

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) Survey Report	
For:	Mr David Connor
Site:	Land off Common Road, Brierley, Barnsley, S72 9ES
Report Date:	20 th March 2026
Report Reference:	SQ-4120

Ecologists:

Daniel Knight-Woodall BSc (Hons), MSc
John Davies BSc (hons)



Land off Common Road

Brierley

Barnsley

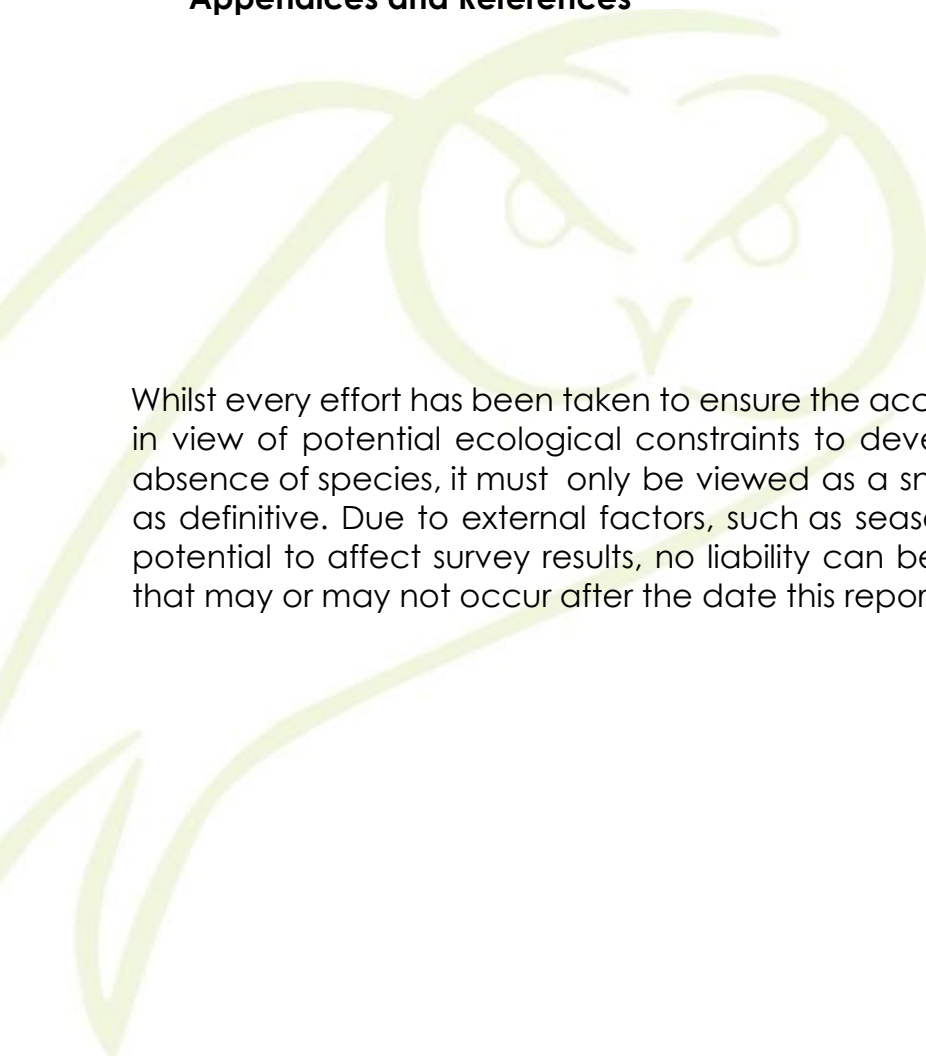
S72 9ES

Client:	Mr David Connor
Site Name:	Land off Common Road, Brierley, Barnsley, S72 9ES
Grid Reference:	SE 41793 10961
Report:	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
Date of Survey:	10 th March 2026
Surveying Ecologists:	Daniel Knight-Woodall BSc (Hons), MSc John Davies BSc (Hons)

Issue:	Revision:	Stage:	Date:	Prepared by:	Approved by:
-	-	Draft	18 th March 2026	Daniel Knight-Woodall BSc (Hons), MSc – Estrada Ecology Ltd	John Davies BSc (Hons) – Estrada Ecology Ltd
-	V1	Final	20 th March 2025	Daniel Knight-Woodall BSc (Hons), MSc – Estrada Ecology Ltd	Natasha Estrada MRes, MCIEEM- Estrada Ecology Ltd

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Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this report and its contents in view of potential ecological constraints to development or the likely presence or absence of species, it must only be viewed as a snapshot in time and not be viewed as definitive. Due to external factors, such as seasonality, weather, etc., having the potential to affect survey results, no liability can be assumed for omissions or changes that may or may not occur after the date this report was produced.

1 Introduction and Background to the Site

1.1 Estrada Ecology Ltd was commissioned to conduct a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of land off Common Road, Brierley, Barnsley, S72 9ES.

1.2 The site consists of:

- Artificial Unvegetated; Unsealed Surface
- Buildings
- Modified Grassland
- Sparsely Vegetated Urban Land

1.3 The plans for any development on site are currently unknown.

1.4 Report Objectives

- Present the findings of the ecological survey.
- Assess the potential of existing on-site habitats to support protected or notable species.
- Evaluate any likely ecological impacts on protected and notable species or habitats because of the proposed development.
- Provide recommendations for any further species-specific survey and mitigation measures that may be required; and
- Provide habitat enhancement recommendations in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024).

1.5 Site Location and Wider Area

1.5.1 The site is situated within the village of Brierley, in the metropolitan borough of Barnsley, located approximately 7.85 km west of Barnsley town centre. The wider landscape is primarily residential to the west and agricultural land to the north, east. Further afield, to the east, is Burntwood Court Hotel.

1.5.2 The survey site's central OS grid reference is SE 41793 10961.

1.5.3 The immediate surroundings of the site are rural fields and agricultural land, with residential properties to the north. The site is entirely enclosed within an intact wall, around 1.5m in height. The main entrance to the site is via a remote-controlled gate that is closed for the majority of the day and night. This gate has a gap underneath through which smaller fauna could enter.

Figure 1: The survey site within its wider setting.



Google Earth, 2026

2 Protected Species Legislation

2.1 Relevant legislation includes the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Species Amendment (EU Exit) Regulations which came into force on 31 December 2020.

2.2 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act came into force on 1 Oct 2006. Section 41 (S41) of the Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The list has been drawn up in consultation with Natural England, as required by the Act. The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when conducting their normal functions. The UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework was developed in response to the Convention on Biological Diversity's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 - 2020. Its five strategic goals and twenty biodiversity targets supersede the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

2.3 Environment and Biodiversity

2.3.1 Under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024), local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance the natural environment when determining planning applications. Local planning authorities also have an obligation to seek opportunities to further enhance the conservation status of Species and Principal Habitats.

2.3.2 Species and Habitats of Principal Importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England (JNCC, 2009) are covered under section 41 of the Natural Environmental and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006). Species and habitats listed within Section 41 need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions, such as assessing planning applications.

2.3.3 Development proposals submitted after 12th February 2024, with some exceptions, will be expected to achieve a minimum of 10% net gain in site biodiversity value under The Environment Act 2021 (Commencement No. 8 and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2024.

2.4 Wildlife

2.4.1 European Protected Species, such as bats (all species) and great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*), are afforded protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as well as under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000. It is an offence to:

- Deliberately or recklessly capture, injure, or kill any wild animal of a European protected species.
- Deliberately or recklessly disturb any such animal.
- Damage or destroy their breeding site or resting place.
- Keep, transport, or offer for sale / exchange any live or dead animal, or any part of, or anything from these species.

2.4.2 Disturbance of European Protected Species constitutes any activity which is likely to:

- To impair their ability to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young; or, in the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; and
- To significantly affect the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.

2.5 UK Legislation

2.5.1 **Breeding birds** (all species) are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird and to take, damage or destroy the nest (whilst being built or in use) or eggs. Schedule 1 species are afforded protection from disturbance at or near nest sites, including reckless disturbance under the Countryside Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000.

2.5.2 **Bats** (all native species) and their breeding sites or resting places (roosts) are fully protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). Bats are also protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) through their inclusion in Schedule 5. Under the Act, they are protected from: intentional or reckless disturbance (at any level); obstruction of access to any place of shelter, breeding, or rest; selling, bartering or exchanging of these species, or parts of.

- 2.5.3 **Reptiles** (all native species) are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence to intentionally kill, injure and trade these animals.
- 2.5.4 **Amphibians** (all native species) are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). The sale, barter, exchange, transportation for sale, and advertising to sell or to buy are offences.
- 2.5.5 **Eurasian Badgers** are protected by the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence: to wilfully, or attempt, to kill, capture, ill-treat or injure any badger; to obstruct, destroy or damage a badger sett or to disturb a badger whilst within its sett; to sell or offer for sale a live badger, or have possession or control of a live badger; and marking a badger or attaching any ring, tag, or other marking device to a badger.
- 2.5.6 **Eurasian Otters** are a European Protected Species (EPS) and are also fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is against the law to capture, kill, disturb or injure otters (on purpose or by not taking enough care); damage or destroy a breeding or resting place (deliberately or by not taking enough care); obstruct access to their resting or sheltering places (deliberately or by not taking enough care); and possess, sell, control or transport live or dead otters, or parts of otters.
- 2.5.7 **European Water Voles** are fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and is a priority conservation species. It is against the law to: Intentionally capture, kill, or injure water voles, damage, destroy or block access to their places of shelter or protection (on purpose or by not taking enough care), disturb them in a place of shelter or protection (on purpose or by not taking enough care), and possess, sell, control or transport live or dead water voles or parts of them (not water voles bred in captivity).

3 Survey Methodology

3.1 Desktop Survey

- 3.1.1 A biological data records search was commissioned from both Barnsley Biological Records Centre (BBRC), West Yorkshire Ecology Services and West Yorkshire Bat Group (WYBG) for a 2 km radius from the central grid reference.
- 3.1.2 Further inspection, using colour 1:25,000 OS base maps (www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk), MAGIC (www.magic.defra.gov.uk), and aerial photographs from Google Earth (www.maps.google.co.uk), was also undertaken to provide additional context and identify any features of potential importance for nature conservation in the wider countryside.
- 3.1.3 Furthermore, consultation with MAGIC was undertaken to ascertain any European Protected Species Mitigation Licences granted within a 1 km radius from grid.

3.2 Field Survey

3.2.1 The survey area was investigated on foot to ascertain habitats on site and the potential of those habitats to support ecological diversity. The vegetation types present within the site were assessed by junior ecologist Daniel Knight-Woodall BSc(hons) and ecologist John Davies BSc (Hons) using methodology based on that described in the UK Habitat Classification User Manual Version 2.0 (2023) and CIEEM's Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (2024).

3.2.2 Habitats and features with potential to support protected and/or conservation priority faunal species, together with any field signs of such species, were recorded on the field map using target notes. A search was undertaken for the following key habitats and field signs for protected or conservation priority species highlighted in Table 1.

Table 1: Key habitats and field signs of protected and priority species.

Taxon	Indicative Habitats	Field Signs
Bats	Roosts - Trees, buildings, bridges, caves, etc. Foraging areas - e.g., parkland, water bodies and streams, wetlands, woodland edge, hedgerow. Commuting routes - linear features (e.g., hedgerows).	In or on potential roost sites: Droppings stuck to walls; urine spotting in roof spaces; oil from fur staining around roost entrances; feeding remains (e.g., moth wings).
Great Crested Newts	Ponds within 500m of suitable habitat within the site boundary. Suitable (terrestrial) habitat includes rough grassland, scrub and woodland, log and rubble piles and other debris, animal burrows.	Eggs, Individuals of all life stages. Egg rolled plants.
Reptiles	Rough grass and compost heaps, log, and rubble piles.	Sloughed skins; eggs, individuals.
Birds	Trees, scrub, hedgerow, field margins, grassland.	Nests; droppings below nest sites (especially in buildings of trees); tree holes.
Badgers	Found in most rural and many urban habitats.	Excavations and tracks: sett entrances, latrines, hairs, well-worn paths; prints; snuffle holes.
Otter	Water bodies/water courses.	Holt entrances; prints; latrine/spraint sites; anal jelly/smears.
Water Vole	Water bodies/water courses.	Burrow entrances; prints; latrine areas; faeces; feeding stations.
BAP Invertebrates	Each butterfly species has its own habitat requirements determined by the food plant of the caterpillar, the nectar source for the adult and the conditions needed for the caterpillar to survive and then pupate successfully.	Eggs, larva, Pupa, adult butterfly. Habitat type and presence of food plants.

3.3 Timing and Weather Conditions

3.3.1 The survey was conducted on 10th March 2026.

3.3.2 Weather conditions at the time of the site visit were overcast, with temperatures of 10 °C.

3.4 Personnel

3.4.1 The survey was undertaken by junior ecologist Daniel Knight-Woodall BSc (hons), MSc, accompanied by Ecologist John Davies BSc (Hons), both experienced in ecological surveying, including phase one habitat surveys and Biodiversity Net Gain assessments.

3.4.2 All surveying ecologists worked under the supervision and guidance of experienced ecologist Natasha Estrada BSc (hons), MRes, MCIEEM, who is a licensed bat ecologist (2025-85541-CL18-BAT) and the named ecologist on several Natural England European Protected Species Mitigation Licenses.

3.5 Preliminary Roost Assessment

3.5.1 Where present and access could be gained, trees and buildings were subject to an external inspection to determine their suitability to support roosting bats. The external inspections were conducted in accordance with current best practice guidance (Collins, 2023).

3.5.2 Potential bat roost features and field sign evidence of use of the site by bats include the presence of droppings, stains, or grease marks, feeding remains, or the observations of the bats themselves.

3.5.3 Where present, trees, buildings, and the quality of on-site habitats were then categorised based on the classification criteria in 'Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists' (Collins, 2023). Classification criteria are presented below:

- **Negligible:** No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains as bats can use small and apparently unsuitable features on occasion.
- **Low:** A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically at any time of the year. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats.
- **Moderate:** A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions, and surrounding habitat, but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status.
- **High:** A structure with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions, and surrounding habitat. These structures have the potential to support high conservation status roosts (e.g., maternity, or classic cool/stable hibernation site).

4 Ecological Constraints

- 4.1 It should be noted that this ecological appraisal provides baseline ecological data at the time of survey only and does not include flora or fauna which may be present at various times of the year.
- 4.2 An absence of species records from within a search radius does not provide confirmation that a species is absent from within the search area.

5 Survey Results

5.1 Field Survey Results

5.1.1 Habitat Overview

5.1.1.1 A summary of the habitats recorded during the site inspection are listed as follows:

Table 2: Recorded Habitats within the Site Boundaries.

Habitat	UK HABS Codes	
	Primary	Secondary
Artificial Unvegetated; Unsealed Surface	u1c	800, 804
Building	u1b5	-
Modified Grassland	g4	-
Sparsely Vegetated Urban Land	u1f	82

5.1.1.2 A list of all species recorded on the site during the survey can be found in Appendix Three.

5.1.2 Artificial Unvegetated; Unsealed Surface

5.1.2.1 The access road, up to the gate, as well as the surfacing of the yard were recorded to be unsealed gravel with minimal vegetation. This habitat, in its current condition, is deemed to provide very little ecological value.

5.1.2.2 This habitat is considered very unlikely to support protected species due to the lack of vegetation cover. The exposed nature of the habitat increases the risk of predation and reduces its suitability for wildlife.

Figure 2: Artificial Unvegetated; Unsealed Surface



5.1.3 Buildings

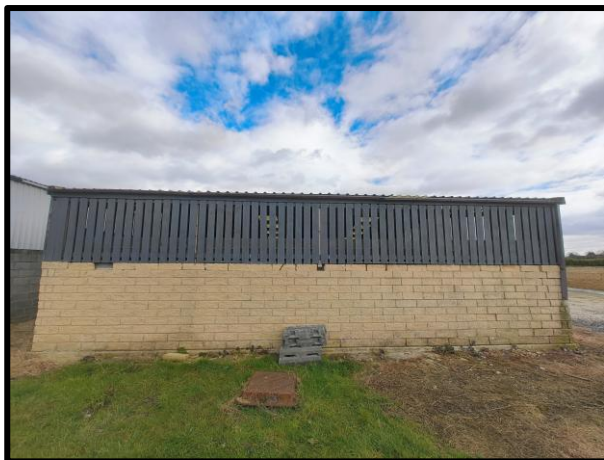
5.1.3.1 Two building were recorded on site, both being large identical warehouse buildings. The northernmost building is currently being used as a personal gym, seeing regular use with the other formerly used as a stable, but has since been cleaned and left for storage and other purposes.

5.1.3.2 Both buildings have a cinderblock frame with a brick wall built around the building as a secondary skin on the bottom half of the wall, with wooden cladding on the upper half with gaps between battens. Both buildings have metal rafters that support corrugated metal roofing.

5.1.3.3 Following both an interior and exterior assessment, both of these buildings were deemed to possess **negligible** suitability for both roosting bats and breeding birds.

Figure 3: Buildings





5.1.4 Modified Grassland

5.1.4.1 Areas of the gravel landscaping to the south-west of the site have been colonised by low-sward grass and herb species. Consultation with satellite imagery indicates this colonisation is recent, with the grassland parcel not connecting to any habitats outside the boundary due to the presence of the enclosing impermeable wall around the site boundary, thus reducing its suitability for commuting species.

5.1.4.2 Species recorded in this habitat include perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), cock's foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), greater plantain (*Plantago major*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), common field speedwell (*Veronica persica*), hairy tare (*Vicia hirsuta*) and dove's-foot cranesbill (*Geranium molle*).

Figure 4: Modified Grassland



5.1.5 Sparsely Vegetated Urban land

5.1.5.1 Areas of the gravel landscaping throughout the site has been colonised by nitrophilous flowering species. This colonisation is sparse, with no dense beds of grasses growing in this habitat, differentiating it from the grassland.

5.1.5.2 Species recorded in this habitat include ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*), spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) and dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* agg.)

Figure 5: Sparsely Vegetated Urban land



5.2 Desktop Survey Results

5.2.1 The site falls within the boundaries of both Barnsley Biological Records Centre (BBRC) and West Yorkshire Ecology Services (WYES), also including West Yorkshire Bat Group (WYBG). BBRC returned 3396 records, WYES returned 40 records and WYBG returned 7 records within a 2 km radius from the central grid reference. The list of protected and notable species data records is available upon request. In summary, the following records were returned:

Table 3: Records returned within the search radius.

Species	Record Numbers	Nearest record	Notes
Bats	11 (BBRC)	1119m NW	Eleven records were returned from BBRC pertaining to bat species, dated between 1999 and 2018. These include: two records for brown long-eared bat (<i>Plecotus auritus</i>), six for common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>) and three for unspecified <i>Pipistrellus</i> species.
	8 (WYES)	1310m NW	Eight records were returned from WYES pertaining to bat species, dated between 20024 and 2018. These include: one record for brown long-

			eared bat, five records for unspecified Pipistrellus species and two for unspecified bat species.
	7 (WYBG)	1206m NW	Seven records were returned from WYBG pertaining to bat species, dated between 1997 and 2019. These include: one for brown long-eared, two for common pipistrelle, one for lesser noctule (<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>), two for unspecified <i>Pipistrellus</i> species and one unspecified vesper bat species.
Badger	-	-	To maintain confidentiality, all badger records have been omitted from this report but have been considered in the conclusions.
Water Vole	25 (BBRC)	650m SW	Twenty-five records were returned from BBRC for water voles from between 2011 and 2017.
Amphibians	4 (BBRC)	952m SW	Four records were returned from BBRC pertaining to amphibian species, dated between 1987 and 2013. These include: three for common frog (<i>Rana temporaria</i>) and one for common toad (<i>Bufo bufo</i>).
	3 (WYES)	1718m NW	Four records were returned from WYES pertaining to amphibian species, dated between 1994 and 2014. These include: two for common frog (<i>Rana temporaria</i>) and one for common toad (<i>Bufo bufo</i>).
Reptiles	0	-	No records were returned for reptiles from either BBRC or WYES.
European Hedgehog	0	-	No records were returned for European hedgehog from either BBRC or WYES.
Other species	3385 (All)	-	All other records pertain to birds, invertebrates, flowering plants and other mammal species.

5.2.2 Consultation with Magic Maps returned one European Protected Species Mitigation Licences within a 2km radius from grid.

Table 4: Granted EPSM licenses returned.

Licence	Date(s)	Purpose	Species	Distance from Site
EPSM2012-4323	28/03/2012 01/04/2014	Destruction of a resting site	Common pipistrelle	1018m SW

5.2.3 No records for great crested newt presence were recorded within a 2 km radius from grid via consultation with Natural England's eDNA pond surveys for District Level Licensing (England). The site is recorded as falling within a Green Risk Zone for GCN.

5.3 Designated Sites

5.3.1 Consultation with Magic Maps returned no Statutory Designated Sites within the 2 km search radius from grid.

5.3.2 The site falls within the outer risk zone for both Dearne Valley Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Carlton Main brickworks SSSI. These sites are not predicted to be affected by works, therefore no consultation with Natural England is required.

5.3.3 Consultation with BBRC and WYES returned two Non-Statutory Designated Sites within the 2 km search radius from grid.

Table 5: Non-Statutory Sites within the Search Radius

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site
South Hiendley Common	Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	1996m NW
South Kirkby Fort	LWS	1916m SE

5.4 Priority Habitats and Priority Species

5.4.1 No priority habitats were recorded within the redline site boundary. Six priority habitats were recorded outside the redline site boundary but within the search radius, as displayed in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Priority Habitats outside the Site Boundary but within the Search Radius

Habitat Type	Distance
Deciduous Woodland	423m SW
Traditional Orchards	450m SE
Ancient Semi-natural Woodland	540m S
Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land	1024m NE
Ancient Replanted Woodland	1966m SE

5.4.2 No species listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) were recorded within the application boundary.

5.4.3 No non-native invasive species listed on Schedule 9 (II) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) were recorded within the application

6.1.3 The site is located a notable distance from any designated site's impact zone. No impacts are anticipated due to the scope of works on the site and the distance to the SSSIs, as well as the intervening land between the site and the designated area.

6.2 Habitats and Vegetation

6.2.1 No priority habitats were recorded within the redline boundary.

6.2.2 No trees which are on the Ancient Tree Inventory were recorded on site.

6.2.3 No protected or notable plant species, listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), were recorded during the survey.

6.2.4 No non-native invasive species listed on Schedule 9 (II) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) were recorded during the survey.

6.3 Recommendations for Further Surveys / Mitigation

6.3.1 With respects to the current profile of the site, no impacts towards any protected species or habitats are anticipated. The intact boundary treatments surrounding the site significantly reduce the suitability of the site for commuting protected species.

6.3.2 As of the writing of this report, development plans are unknown. If any boundary treatments, such as the wall, are to be removed then the suitability of the site for protected species post-development should be considered.

7 Biodiversity Enhancement

7.1 In line with the National Planning Policy Framework (2024), the application should demonstrate biodiversity enhancements.

7.2 Due to the size of the site and location, applicable specific habitat enhancements could include:

- Boundary features should be kept open and allow passage for small mammals such as hedgehogs.
- The scheme should incorporate bird and bat boxes into the buildings of the site.
- Species-rich native planting should be considered for incorporation into the landscaping for the development.

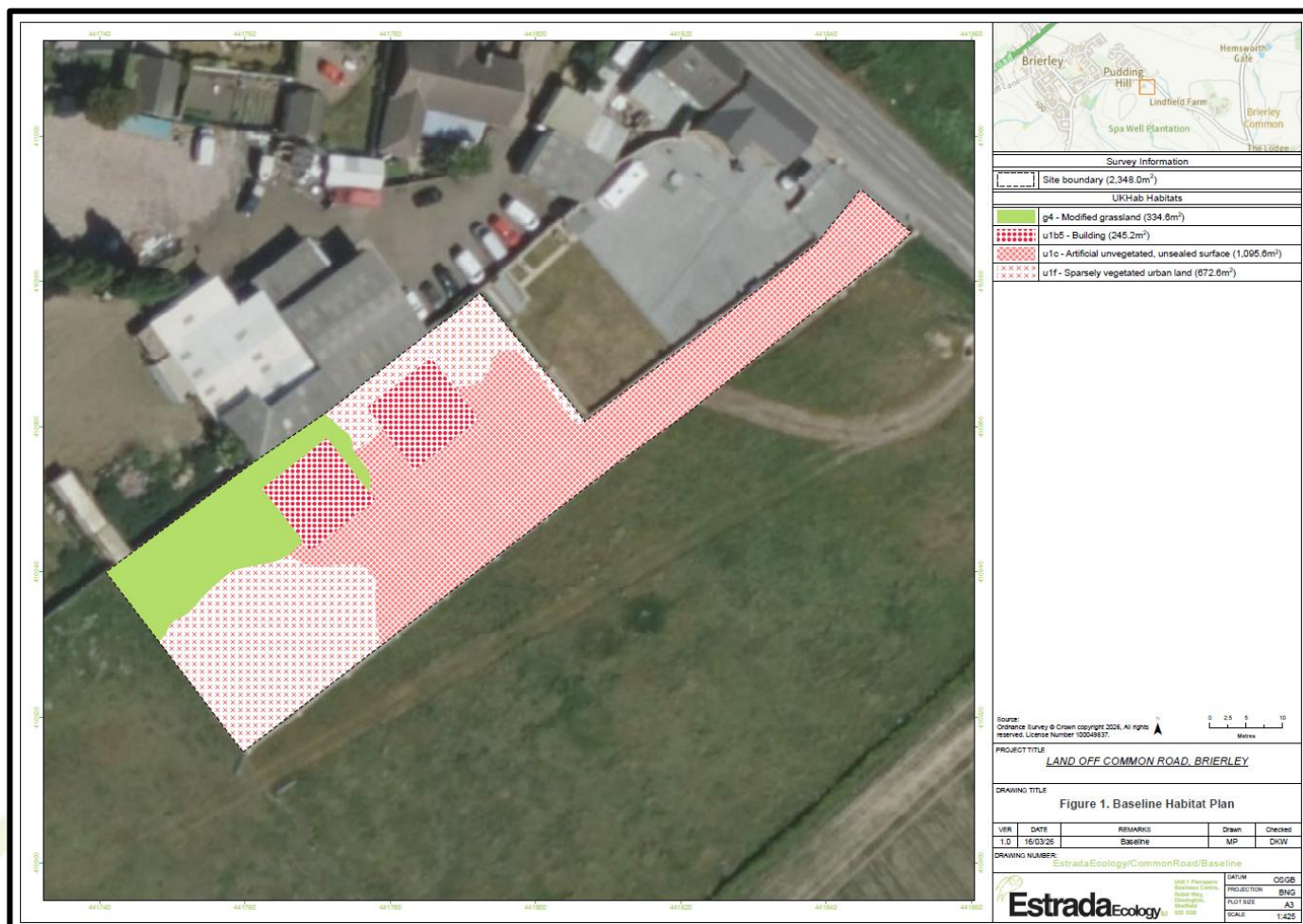
7.3 In line with National Policy, developments submitted for planning after the 12th of February 2024, with some exceptions, are expected to achieve a 10% net gain minimum increase in site biodiversity value from the existing baseline assessment.

Appendix One: Phase One Habitat Map



Key	Habitat Type
	Red Line Boundary
	Sparsely Vegetated Land
	Artificial Unvegetated; Unsealed Surface
	Modified Grassland
	Buildings

Appendix Two: Baseline BNG habitats.



Appendix Three: Species list (on site)

Vernacular	Taxon
Flora	
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.
Broad-leaved Dock	<i>Rumex Obtusifolius</i>
Buddleia	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Common Field Speedwell	<i>Veronica persica</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.
Doves-foot Cranesbill	<i>Geranium molle</i>
Greater Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
Hairy Tare	<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>
Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertanum</i>
Perennial Ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
Ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>

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