwintering foraging resource for this species, that may use the SSSI to breed. There is ample suitable overwintering habitat for this species in the local area and therefore the Site proposals would have an imperceptible impact upon black-headed gull.

Mitigation

6.12 The implementation of a sensitive drainage system will ensure no adverse impacts to the SSSI occur due to discharge of water or liquid waste. Full details of this would be provided at the reserved matters / full application stage.

6.13 Assuming willow tit use the suitable offsite habitats within the 200m buffer, mitigation will comprise best practice working methods to minimise noise, vibration, dust, pollution and light spill. These measures must be outlined within a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

Residual Effect

6.14 The implementation of a sensitive drainage system will ensure impacts to the SSSI due to discharge of water or liquid waste will be **Neutral.**

6.15 With the provision of the above mitigation the residual impact upon willow tit is expected to be **Neutral**.

Enhancements

6.16 Habitat enhancements within the western parcel could include creating suitable breeding habitat for willow tit as per the Willow Tit Handbook[54]. This could comprise one or more of the following;

- Creating deadwood nesting habitat, either cutting selected trees within the broadleaved woodland or fixing suitable wood to existing trees; and
- Creation/enhancement of understorey scrub.

WOMBWELL WOOD LWS

Potential Impact

6.17 Wombwell Wood LWS is located 130m west of Site and therefore there is potential for indirect construction phase impacts from dust deposition on the habitats, prior to mitigation. No direct impacts (habitat loss, direct damage, soil compaction[55]) are expected at this distance.

6.18 Wombwell Wood LWS is managed by Foresty England for recreational use. There is a designated car park, a series of dog-friendly footpaths and information boards[56]. Although it is expected that new residents would increase the footfall within Wombwell Wood LWS, the active management of the LWS for recreational use, and the abundance of other public footpaths within the local area, the impact upon the designated habitats during the operational phase of the development is considered to be nugatory.

Mitigation

6.19 Construction will follow industry best practice guidelines to reduce dust, noise, light and pollution. These measures must be outlined within a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

Residual Effect

6.20 With the implementation of the above mitigation, the residual effect with be **Neutral**.

HABITATS OF PRINCIPLE IMPORTANCE (HPIS) WITHIN 1KM

Potential Impact

6.21 The closest HPI parcel is Deciduous woodland and lies 7m north of Site, north of Pit Lane. The majority of the other nearby parcels within 1km were located within designated sites; Wombwell Wood LWS and Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI.

6.22 There are potential indirect impacts to the closest parcel of offsite HPI woodland during the construction phase from noise, light, dust and/or accidental pollution events.

[54] https://naturebftb.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/25221_BftB_Willow_Tit_Handbook_V6.pdf accessed 27.02.2025
[55] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-ancient-trees-and-veteran-trees-advice-for-making-planning-decisions accessed 14.01.2025
[56] https://www.forestryengland.uk/wombwell-wood accessed 14.01.2025

6.23 Direct lighting of the woodland during the operational phase of the development could also lead to crepuscular / nocturnal species avoiding this habitat, such as foraging or commuting bats.

6.24 No construction phase impacts are expected upon the other HPI parcels within 1km, due to their intervening distances.

6.25 In terms of recreational impacts during the operational phase of the development, these are expected to be nugatory given that the publicly accessible parcels of HPI fall within designated sites already managed for recreational use (please refer to sections above).

Mitigation

6.26 Construction will follow industry best practice guidelines to reduce dust, noise, light and pollution. These measures must be outlined within a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

6.27 As part of any future detailed development design, care should be taken to avoid inappropriate lighting of the retained habitats. Artificial light can deter some more sensitive species. To minimise post development impacts, a sensitive lighting scheme should be adopted to ensure that offsite and boundary habitats will not be illuminated. The lighting scheme will be designed in accordance with guidelines from BCT (2023)[57] i.e. light spill of 1 lux or less. Any external lighting from buildings or in public places adjacent to suitable bat habitats should be downward facing with LED lamps to prevent impacts from lighting.

Residual Effect

6.28 With the implementation of the above mitigation, the residual effect with be **Neutral**.

ANCIENT WOODLAND WITHIN 1KM

Potential Impact

6.29 The closest parcel of Ancient Woodland is mapped 130m south-west within Wombwell Wood LWS. Wombwell Wood (discussed above) and Dovecliffe Woods located north-west of Site.

6.30 There are potential indirect construction phase impacts from dust deposition on the habitats, prior to mitigation. No direct impacts (habitat loss, direct damage, soil compaction[58]) are expected at this distance.

6.31 The closest areas of ancient woodland mapped within 1km fall within Wombwell Wood LWS, which is managed by Foresty England for recreational use. Given this and the abundance of alternative footpaths in the locality, impacts from increased recreational pressure are considered to be nugatory.

[57] Guidance Note GN08/23 Bats and Artificial Lighting At Night, Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) and the Institute of Lighting Professionals
[58] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-ancient-trees-and-veteran-trees-advice-for-making-planning-decisions accessed 14.01.2025

Mitigation

6.32 Construction will follow industry best practice guidelines to reduce dust, noise, light and pollution. These measures must be outlined within a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

Residual Effect

6.33 With the implementation of the above mitigation, the residual effect with be **Neutral**.

SEMI-NATURAL BROADLEAVED WOODLAND

6.34 The semi-natural broadleaved woodland will be retained and buffered within an area of greenspace. However, there are potential direct and indirect impacts to the retained woodland during the construction of the drainage attenuation basin from soil compaction, noise, light, dust and/or accidental pollution events.

6.35 Direct lighting of the woodland during the operational phase of the development could also lead to crepuscular / nocturnal species avoiding this habitat, such as foraging or commuting bats.

Mitigation

6.36 Fenced Root Protection Areas (RPAs) will be used to ensure the retained woodland is not adversely impacted by soil compaction. Construction will follow industry best practice guidelines to reduce dust, noise, light and pollution, therefore no indirect impacts to this habitat is expected during the construction phase. These measures must be outlined within a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

6.37 As part of any future detailed development design, care should be taken to avoid inappropriate lighting of the retained habitats. Artificial light can deter some more sensitive species. To minimise post development impacts, a sensitive lighting scheme should be adopted to ensure that offsite and boundary habitats will not be illuminated. The lighting scheme will be designed in accordance with guidelines from BCT (2023)[59] i.e. light spill of 1 lux or less. Any external lighting from buildings or in public places adjacent to suitable bat habitats should be downward facing with LED lamps to prevent impacts from lighting.

Residual Effect

6.38 With the implementation of the above mitigation, the residual effect with be **Neutral**.

NATIVE HEDGEROWS

Potential Impact

6.39 The framework plan shows the direct loss of hedgerows H2 and H3 to facilitate the development. Partial removal of hedgerow H1 will be required to facilitate Site access

[59] Guidance Note GN08/23 Bats and Artificial Lighting At Night, Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) and the Institute of Lighting Professionals

and minor gap creation may be required in hedgerow H7 to provide drainage / footpath links with the rest of the development.

6.40 The remaining boundary hedgerows, H4, H5 and H6 are retained within the proposals. H4 and H6 will form the boundary of private gardens and H5 will be retained and buffered within Public Open Space (POS).

6.41 There are potential direct and indirect impacts to the retained hedgerows / hedgerow sections during the construction phase from soil compaction, noise, light, dust and/or accidental pollution events.

6.42 Direct lighting of retained hedgerows / hedgerow sections during the operational phase of the development could also lead to crepuscular / nocturnal species avoiding this habitat, such as foraging or commuting bats.

Mitigation

6.43 The hedgerow losses comprising H2, H3, H9, part of H1 and gap creation within H7 cannot be mitigated.

6.44 Fenced Root Protection Areas (RPAs) will be used to ensure the retained hedgerows / hedgerow sections are not adversely impacted by soil compaction. Construction will follow industry best practice guidelines to reduce dust, noise, light and pollution, therefore no indirect impacts to this habitat is expected during the construction phase. These measures must be outlined within a CEMP.

6.45 As part of any future detailed development design, care should be taken to avoid inappropriate lighting of the retained habitats. Artificial light can deter some more sensitive species. To minimise post development impacts, a sensitive lighting scheme should be adopted to ensure that offsite and boundary habitats will not be illuminated. The lighting scheme will be designed in accordance with guidelines from BCT (2023)[60] i.e. light spill of 1 lux or less. Any external lighting from buildings or in public places adjacent to suitable bat habitats should be downward facing with LED lamps to prevent impacts from lighting.

Residual Effect

6.46 The hedgerow losses comprising H2, H3, H9, part of H1 and gap creation within H7 cannot be mitigated. This totals ~440m of hedgerow loss, prior to compensation, this would result in a **not-significant adverse** effect at a **Local** level.

6.47 The impacts to retained hedgerows will be **Neutral**, following the implementation of the above mitigation.

Compensation / Enhancement

6.48 Additional hedgerow planting will be undertaken as part of the landscaping of the Site. This will comprise ~580m of native species rich hedgerows. In additional, hedgerow H1 will be enhanced with additional native species planting to make it species rich. This

[60] Guidance Note GN08/23 Bats and Artificial Lighting At Night, Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) and the Institute of Lighting Professionals

habitat creation and enhancement would be **not-significant positive** at a **Local** level in the mid-to-long term once the hedgerows have established.

TREELINE TL1

Potential Impact

6.49 Treeline TL1 will be retained and buffered within an area of greenspace. However, there are potential direct and indirect impacts to the retained treeline during the construction phase from soil compaction, noise, light, dust and/or accidental pollution events.

6.50 Direct lighting of TL1 during the operational phase of the development could also lead to crepuscular / nocturnal species avoiding this habitat, such as foraging or commuting bats.

Mitigation

6.51 Fenced Root Protection Areas (RPAs) will be used to ensure the retained treeline is not adversely impacted by soil compaction. Construction will follow industry best practice guidelines to reduce dust, noise, light and pollution, therefore no indirect impacts to this habitat is expected during the construction phase. These measures must be outlined within a CEMP.

6.52 As part of any future detailed development design, care should be taken to avoid inappropriate lighting of the retained habitats. Artificial light can deter some more sensitive species. To minimise post development impacts, a sensitive lighting scheme should be adopted to ensure that offsite and boundary habitats will not be illuminated. The lighting scheme will be designed in accordance with guidelines from BCT (2023)[61] i.e. light spill of 1 lux or less. Any external lighting from buildings or in public places adjacent to suitable bat habitats should be downward facing with LED lamps to prevent impacts from lighting.

Residual Effect

6.53 With the implementation of the above mitigation, the residual effect with be **Neutral**.

BADGER

Potential Impact

6.54 If badger setts are created in the intervening period, killing or injury of badgers, as well as the destruction or disturbance of active setts, would result in a breach of legislation.

Mitigation

6.55 Although no setts were identified within the Site, badgers can dig new setts in a relatively short period of time. Given that badgers are present in the area, it is recommended that an updated badger survey is carried out prior to works commencing to ensure compliance with the Badger Protection Act 1992. If any setts are identified within 30m of the working

[61] Guidance Note GN08/23 Bats and Artificial Lighting At Night, Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) and the Institute of Lighting Professionals

area, these would be buffered from impacts until they can be closed under licence if necessary.

6.56 During any excavations, an access ramp should be provided overnight to allow trapped animals an escape route. Chemicals should be stored in secure compounds and open pipes should be temporarily capped at the end of each working day to prevent any animals gaining access. These precautions will protect wildlife such as badgers from harm during works and will be outlined in a CEMP.

Residual Effect

6.57 The impacts to badgers will be **Neutral** following the implementation of the above mitigation.

GENERALIST BAT SPECIES

Potential Impact

6.58 The onsite arable habitats are sub-optimal for foraging and commuting bats therefore the loss of this habitat is not expected to be significant. Loss of more suitable bat habitat will be required to facilitate the development comprising H2, H3, part of H1 and gap creation within H7.

6.59 Other optimal habitats for foraging and commuting bats will be retained including the semi-natural broadleaved woodland, treeline TL1 and hedgerows H4, H5 and H6. There are potential, adverse, construction phase impacts to retained habitats through accidental damage, root compaction, pollution or dust deposition.

6.60 Direct lighting of retained habitats of could lead to bats avoiding this habitat during the operational phase.

6.61 Impacts will be reviewed and amended as appropriate following detailed bat activity surveys at the Site during the 2025 survey season.

Mitigation

6.62 Fenced Root Protection Areas (RPAs) to protect the retained woodland, treeline and hedgerows, as well as pollution prevention measures during construction, through the adherence of best practice working methods, will protect retained habitats of value to bats during the construction phase. The above must be outlined within a CEMP.

6.63 To ensure no indirect impacts occur to retained habitats of value to commuting and foraging bats, a sensitive lighting strategy should be adopted during both the construction and operational phases of the development, in line with the recommendations set out in the Bat Conservation Trust and the Institute of Lighting Professionals in 2023, 'Bats and Artificial Lighting At Night[62] to ensure there will be no light spill onto important offsite habitats and suitable newly created habitats as part of the landscaping. It is anticipated that a sensitive lighting strategy will be conditioned with any planning consent.

[62] Guidance Note GN08/23 Bats and Artificial Lighting At Night, Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) and the Institute of Lighting Professionals

Residual Effect

6.64 The hedgerow losses comprising H2, H3, part of H1 and gap creation within H7 cannot be mitigated.

6.65 The impacts to retained habitats (woodland, treeline, hedgerows) will be **Neutral**, following the implementation of the above mitigation.

6.66 Residual effects will be reviewed and amended as appropriate following detailed bat activity surveys at the Site during the 2025 survey season.

Compensation / Enhancement

6.67 The habitats to be provided within the landscaping will benefit the local bat population. This includes the provision of mixed native scrub, ~580m of native hedgerows, woodland, trees, species-rich grassland and a wildlife friendly attenuation basin.

6.68 Bat boxes will also be mounted on the newly created dwellings to provide improved roosting opportunities.

6.69 Overall, this would have a **not-significant positive** effect on generalist bat species at a **Local** level in the mid-to-long-term once the habitats have established.

BREEDING BIRDS

Potential Impact

6.70 All wild birds species are protected while nesting by the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended). This legislation protects wild birds, their nests and eggs from intentional harm, and makes it illegal to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild birds; take, damage or destroy the nest of a wild bird while the nest is in use of being build or take / destroy an egg of a wild bird.

6.71 Prior to mitigation, there is a potential impact to nesting birds within on-site habitats during the Site clearance operations, if this is undertaken within the breeding bird season (March – September). Operations could result in the destruction of nests / eggs or the killing of chicks, which would be a breach of the WCA.

6.72 Impacts will be reviewed and amended as appropriate following detailed breeding bird surveys at the Site during the 2025 survey season.

Mitigation

6.73 To comply with relevant legislation, any removal of vegetation should be timed to avoid the nesting season where possible (March to September inclusive, although dates do vary depending on the species and weather conditions). Where it is not feasible, affected areas should be checked for nests in advance by an experienced ecologist. Any active nests identified should be left with a minimum buffer of 5m to be identified by the ecologist, until such time as all birds have fledged.

Residual Effect

6.74 Residual effects will be reviewed and amended as appropriate following detailed breeding bird surveys at the Site during the 2025 survey season.

6.75 With the implementation of the above mitigation, it is considered that the residual impact on nesting birds due to a breach of legislation would be **Neutral**.

Compensation / Enhancement

6.76 The habitats to be provided within the landscaping will benefit breeding birds. This includes the provision of mixed native scrub, ~580m of native hedgerows, woodland, trees, species-rich grassland and a wildlife friendly attenuation basin.

6.77 A range of bird boxes will be installed on the new dwellings to provide additional nesting opportunities.

OVERWINTERING BIRDS

Potential Impact

6.78 During the construction phase of the development, the Site's species assemblage will be displaced.

6.79 For species that will readily habituate to residential areas and following the establishment of new habitats, the Site will continue to support most of these species, with the potential to attract new species. Due to the loss of arable field habitat, and no like-for-like habitat being provided within the development black-headed gull, buzzard, common gull, fieldfare, herring gull, and red kite in particular may be permanently displaced from the Site. However, given the abundance of similar habitats in the wider area which would support these species, the impact is considered to be nugatory at a **Local** level.

Mitigation

6.80 Mitigation to reduce construction phase impacts of the wider wintering bird assemblage, within the 200m buffer will comprise best practice working methods to minimise noise, vibration, dust, pollution and light spill. These measures must be outlined within a CEMP.

Residual Effect

6.81 The significance of residual effects following mitigation is considered to be **Neutral**.

Compensation / Enhancement

6.82 New landscape planting including trees and shrubs to use native species which bear fruit and seeds to provide additional opportunities for overwintering birds.

GRASS SNAKE

Potential Impact

6.83 From the desk study, two records of reptile species (grass snake) were present within 1km of the Site boundary. The destruction of suitable reptile habitats to facilitate the development could result in the killing and or injury of individual, or at most, small numbers of reptiles. This could have a **not significant adverse** effect at a **Local** level and would be a **breach of the WCA** (grass snake) **without mitigation.**

Mitigation

6.84 Mitigation is required to ensure there is no breach of legislation (to avoid killing and injury of grass snake). Due to the habitats present onsite a translocation exercise is not considered proportionate, and that passive displacement would be an effective method to allow any individuals of this species to relocate during the site works. In order to ensure there is no breach of legislation the following must be undertaken:

- Toolbox talk to all contractors onsite regarding the presence of reptiles.
- Grassland vegetation to be cut to ground level during Nov – Feb (winter period). If grassland is to be removed during March – Oct the clearance works must be overseen by an Ecological Clerk of Works (EcoW) utilising the following methods: hand-search of vegetation by the EcoW followed by a cut to 150mm. The EcoW must then undertake a second hand-search followed by the final cut to ground level. The vegetation cutting will be undertaken in a directional manner towards optimal retained habitats within or adjacent the Site to allow any animals to disperse. If any reptiles are identified at any time works will cease in that area and the individual will be left undisturbed and allowed to disperse naturally.
- Any hedgerow / scrub removal will be undertaken outside of the hibernation period (November – February, inclusive). Where this is not possible a destructive search under the supervision of the EcoW will be required.
- Additional measures to avoid reptiles utilising habitats within the working area include: avoid creating piles of brash and/or soil piles and store materials upon pallets.

Residual Effect

6.85 The significance of residual effects following mitigation is considered to be **Neutral**.

Compensation / Enhancement

6.86 Proposed habitats include mixed native scrub, ~580m of native hedgerows, woodland, trees, species-rich grassland and a wildlife friendly attenuation basin, which will provide enhanced opportunities for grass snake.

6.87 The provision of a log piles within the public open space would provide additional foraging and shelter opportunities for this species.

6.88 This is expected to have a **not-significant positive** effect at a **Local** level for grass snake.

HEDGEHOG

Potential Impact

6.89 The majority of the onsite habitats were sub-optimal for hedgehogs as they largely comprised intensively managed arable land. There will be losses of suitable habitat comprising hedgerows H2, H3, part of H1 and gap creation within H7. This is expected to have a **not significant adverse** effect at a **Local** level.

6.90 The development could result in the killing / injury of individuals and disturbance of hedgehogs within potential areas of shelter (i.e the removal of hedgerows). This is thought to have a **not-significant adverse** effect at **Local** level, prior to mitigation measures.

6.91 Impermeable boundary treatments has the potential to restrict the movement of this species and reduce connectivity. This is thought to have a **not-significant adverse** effect at **Local** level, prior to mitigation measures.

Mitigation

6.92 In order to minimise risk, it is recommended that vegetation removal is undertaken in a precautionary manner. This should comprise a visual check of suitable vegetated areas prior to removal followed by the cutting of vegetation to 150mm above ground level. This will be followed by a check of the area by the ECoW. The vegetation would then be cut to ground level. Cut vegetation must be removed from the working area. Any areas of suitable shelter such as brash piles will be removed by hand.

6.93 During any excavations, an access ramp must be provided overnight (or excavations covered) to allow trapped animals an escape route. Chemicals should be stored in secure compounds and open pipes should be temporarily capped at the end of each working day to prevent any animals gaining access. These precautions will protect wildlife such as hedgehog from harm during works. This must be outlined within the CEMP.

6.94 Fencing and buffers will be implemented to protect the retained hedgerow and trees, along with pollution prevention measures to prevent damage to these habitats during construction. These must be outlined within the CEMP.

6.95 If boundary treatments are required, hedgehog holes (13cm x 13cm) should be provided to allow access to the proposed habitats.

Residual Effect

6.96 With the implementation of the above mitigation, the significance of residual effects is considered to be **Neutral**.

Compensation / Enhancement

6.97 Proposed habitats include mixed native scrub, ~580m of native hedgerows, woodland, trees, species-rich grassland and a wildlife friendly attenuation basin, which will provide enhanced opportunities for hedgehogs.

6.98 The provision of a log piles within the public open space would provide additional foraging and shelter opportunities for this species.

6.99 This is expected to have a **not-significant positive** effect at a **Local** level for the local hedgehog population.

Table 8: Assessment of Likely Significant effects & Mitigation Measures

Important Ecological Feature (Geographical Context)	Potential Impact	Nature of Effect	Mitigation & Implementation	Residual Effect after Mitigation	Compensation & Enhancement	Significance of effect after Mitigation, Compensation & Enhancement
Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI (National)	Discharge of water or liquid waste of more than 2m³/day to ground or to surface water during the operational phase	Increase of siltation and pollution (leachate / liquid waste) degrading SSSI wetland habitats & in turn adversely impacting designated birds.	A sustainable urban drainage system (SuDS).	Neutral	N/A	N/A
	Disturbance of offsite habitats suitable for breeding willow tit during the construction phase (noise, vibration, light, dust)	Adverse impact on designated species; willow tit	Best practise working methods to be employed during construction phase. **CEMP as a condition.**	Neutral	N/A	Habitat enhancements could include creating deadwood nesting habitat and/ or understorey scrub within the retained broadleaved woodland
Wombwell Wood LWS (District)	Dust deposition during the construction phase	Temporary impact potentially leading to damage/ degradation of habitats.	Best practise working methods to be employed during construction phase. **CEMP as a condition.**	Neutral	N/A	N/A
HPIs within 1km (Local)	Noise, dust and/or accidental pollution events to HPI parcel 7m to the north.	Temporary impact potentially leading to damage/ degradation of habitats.	Best practise working methods to be employed during construction phase. **CEMP as a condition.**	Neutral	N/A	N/A
Ancient woodland within 1km (Local)	Dust deposition during the construction phase	Temporary impact potentially leading to damage/ degradation of habitats.	Best practise working methods to be employed during construction phase. **CEMP as a condition.**	Neutral	N/A	N/A

Important Ecological Feature (Geographical Context)	Potential Impact	Nature of Effect	Mitigation & Implementation	Residual Effect after Mitigation	Compensation & Enhancement	Significance of effect after Mitigation, Compensation & Enhancement
Semi-natural broadleaved woodland (Local)	Direct and indirect impacts to the retained woodland during the construction of the drainage attenuation basin from soil compaction, noise, light, dust and/or accidental pollution events	Temporary impact potentially leading to damage/ degradation of habitats.	Fenced Root Protection Areas (RPAs). Best practise working methods to be employed during construction phase. **CEMP as a condition.**	Neutral	The retained woodland will be enhanced through suitable management over 30 years, secured through a Habitat Monitoring and Management Plan (HMMP). Additional woodland planting also included in landscaping to tie-in with local surroundings.	Not-significant positive effect at a Local level in the mid-to-long-term.
	Direct lighting	Crepuscular / nocturnal species avoiding these habitats.	**Sensitive lighting design in accordance with BCT Guidance as a condition.**	Neutral	N/A	N/A
Native hedgerows (Local)	Direct hedgerow losses comprising H2, H3, part of H1 and gap creation within H7.	Permanent loss of ~440m of hedgerows	N/A	Not significant adverse at a Local level	Provision of ~580m of hedgerow within the landscaping and enhancement to H1	Not-significant positive effect at a Local level in the mid-to-long-term.
	Damage to retained hedgerows from accidental damage / dust / pollution event during the construction phase	Temporary impact potentially leading to damage/ degradation of habitats.	Fenced Root Protection Areas (RPAs). Best practise working methods to be employed during construction phase. **CEMP as a condition.**	Neutral	N/A	N/A

Important Ecological Feature (Geographical Context)	Potential Impact	Nature of Effect	Mitigation & Implementation	Residual Effect after Mitigation	Compensation & Enhancement	Significance of effect after Mitigation, Compensation & Enhancement
	Direct lighting	Crepuscular / nocturnal species avoiding these habitats.	**Sensitive lighting design in accordance with BCT Guidance as a condition.**	Neutral	N/A	N/A
Treeline TL1 (Local)	Damage to retained TL1 from accidental damage / dust / pollution event during the construction phase	Temporary impact potentially leading to damage/ degradation of habitats.	Fenced Root Protection Areas (RPAs). Best practise working methods to be employed during construction phase. **CEMP as a condition.**	Neutral	N/A	N/A
	Direct lighting	Crepuscular / nocturnal species avoiding these habitats.	**Sensitive lighting design in accordance with BCT Guidance as a condition.**	Neutral	N/A	N/A
Badger (N/A)	If any setts are created prior to construction, site works could lead to the killing / injury of badgers and/or disturbance / destruction of their setts.	Breach of legislation.	Updated badger survey carried out prior to works commencing to ensure compliance with the Badger Protection Act 1992. If any setts are identified within 30m of the working area, these would be buffered from impacts until they can be closed under licence. **Pre commencement badger check as a condition.**	N/A	N/A	N/A

Important Ecological Feature (Geographical Context)	Potential Impact	Nature of Effect	Mitigation & Implementation	Residual Effect after Mitigation	Compensation & Enhancement	Significance of effect after Mitigation, Compensation & Enhancement
Bat species assemblage (TBC)	Loss of foraging habitat for bats.	Permanent loss of foraging and commuting habitat (~440m of hedgerows).	N/A	Not significant adverse at a Local level	The habitats to be provided within the landscaping will benefit the local bat population. This includes the provision of mixed native scrub, native hedgerows, trees, woodland and a wildlife friendly attenuation basin with its banks seeded with species-rich grassland for wetlands. Bat boxes installed on new buildings.	Not-significant positive effect at a Local level in the mid-to-long-term.
	Disturbance of bats in retained habitats due to lighting.	Bat species avoiding these habitats.	**Sensitive lighting design in accordance with BCT Guidance as a condition.**	Neutral	N/A	N/A
Breeding bird assemblage (TBC)	Risk of disturbance, killing or injury of nesting birds.	Breach of legislation.	Vegetation clearance will be carried out outside the nesting bird season (March-September inclusive) or vegetation will be checked by an ecologist and any nesting birds allowed to fledge prior to removal. **CEMP as a condition.**	Neutral	N/A	N/A

Important Ecological Feature (Geographical Context)	Potential Impact	Nature of Effect	Mitigation & Implementation	Residual Effect after Mitigation	Compensation & Enhancement	Significance of effect after Mitigation, Compensation & Enhancement
Overwintering bird assemblage (Local)	Disturbance impacts to wintering bird assemblage during the construction phase	Temporary displacement of the Site's species assemblage	Best practise working methods to be employed during construction phase. **CEMP as a condition.**			Not significant adverse impact at a local level (temporary)
	Land use change	Changes to overwintering assemblage - black-headed gull, buzzard, common gull, fieldfare, herring gull, and red kite may be permanently displaced	N/A	Nugatory / neutral	New landscape planting including trees and shrubs to use native species which bear fruit and seeds to provide additional opportunities for overwintering birds to support the rest of the existing species and attract new species.	Neutral
Grass snake (Local)	Potential killing or injury of individual grass snake if they're present within the Site.	Breach of legislation.	Site clearance to follow precautionary working methods set out in a CEMP.	Neutral.	N/A	Neutral.
Hedgehog (Local)	Habitat loss (construction phase) loss of ~440m of hedgerows.	Not significant adverse effect at a Local level.	N/A	N/A	New habitat provision to include mixed native scrub, ~ 580m of native hedgerows, woodland, trees and a wildlife friendly attenuation basin with wildflower seeding.	Not-significant positive effect at a Local level in the mid-to-long-term.

Important Ecological Feature (Geographical Context)	Potential Impact	Nature of Effect	Mitigation & Implementation	Residual Effect after Mitigation	Compensation & Enhancement	Significance of effect after Mitigation, Compensation & Enhancement
					Creation of log piles and installation of hedgehog houses to increase shelter opportunities.	
	Potential for accidental killing or injury of individual hedgehogs during site clearance works.	Not significant adverse effect at a Local level.	Site clearance to follow precautionary working methods set out in a CEMP.	Neutral.	N/A	Neutral.
	Connectivity of suitable hedgehog habitat could be restricted through the use of impermeable boundary treatments (operational phase).	Not significant adverse effect at a Local level.	Gaps beneath garden fences to maintain a hedgehog highway through the development areas.	Neutral.	N/A	Neutral.

7.0 RESIDUAL EFFECTS

7.1 The mitigation measures are provided within Table 8 above. With the implementation of these **no significant negative** residual effects are envisaged.

8.0 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

8.1 Barnsley Councils website was reviewed for approved and undetermined planning permissions / developments submitted within the last 5 years to check for any potential cumulative effects.

8.2 The vast majority of nearby applications were for small scale works, including homeowner, tree works and change of use applications. No cumulative effects are anticipated from these developments.

8.3 Development proposals that were assessed in more detail are included below.

LAND TO THE NORTH OF LUNDHILL ROAD, WOMBWELL, BARNSLEY. PLANNING REF: 2019/0089

8.4 Development description: demolition of existing bungalow and the development of 235 no. dwellings with formation of new access, car parking, landscaping and public open space. Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (MRB Ecology and Environment, January 2019) and Additional Ecological Information (FPCR, January 2020) identified breeding birds and commuting / foraging bats as IEFs. The development will result in the loss of two breeding pairs of skylark *Alauda arvensis*, which will not result in significant negative effects to the population in a local or regional context, alone. This has potential to have in-combination effects with this proposal, should skylark be noted during the 2025 breeding bird surveys. If mitigation was considered necessary for this species, such mitigation could not be provided within the Site and an offsite solution would be required.

LAND SOUTH OF DONCASTER ROAD AND ADJACENT TO STRAWBRIDGES GARDEN CENTRE, DARFIELD, BARNSLEY, S72 5EZ PLANNING REF: 2024/0580

8.5 Development Description: Hybrid planning application comprising a) Full planning application for 260no dwellings including 2, 2.5, and 3 storey houses together with attenuation basin, landscaping and associated works and b) Outline planning application for 200no. dwellings. Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Whitcher Wildlife Ltd. Ecological Consultants, June 2024, Ref No: 240123/PEA/1) states that the current proposals show that the development is to retain most woodlands, boundary vegetation and watercourses / ditches, but the scrub, grasslands and arable land to be lost to facilitate the development. Due to the scale of the development, further surveys will be necessary to determine how the site is currently used by foraging and commuting bats so that an assessment can be made on the likely impact on them. These surveys are currently ongoing and this report will be updating upon their completion.

8.6 Breeding bird surveys are ongoing and skylark have been identified using the site. It is recommended that any proposed off-site mitigation required, factor in the likelihood of

the requirement for mitigation for bird species such as skylark. Potential skylark plots may be required which will not necessarily score well in terms of biodiversity. It is concluded that further recommendations will be provided once any bird surveys have been finalised.

Summary

8.7 The above developments are also focused upon arable land, which support breeding pairs of skylark. There is potential for an in-combination effect to the local skylark population, should these be identified within the Site on completion of the breeding bird surveys in 2025. This will be subject to further assessment once surveys are completed.

8.8 If mitigation was considered necessary for this species, such mitigation could not be provided within the Site and an off-site solution would be required.

9.0 MONITORING

9.1 Monitoring is recommended to ensure that effective mitigation is maintained during construction and operation. This could include quarterly checks during construction and throughout habitat establishment and management. Some stages of the site clearance will require supervision by a suitably qualified ecologist, such as vegetation clearance to avoid killing and injury to grass snake, hedgehogs, and nesting bird checks (if clearance is undertaken during bird breeding season).

10.0 BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENTS

10.1 In accordance with NPPF (2024[63]), The Environment Act 2021[64], and Policy BIO1 Biodiversity and Geodiversity of the Barnsley Local Plan (adopted January 2019[65]) and Barnsley Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD (adopted March 2024), the development should incorporate features to encourage biodiversity and retain and where possible enhance existing features of nature conservation value within the Site.

10.2 The Impact Assessment section identified ecological enhancements that should be incorporated into the development proposal. Outlined below are further additional measures:

- New landscape planting including trees and shrubs to use native species which bear fruit and nectar.
- The balancing facility/ SUDs to be created should be designed and managed for wildlife. This would be particularly beneficial to amphibians.
- 100% of all new dwellings to include integrated bat or bird boxes, alongside the provision of bird boxes in retained/newly created habitat on site to provide nesting habitat for a variety of species as per Policy BIO1[66].

[63] Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (December 2024). National Planning Policy Framework. London
[64] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted
[65] Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Local Plan, Adopted January 2019; Barnsley's Local Plan
[66] Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD (adopted March 2024)

- Installation of hedgehog highway gaps within new boundary fences in residential schemes ensuring connectivity between gardens for hedgehogs and other wildlife, increasing the extent of habitat availability, as per Policy BIO1[67].
- Installation of invertebrate boxes on suitable trees within development sites, alongside the provision of bee banks and/or brash piles.
- Any formal lawn areas should where possible be seeded with a species rich flowering lawn mix such as EL1 – Flowering Lawn Mix, Emorsgate Seeds.

[67] Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD (adopted March 2024)

APPENDIX A: NATURAL ENGLAND DISCRETIONARY ADVICE SERVICE (DAS) RESPONSE

From: SM-NE-Consultations (NE) <consultations@naturalengland.org.uk>
Sent: 10 January 2025 16:28
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE:FE302 Pit Lane, Wombwell- DAS Request

Dear [redacted]

Site Name: Pit Lane, Wombwell
Site Address: Pit Lane, Wombwell, Barnsley, S73 8PN.
Development Description: Residential Development 222 Units.

Thank you for your Discretionary Advice Service (DAS) request on the above dated 20/12/24. which was received by Natural England on the same date

Natural England is unable to accommodate this DAS request because of a lack of capacity to take on more cases. The decision to take on DAS requests is made on a case-by-case basis. Natural England is experiencing high volumes of casework at the current time. Should you wish to submit your request form again in the near future, we will review if we can accommodate your request then. However due to the current workload, we cannot confirm a definite date that we could take this request on.

Although we do not have capacity for a full review of the case, Natural England would like to highlight the following points, based on the information provided:

- The comments on limited habitat suitability for waterfowl sound reasonable, but an assessment of habitat suitability and the current survey results should be provided.
- Habitats used by other SSSI designated features should also be assessed, including scrub for willow tit and habitats for black headed gull.

Apologies for the inconvenience.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]
Sustainable Development
Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire
Natural England
Lateral
8 City Walk
Leeds LS11 9AT
Mobile: [redacted]

www.gov.uk/natural-england

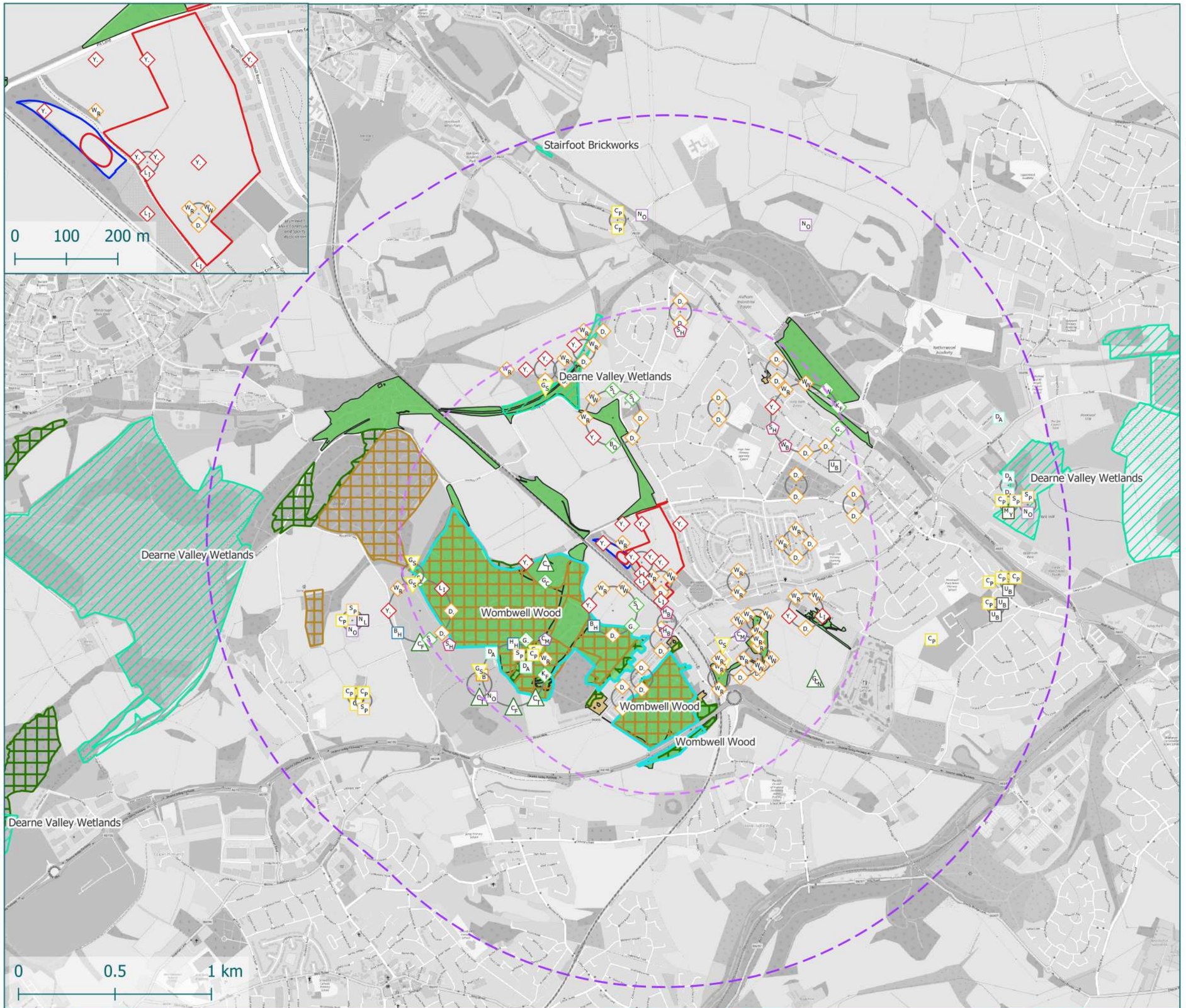
APPENDIX B: BOTANICAL SPECIES LIST

The habitat types were mapped within the site and a representative species list for each habitat type recorded. Species lists are not exhaustive of all flora present in each habitat type.

Common Name	Scientific Name	DAFOR
Poor semi-improved grassland		
Bramble	*Rubus fruticosus* agg.	O
Broadleaved dock	*Rumex obtusifolius*	O
Cock's foot	*Dactylis glomerata*	O
Common hogweed	*Heracleum sphondylium*	O
Common nettle	*Urtica dioica*	F
Cow parsley	*Anthriscus sylvestris*	O
Creeping thistle	*Cirsium arvense*	F- LA
False oat grass	*Arrhenatherum elatius*	A
Goat's beard	*Tragopogon pratensis*	R
Lesser burdock	*Arctium minus*	R
Mugwort	*Artemisia vulgaris*	O - LF
Mullein	*Verbascum thapsus*	R
Perennial rye-grass	*Lolium perenne*	LA
Ragwort	*Jacobaea vulgaris*	R
Red clover	*Trifolium pratense*	O
Rosebay willowherb	*Chamaenerion angustifolium*	O
Soft-brome	*Bromus hordeaceus*	O
Willowherb	*Epilobium* sp.	O
Tall ruderal vegetation		
Bramble	*Rubus fruticosus agg.*	F
Broadleaved dock	*Rumex obtusifolius*	O
Cleavers	*Galium aparine*	LA
Common nettle	*Urtica dioica*	LA
Creeping buttercup	*Ranunculus repens*	O
Creeping thistle	*Cirsium arvense*	LA
False oat grass	*Arrhenatherum elatius*	F
Hedge bindweed	*Calystegia sepium*	O
Honeysuckle	*Lonicera periclymenum*	R
Perennial rye-grass	*Lolium perenne*	LA
Soft-brome	*Bromus hordeaceus*	O
St John's wort	*Hypericum* sp.	R
Teasel	*Dipsacus fullonum*	R
Willowherb	*Epilobium* sp.	O
Treeline TL1		
Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*	O
Elder	*Sambucus nigra*	O
Field maple	*Acer campestre*	F
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*	F
Pedunculate oak	*Quercus robur*	F
Plum	*Prunus* sp.	O
Semi-natural broadleaved woodland		

Common Name	Scientific Name	DAFOR
Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*	O
Beech	*Fagus sylvatica*	O
Bramble	*Rubus fruticosus agg.*	LA
Broad-leaved Dock	Rumex obtusifolius	O
Burdock	*Arctium sp.*	O
Cleavers	*Galium aparine*	F
Cock's-foot	*Dactylis glomerata*	O
Common ivy	*Hedera helix*	O
Common nettle	*Urtica dioica*	O
Elder	*Sambucus nigra*	O
Fern	*Polypodiopsida*	O
Field maple	*Acer campestre*	O
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*	O
Moss	*Bryophyta*	F
English oak	*Quercus robur*	O
Silver birch	*Betula pendula*	F
Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*	O
Willow	*Salix sp.*	O
Willowherb	*Epilobium sp.*	LA

DAFOR: D=dominant, A=abundant, F=frequent, O=occasional, R=Rare, L=Locally



FUTURES ECOLOGY

Carrwood Park, Swillington Common Farm, Selby Road, Leeds, LS15 4LG
Telephone: 01133 372185

Unit 9, The Tangent Business Hub, Weighbridge Road, Shirebrook, Mansfield, Derbyshire, NG20 8RX
Telephone: 01623 749709

Key

Site Boundary
- Red Line
- Blue Line

Site Buffers
- 1km Buffer
- 2km Buffer

Designated Sites
- Local Wildlife Site (LWS)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Habitat of Principle Importance (HPI)
- Deciduous Woodland
- Additional habitats present

Ancient Woodland
- Ancient Semi-Natural
- Planted Ancient Woodland

Protected and Notable Species
- Common pipistrelle bat
- Soprano pipistrelle bat
- Pipistrelle bat species
- Noctule bat
- Leisler's bat
- Daubenton's bat
- Myotis bat species
- Unidentified bat species
- West European hedgehog
- Brown hare
- Yellowhammer
- Linnet
- Dunnock
- Willow warbler
- Wren
- Barn owl
- Green woodpecker
- Kingfisher
- Swallow
- Goldcrest
- Lesser whitethroat
- Great crested newt
- Common toad
- Common frog
- Grass snake
- Wall butterfly
- Small heath butterfly
- Holly blue butterfly
- Cinnabar moth

Client:	Crest Nicholson	Plan Reference:	FE302_01	Author:	CC / KEH
Project:	Pit Lane, Wombwell	Project Reference:	FE302	Date:	9/5/2025
Title:	Figure 1 - Site Location & Desk Study Results Plan	Report Reference:	FE302/EclA01	Scale:	1:20,000

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FUTURESECOLOGY
Carrwood Park, Swillington Common Farm, Selby Road, Leeds, LS15 4LG
Telephone: 01133 372185

Unit 9, The Tangent Business Hub, Weighbridge Road, Shirebrook, Mansfield, Derbyshire, NG20 8RX
Telephone: 01623 749709

Key

Site Boundary

- Red Line
- Blue Line

Habitats

- Hardstanding
- A — Cultivated/disturbed land - arable
- SI — Poor semi-improved grassland
- Other tall herb and fern - ruderal
- Scrub - dense/continuous (bramble scrub)
- Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural
- Bare ground
- Intact hedge - species-poor
- Defunct hedge - species-poor
- Hedge with trees - native species-rich
- Hedges: Introduced shrub
- Broadleaved trees
- Dry ditch
- Broadleaved tree
- Scrub - scattered
- Target note
  TN1 - A localised patch of sumac Rhus sp.

Client:	Crest Nicholson	Plan Reference:	FE302_02	Author:	MB / KEH
Project:	Pit Lane, Wombwell	Project Reference:	FE302	Date:	17/4/2025
Title:	Figure 2 - Phase 1 Habitat Plan	Report Reference:	FE302/EcIA01	Scale:	1:2,500 @ A3

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FUTURESECOLOGY

Carrwood Park, Swillington Common Farm, Selby Road, Leeds, LS15 4LG
Telephone: 01133 372185

Unit 9, The Tangent Business Hub, Weighbridge Road, Shirebrook, Mansfield, Derbyshire, NG20 8RX
Telephone: 01623 749709

Site Boundary
- Red Line
- Blue Line

Site Buffers
- 250m Buffer
- 500m Buffer

Waterbodies
- Waterbody
- Ditch
- Stream

Client:	Crest Nicholson	Plan Reference:	FE302_03	Author:	CC / KEH
Project:	Pit Lane, Wombwell	Project Reference:	FE302	Date:	17/4/2025
Title:	Figure 3 - Waterbody Location Plan	Report Reference:	FE302/EclA01	Scale:	1:7,500

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