

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Wood Walk, Hoyland, Barnsley

Presented to **Yelcon Ltd.**

Issued: August 2021

Delta-Simons Project No. 16-0406.07

deltasimons



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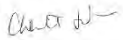
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Report Details

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Executive Summary

Scope of Works	Delta-Simons Environmental Consultants Ltd was instructed by Yelcon Ltd. ('the Client') to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of land north of Wood Walk, in Hoyland, Barnsley (the Site'). The PEA comprised a Phase 1 Habitat Survey and protected species assessment, which was completed on 11th January 2021. The survey was undertaken to inform a planning application for the Site. A provisional Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) score has been calculated for the Site based on the available landscaping plans, and this is included as Section 6.3.2.
Current Site Status	The Site comprises an arable field, left fallow, with improved grassland margins, and boundary hedgerows and lengths of fencing. There were two mature broadleaved trees in the southern area of the Site. A plantation broadleaved woodland and dense scrub defined the eastern extent of the Site, with a clearing with apiaries accessed along an improved grassland track with ruderals on either side.
Proposed Development	It is understood that the proposed development will comprise the construction of 84 residential houses and associated infrastructure at the Site.
Results: **Habitats on-Site**	The following habitats are found on the Site: ▲ Broadleaved Plantation Woodland; ▲ Scattered Broadleaved Trees; ▲ Dense Scrub; ▲ Bracken; ▲ Tall Ruderals; ▲ Improved Grassland; ▲ Arable (Defunct); ▲ Intact Species-poor Hedgerow; ▲ Defunct Species-poor Hedgerow; ▲ Hardstanding; ▲ Bare Ground; and ▲ Fence.
Habitats Adjoining the Site	A wooded embankment with Dearne Valley Parkway (the A6195) and agricultural land beyond can be found to the north, and a woodland strip with amenity grassland beyond could be found to the north-west. Wombell Wood roundabout was located immediately east of the Site with a continuation of Dearne Valley Parkway and a combination of woodland and farmland beyond. Wood Walk bordered the Site to the south, with farmland to the west, and residential housing associated with the village of Hoyland to the south-west of the Site.
Potential for Protected/Notable Species	The woodland, scattered broadleaved trees, hedgerows and scrub provide nesting opportunities for birds, whilst the arable offers nesting for ground nesting bird species, including skylark, recorded at the time of the survey. One tree and a telegraph pole with a large crack were assessed as offering low Bat Roost Potential (BRP). The woodland, trees and hedgerows on the boundaries provide ideal foraging and commuting habitat and also connect the Site to the wider area, and the Site was assessed as having low habitat suitability for foraging and commuting bats.

	The Site did not support any evidence to indicate badgers were actively using or inhabiting it, however, a collapsed sett entrance was recorded in the woodland and there is a suitable habitat for the species on-Site and in the wider area. The Site contains suitable habitat for hedgehog, known to occur in the wider area, and it is a possibility that hedgehogs may disperse across the Site.
Requirement for Further Surveys	The findings of the initial Site assessment are considered sufficient to identify the ecological impacts of the development proposals and no further survey work is deemed necessary at this time.
Construction and Operational Phase Recommendations and Enhancement Measures	The detailed recommendations set out within the Report are summarised below: <u>Nesting Birds</u> Any Site clearance works of potential bird nesting habitat should be performed either before early March or after late August in order to avoid the main bird nesting season. Conflict with the development can be avoided by clearing the Site of any suitable nesting habitat outside of the breeding season in advance of any proposed works. If Site clearance are deemed necessary during the nesting period, an experienced ecologist will be required to check the Site habitats immediately prior to works commencing to confirm that no nesting birds will be affected by the proposed works. <u>Bats</u> ▲ One tree and a telegraph pole on Site were assessed as offering low BRP and if any these are to be removed, they should be climbed by a licensed bat ecologist, to check for evidence of bat activity. ▲ Alternatively, dawn return surveys can be undertaken between April and October (inclusive) on the morning works are due to proceed. ▲ The detailed lighting design on Site should be functional and directional and in line with current guidance, details of which can be found in Section 6.2 of this Report. <u>Badgers and Hedgehogs</u> As is general good practice for Sites where badgers and hedgehogs may occur, it is recommended that no excavations or trenches are left uncovered overnight during the development works in order to prevent these species from becoming trapped. Alternatively, ramps can be provided to enable them to climb out of trenches or excavations. <u>Hedgehogs</u> ▲ Where scrub, trees and hedgerows are required to be removed, a check should be made for hedgehogs. Should a hedgehog be found it should be carefully removed by hand and relocated off-Site in suitable habitat, such as at the base of a hedgerow. ▲ Linear corridors allowing the free movement of hedgehogs around the Site boundaries and into off-Site habitats should be retained. All fencing within these areas should allow access and egress for hedgehogs. **Site Enhancements** A list of recommendations to enhance the biodiversity of the Site are found in Section 6.0 of this Report.
This Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Executive Summary is intended as a summary of the assessment of the Site based on information received by Delta-Simons at the time of production. This Executive Summary should be read in conjunction with the full Report.	

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose and Scope of the Survey

Delta-Simons Environmental Consultants Ltd was instructed by Yelcon Ltd. ('the Client') to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of land north of Wood Walk, in Hoyland, Barnsley (hereafter referred to as the "Site"). In addition, public land immediately surrounding the Site was surveyed, where access allowed. The survey was undertaken to inform a planning application for construction for a residential development.

A provisional Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) score has been calculated for the Site based on the available landscaping plans, and this is included as Section 6.3.2.

The aims of the PEA were to:

- Identify habitat types on the Site using the standard methodology devised by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC, 2010);
- Identify areas of potential for protected species/species of conservation concern within the Site;
- Identify areas of potential for protected species/species of conservation concern immediately outside the Site;
- Identify any invasive plant species included within Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended);
- Prepare a Phase 1 Habitat Plan of the Site; and
- Propose recommendations for further surveys, where appropriate.

The Site location and the Site red line are shown in Figure 1.

1.2 Site Description

The Site is centred at Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference SE 37360 01717, to the north of Wood Walk, in Hoyland, Barnsley. The Site covers an area of 3.7 ha hectares (ha) and comprises an arable field, left fallow, with improved grassland margins, and boundary hedgerows and lengths of fencing. There were two mature broadleaved trees in the southern area of the Site. A plantation broadleaved woodland and dense scrub defined the eastern extent of the Site, with a clearing with apiaries accessed along an improved grassland track with ruderals on either side. The Site did not support standing water at the time of the survey.

The Site is surrounded by a wooded embankment and Dearne Valley Parkway to the north, with the A6195 and agricultural land beyond. Wombell Wood roundabout was located immediately east of the Site with a continuation of Dearne Valley Parkway and a combination of woodland and farmland beyond. Wood Walk bordered the Site to the south, with farmland to the west, and residential housing associated with the village of Hoyland to the south-west of the Site. To the north-west of the Site was a woodland strip with amenity grassland beyond.

The Site layout is shown in Figure 2.

1.3 Proposed Development

It is understood from the drawing provided by Enjoy Design (Drawing 1 - 00-001 - Feasibility_Site Plan_revH) that the proposed development comprises the construction of 84 residential houses and associated infrastructure at the Site. The proposals may be subject to change following the pre-application process.

2.0 Legislation & Policy Summary

Specific habitats and species of relevance to the Site receive legal protection in the United Kingdom under various pieces of legislation, including:

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, revised 2021);
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended);
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended);
- The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000;
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006;
- The Hedgerow Regulations 1997; and
- The Protection of Badgers Act 1992.

Where relevant, this appraisal takes account of the legislative protection afforded to specific habitats and species. The legislation surrounding each faunal or floral species or group is provided in Appendix A and references are included in Appendix B.

3.0 Methodology

The PEA has been undertaken to the following current guidance: CIEEM (2017), Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal; and BS 42020: 2013 Biodiversity. Code of Practice for Planning and Development.

3.1 Desk Study

3.1.1 Data Search

A data search was undertaken to identify statutory and non-statutory designated sites and records of protected and notable species.

In January 2021, available records of protected and notable species were collated from the local record centre, Sheffield Biological Records Centre (SBRC), along with the non-statutory designated sites within a 2 km radius of the Site centre. A search for international statutory designated sites for nature conservation within 6 km of the Site was undertaken, together with a search for national statutory designated sites for nature conservation within 2 km of the Site centre, using the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website.

In addition, free and publicly accessible Ordnance survey maps and aerial photographs were searched for waterbodies on, or within, 500 m of the Site boundary. This information has been used to assess the Site for its potential for amphibians, the results of which are found in Section 4.3.

3.1.2 Review of Previous Surveys

Where available, information was gathered on any previous ecological surveys that have been conducted at the Site. The following survey report was reviewed:

- HN8A Preliminary Ecological Assessment Report, Wildscapes, 2014.

3.2 Survey

The habitats on the Site, were surveyed on 11th January 2021 by a Delta-Simons ecologist. Since access was not permitted to the surrounding land, it was visually assessed from the Site boundary.

The following was undertaken during the survey:

- Habitats were classified and mapped using the standard JNCC Phase 1 habitat classification and methodology (JNCC, 2010). Dominant plant species were recorded in each different habitat. The plant species nomenclature followed that of Stace (2010);
- Terrestrial habitats on-Site were surveyed for the presence of, or potential for the following protected or notable species:
  - Birds: All species with special reference to key species (such as those on Schedule 1 of the WCA, 1981 (as amended), England Biodiversity Priority Species (EBP) (previously UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) species) and Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) (Eaton et al., 2015);
  - Amphibians: Great Crested Newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus*;
  - Reptiles: common lizard *Zootoca vivipara*, adder *Vipera berus*, slow worm *Anguis fragilis* and barred grass snake *Natrix helvetica*; and
  - Mammals: bat (all species) and badger *Meles meles*; and
- Widespread terrestrial and aquatic invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of the WCA 1981 (as amended) were recorded. These are Japanese knotweed, *Fallopia japonica* giant knotweed *Fallopia sachalinensis* hybrid knotweed, *Fallopia baldschuanica*, giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, and Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*.

3.2.1 Birds

Visual and/or audible identification was made of any birds on the Site or flying over the Site during the survey period. Suitable habitat was, where possible, inspected and any evidence of old nesting activity was recorded.

3.2.2 Amphibians

The terrestrial habitats at the Site were assessed for their potential to support amphibian species and a desk search was undertaken (see Section 3.1).

3.2.3 Reptiles

Suitable habitats for reptiles were identified within areas on-Site. Since reptiles are currently hibernating, natural and artificial refugia (logs, large debris etc.) were not checked beneath for the presence of reptiles.

3.2.4 Bats

The Site was assessed for its suitability to support roosting and foraging bats (see Appendix C).

3.2.5 Badgers

The Site was inspected for signs of badger activity, including sett entrances, latrines, footprints, runs through vegetation, guard hairs caught on fences and snuffle holes, and its suitability to support this species assessed.

3.2.6 Other Protected or Notable Species

Where applicable, during the survey, evidence was recorded of any other protected or notable species, including England Biodiversity Priority (EBP) species. Habitats with the potential to support additional protected or notable species were also recorded, if present, during the survey.

3.2.7 Invasive Species

The occurrence of any invasive plant species on the Site was identified in terms of species and stand size.

3.2.8 Hedgerows

An assessment of any hedgerows at the Site, which may be adversely affected by the proposed development, was undertaken using the standard hedgerow surveying methodology outlined in the Hedgerow Regulations 1997. The purpose of the assessment was to ascertain whether the hedgerows are classified as 'nationally important' and, therefore, protected under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997. The assessment involves a scoring system which relies on particular features, number of woody and floral species present within the hedgerow habitat, and the age of the hedgerow.

The following hedgerow features were recorded:

- A bank or wall supporting the hedgerow for at least half its length;
- Gaps in the hedgerow not exceeding 10% of its length;
- An average of at least one standard tree per 50 m of hedgerow;
- The number of woodland plant species (as defined);
- A ditch along at least half the hedgerow;
- Connections (as defined by the Regulations) scoring four points or more; and
- A parallel hedge within 15 m of the hedgerow.

An assessment of a 30 m section was undertaken per 100 m of hedgerow length, which involved recording the number of woody species present. Where two or more sections of each hedgerow were surveyed, the average number of the species was calculated.

3.2.9 Limitations to the Survey

The survey was undertaken during the sub-optimal time of year for identifying plant species on the Site. However, at this Site the majority of the habitat was arable or improved grassland, and, therefore, potential misidentification of habitats is not considered to be a significant constraint.

There were no further limitations to the survey in terms of access, timing and weather conditions.

The baseline conditions described in this report were accurate at the time at which the survey was undertaken. Should at least two years pass by, and/or conditions change prior to the commencement of works, an update survey should be undertaken.

4.0 Results

4.1 Desk Study

The pertinent information from the data search is set out below for designated sites, whilst species are discussed in the relevant species sections. Full results of the SBRC data search are available to the Client on request.

4.1.1 Designated Sites

The results of the MAGIC data search and the SBRC desk search indicate that there are no international statutory designated sites within 6 km of the Site, or statutory designated sites within 2 km of the Site centre. There are three non-statutory designated sites within 2 km of the Site centre, all of which were Local Wildlife Sites (LWS). Table 1, below, set out the designated sites identified.

Table 1: Non-Statutory Designated sites within 2 km of the Site centre

Site Name	Designation	Distance and Direction from Site Boundary	Designation Criteria Summary
Wombwell Wood	LWS	580 m north-east	Comprising more than 100 ha of woodland this is one of the largest woodland areas in the Barnsley area and is contiguous to other blocks and strips of woodland in the north. It is associated, along its north boundary, with a disused railway line and, to the north of this, the valley of the River Dove.
Barrow Colliery Site	LWS	990 m north-west	This large reclaimed colliery site lies on gently sloping land to the south of the River Dove and to the east of the M1 motorway, between the large residential areas of Hoyland and Worsborough.
Short Wood and Hay Green	LWS	1.44 km west	This is a small area of ancient woodland along the eastern bank of the north-east flowing Short Wood Dike to the east of the village of Birdwell.

4.1.2 Review of Previous Surveys

A PEA carried out by Wildscapes in 2014 on behalf of the LPA as part of the former Local Plan, it is understood that the Site has been subsequently surveyed as part of an updated Local Plan, however, the report was not provided at the time of writing this Report. The Report covered the Site and the small field to the west, with a woodland belt separating the two areas, concluded that development on the majority of the Site would not have a detrimental ecological impact, whilst highlighted the ecological value of the copse in the eastern extent of the Site, in addition to mature trees and hedgerows, all of which were recommended to be preserved during future development.

Further comments were made by the LPA during a pre-application consultation (not dated), which highlighted the following requirements:

"The policy associated with the site states 'The development will be expected to:

- *Retain the broadleaf plantation in the east of the site and the strip of dense scrub with scattered trees towards the west of the site;*
- *Retain and maintain the large ash tree near the centre of the site;*
- *Fully evaluate any hedgerows which are proposed for removal against all criteria of the Hedgerows Regulations 1997 (in accordance with the 2014 PEA).";*

- *In addition, it will need to be demonstrated how No Net Loss (current policy) or 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (likely to become policy at some time after the impending Environment Bill has been enacted) will be achieved. Furthermore, the council has requested that "information supporting the biodiversity metric should include a Biodiversity Impact Assessment, construction-phase information relating to protection of retained habitats, and management/ maintenance detail through to achievement of ecological functionality of post-construction habitats. Whilst even more detail can be provided at later stages, the listed information must be provided at planning application stage; and*
- *The applicants should seek to mitigate impacts on site before consideration is given to provide biodiversity off-setting. Note: the LPA does not have an off-setting policy so any compensation site(s) provision should be fully scoped by the applicants at the next stage as we cannot accept monies in lieu of a project to be scoped at some time in the future."*

4.2 Survey

4.2.1 Habitats on Site

Figure 2 shows the extent of habitat types and boundary features. Descriptions of the habitat types and dominant plant species found at the Site are provided below. Habitat descriptions are by broad habitat type, as listed in the Phase 1 Habitat Survey Manual (JNCC, 2010). Photographs of the Site survey are located in Appendix E.

Habitats recorded on Site are:

Broadleaved Plantation Woodland

A small area of semi mature plantation broadleaved woodland defined the eastern extent of the Site, (Photograph 1). Species included hazel *Corylus avellana*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, and cherry *Prunus* sp, there was minimal ground flora including occasional moss *Bryophyta* sp. There were remnants of a dry-stone wall within the woodland.

Scattered Broadleaved Trees

There were two tall mature ash trees *Fraxinus excelsior* located within the southern extent of the Site, associated with hedgerows (Photograph 2).

Dense Scrub

Areas of dense scrub were recorded in the eastern and southern extents of the Site. In the eastern extent of the Site, the scrub was dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, in addition to occasional cherry *Prunus* sp. and rowan. The scrub in the southern extent of the Site was predominantly bramble *Rubus fructicosus* agg. with evidence of an outgrown length of defunct blackthorn hedgerow and collapsed stone wall (Photograph 3).

Improved Grassland

Improved grassland margins surrounded the arable, which were narrow, typically 1 m in diameter, with wider areas recorded in the eastern and southern extent of the Site. Species included Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus,* annual meadow grass *Poa annua*, false oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* and red fescue *Festuca rubra*, with common nettle *Urtica dioica,* and white clover *Trifolium repens*. The narrower strips of grassland had a sward height less < 15 cm, whilst the broader areas were allowed to grow to approximately 20-30 cm, with no clear management. The grassland extended along a track in the eastern extent of the Site.

Bracken

A small patch of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* was located in the eastern extent of the Site, adjacent to the area of bare ground used for bee keeping (Photograph 5).

Tall Ruderals

Tall ruderals were recorded in the eastern extent of the Site either side of an access track to an area of bare ground. Species were dominated by willowherb *Epilobium* sp, with common nettle recorded frequently, along with improved grassland species (Photograph 6). Ruderal species were colonising the defunct arable field.

Arable

The majority of the Site comprised a arable, which had been left fallow, with colonising arable weeds and grasses (Photograph 8). Species colonising the field were similar to those within the improved grassland margins with Yorkshire fog, annual meadow grass, false oat grass, red fescue, common chickweed *Stellaria media*, willowherb sp., and white clover all recorded frequently. Moss *Bryophyta* sp. was recorded across the field, suggesting the area is seasonally damp. A single stand of hawthorn scrub was found in the field at the base of a telegraph pole.

Intact Species-poor Hedgerow

An intact species-poor hawthorn hedgerow defined the northern boundary of the Site, which was parallel to a post and rail fence. There was occasional blackthorn with rare rowan and hazel. The hedgerow was approximately 2 m wide, 3 m tall and unmanaged with dense scrub off-Site to the north (Photograph 4).

A second stretch of intact species-poor hedgerow defined the eastern extent of the southern boundary of the Site and was dominated by blackthorn, with occasional hawthorn and bramble scrub (Photograph 9). The hedgerow had an access gate and Tree 2 on its length and was approximately 2 m tall and 2 m wide.

Another section of hedgerow protruded into the Site from the southern boundary, it was dominated by blackthorn, with occasional bramble and elder *Sambucus nigra* (Photograph 10). The hedge was managed and was approximately 2 m tall and 2 m wide.

None of the hedgerows contained an adequate number of woody species to be considered further against the criteria for an ‘Important Hedgerow’.

Defunct Species-poor Hedgerow

A defunct blackthorn hedgerow was present at the western extent of the southern boundary, with occasional bramble and elder present. The hedgerow was approximately 2 m tall, 2 m wide, and was unmanaged with a large access gap to an area of hardstanding (Photograph 11). The hedgerow did not contain an adequate number of woody species to be considered further against the criteria for an ‘Important Hedgerow’.

A section of overgrown blackthorn hedgerow defined a section of the western boundary of the Site, the hedgerow was unmanaged and approximately 4 m tall (Photograph 12).

Hardstanding

An area of compacted rubble with raised bunds was located in the southern extent of the Site (Photograph 13).

Bare Ground

There was an area of bare ground in the eastern extent of the Site used for bee keeping, where several hives were located (Photograph 14). A small compost heap was also located in the eastern extent of the Site (TN1).

Fence

A variety of fence types were recorded along the western, northern, and eastern boundaries of the Site and separating the broadleaved plantation woodland from the arable, including panelled garden fencing, post and rail, post and wire with a metal gate located on the southern boundary.

4.2.2 Habitats Immediately Surrounding the Site

The Site is surrounded by a wooded embankment and Dearne Valley Parkway (the A6195) to the north with farmland beyond. Wombell Wood roundabout was located immediately east of the Site with a continuation of Dearne Valley Parkway and a combination of woodland and farmland beyond. Wood Walk bordered the Site to

the South, with farmland and the residential properties associated with the village of Hoyland to the south-west of the Site. To the north-west of the Site was a woodland strip with amenity grassland beyond.

4.3 Notable and Protected Species Assessment Relevant to the Site

4.3.1 Birds

Nine species of birds currently listed on Schedule 1 have been recorded within 2 km of the Site centre in the past ten years, including barn owl *Tyto alba*, green sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*, goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*, and red kite *Milvus milvus*, which may utilise the habitats found on-Site for foraging. A further 19 species of birds listed on the Red List of BoCC were recorded within 2 km of the Site centre in the past ten years, including cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*, tree sparrow *Passer montanus*, house sparrow *Passer domesticus*, woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*, yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*, willow tit *Poecile montanus*, starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, song thrush *Turdus philomelos*, skylark *Aluada arvensis*, mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus*, linnet *Linaria cannabina*, lesser redpoll *Acanthis cabaret*, lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, grey wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*, grey partridge *Perdix perdix*, and grasshopper warbler *Locustella naevia*, the majority of which could utilise the habitats on-Site for foragaing, and nesting. Whilst there are records of bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* and skylark on-Site, the vast majority of the records associated with Wombell Wood LWS, Barrow Colliery Site LWS.

Habitats featured on the Site suitable for nesting birds, include the woodland, hedgerows, dense scrub and arable. Several disused nests were recorded in the hedgerows and woodland at the Site (TN2).

Bird species recorded at the time of the survey included skylark, house sparrow, song thrush and starling, all of which are listed on the Red List of BoCC, with woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*, blackbird *Turdus merula*, European robin *Erithacus rubecula* also recorded. It should be noted that this is not a comprehensive inventory of the bird species which may be present at the Site.

3.3.2 Great Crested Newts

There was a single record of GCN, approximately 900 m south-west of the Site boundary in 2015, with a further eight records of smooth newt *Lissotriton vulgaris* within 2 km of the Site centre, which were largely associated with residential areas.

A review of aerial photographs and OS maps revealed that there are no ponds on-Site or within 500 m of the Site to support breeding amphibians. The hedgerows, scrub and woodland offer suitable dispersal habitat for species of amphibians, and the remnants of a dry-stone wall within the woodland provide ideal hibernation habitat. However, given the limited records and lack of suitable ponds within 500 m of the Site, GCN are not considered to be a constraint at this Site and are not considered further within this Report.

4.3.3 Reptiles

Three species of reptiles were recorded within 2 km of the Site centre in the past ten years, all of which came from Wombell Wood LWS and Barrow Colliery Site LWS. Details of the species identified are as follows:

- Twenty records of grass snake, between 2011 and 2019, the closest and most recent of which was 280 m north of the Site boundary in 2019;
- Four records of adder, between 2010 and 2013, the closest and most recent of which was 1.1 km north-west of the Site boundary in 2013; and
- One record of common lizard in 2011 approximately 1.87 km north of the Site boundary.

No evidence of reptiles was recorded on the Site. The hedgerows, scrub and woodland offer suitable refuge and commuting opportunities for species of reptiles, whilst the dry-stone wall remnants and compost heap (TN1) offer hibernation opportunities. The Dearne Valley Parkway is a major dispersal barrier between the Site and the designated sites known to support reptiles, with further roads also providing barriers, such that reptiles are not considered to be a constraint at the Site and are not considered further in this report.

4.3.4 Bats

There were 64 records of bats within 2 km of the Site centre in the past ten years, consisting of at least six species of bats, with further records of unidentified species. The majority of the records came from transect surveys conducted at Shortwood Business Park, 1.2 km west of the Site boundary. Details of the species identified are as follows:

- Thirty-seven records of common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, between 2012 and 2020, the closest of which was 675 m north of the Site boundary in 2012, whilst the most recent of which was 1.24 km west of the Site boundary in 2020;
- Seven records of soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, between 2012 and 2020, the closest of which was 675 m north of the Site boundary in 2012, whilst the most recent of which was 1.24 km west of the Site boundary in 2020;
- Nine records of noctule bat *Nyctalus noctula*, between 2012 and 2020, the closest of which was 675 m north of the Site boundary in 2012, whilst the most recent of which was 1.24 km west of the Site boundary in 2020;
- Two records of Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii*, in 2017, approximately 609 m north-east of the Site boundary;
- Two records of brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*, in 2018 and 2019, the closest and most recent of which was 1.66 km west of the Site in 2019; and
- One record of Leisler's bat *Nyctalus leisleri*, in 2012, 675 m north of the Site boundary.

Bat Roost Potential (BRP) – Trees

The woodland in the eastern extent of the Site contained young and semi-mature trees, none of which had features suitable for roosting bats.

Tree 1 (T1, see Figure 2)

Tree 1 was a mature ash tree in the southern area of the Site, located at the northern tip of a hedgerow (Photograph 15). The tree appeared to be in generally in good condition; however, broken limbs and rot holes were noted on the southern aspect of the main trunk, at a height of approximately 4 m. The tree has been assessed as having **Low BRP.**

Tree 2 (T2)

Tree 2 was a mature ash tree on the southern boundary of the Site. The tree appeared to be healthy, with no observable features suitable to support roosting bats at the time of the survey. Furthermore, the tree was adjacent to street lighting on Wood Walk. The tree has been assessed as having **Negligible BRP.**

Telegraph Pole

A telegraph pole located south of Tree 1 was noted to have a fissure running down its length on the eastern aspect (TN2, Photograph 17). The fissure was assessed as being wide enough to support roosting bats, such that the telegraph pole has been assessed as having **Low BRP**.

The hedgerows, scrub and woodland edges offer suitable foraging and commuting habitat for species of bats in the local area. There is suitable foraging and roosting habitat in the wider area, particularly to the north and north-east, however, this is separated from the Site by street-lit roads. Street lighting was noted on Wood Walk and Dearne Valley Parkway and it is likely that this results in light spill onto linear habitats in the northern, eastern and southern extent of the Site. The Site was assessed as having low habitat suitability for foraging and commuting bats.

4.3.5 Badgers

There were seven records of badgers within 2 km (details are confidential due to welfare issues) of the Site centre in the past ten years. The habitats featured on-Site are suitable for badgers, with foraging and commuting opportunities along hedgerows, within the arable and grassland margins. The off-Site embankment to the north

may present sett building opportunities for badgers. A partially collapsed long-term disused single sett entrance was recorded within then area of broadleaved woodland in the eastern extent of the Site (TN4, Photograph 18), associated with the defunct dry-stone wall. The Site did not support any evidence to indicate that badgers were using or inhabiting it currently, such as latrines, snuffle holes, mammal runs, or badger dung found within the survey area.

4.3.6 Other Protected Species

There were nine records of brown hare *Lepus europaeus*, between 2011 and 2019, the closest of which was 1.30 km east of the Site boundary in 2014, whilst the most recent record in 2019 was approximately 1.64 km north-west of the Site boundary. The habitats on-Site are suitable for the species, however, given the surrounding road network and residential housing to the south-west it is not well connected to habitat in the wider area. Hare are not considered further in this Report.

There were eight records of west European hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*, between 2011 and 2019, the closest of which was 185 m south of the Site boundary in 2011, whilst the most recent record from 2019 was approximately 1.07 km from the Site boundary. The habitats on-Site are suitable for hedgehogs, with hedgerows for commuting and grassland for foraging, in addition to the compost heap which could provide hibernating opportunities for the species. Furthermore, there are residential properties to the south-west of the Site with gardens connected to the Site.

There was a collection of beehives located in the eastern extent of the Site (TN5, Photograph 14).

4.3.7 Invasive Species

No widespread non-native invasive weed species were recorded at the time of the survey. There were no records of invasive weeds within 2 km of the Site centre in the past ten years.

4.3.8 Hedgerows

There were five distinct hedgerows on-Site, which were largely associated with the boundaries of the Site, with the exception of H3 in the south, which partially bisected the Site.

Hedgerow 1

Hedgerow 1 was an intact-species poor hedgerow that defined the northern boundary of the Site and was contiguous with a post and rail fence, which runs for 250 m across the northern boundary of the Site (Photograph 4). The hedgerow was bounded by dense scrub and a roadside embankment for Dearne Valley Parkway to the north. The hedgerow was assessed as being species-poor, lacking woody species, it was dominated by hawthorn with occasional blackthorn and rarely occurring rowan and hazel such that there were no more than four woody species along any 30 m length. The hedgerow does not appear on any historic maps before 1998 following the construction of the Dearne Valley Parkway, where it is assumed it was planted on the top of the embankment. The hedgerow did not have an associated drain or ditch and was not connected to any other hedgerows. The hedgerow was not assessed to be an important hedgerow ecologically.

Hedgerow 2

Hedgerow 2 was a short section of intact species-poor hedgerow in the eastern extent of the southern boundary of the Site, which runs for approximately 47 m (Photograph 9). The hedgerow is bounded by Wood Walk to the south, and historical mapping suggests the hedgerow dates back to 1855. Tree 2 is located within the hedgerow, and it was dominated by blackthorn with occasional hawthorn and bramble scrub, again lacking woody species. The hedgerow did not have an associated drain or ditch and was not connected to any other hedgerows, though it has been historically. The hedgerow was not assessed to be an important hedgerow ecologically.

Hedgerow 3

Hedgerow 3 was a short section of intact species-poor hedgerow which protruded into the Site from the southern boundary and was approximately 33 m in length (Photograph 10). Historical mapping suggests the hedgerow dates back to at least 1855. Tree 1, a mature ash tree, is located at the northern tip of the hedgerow, which was dominated by blackthorn, with occasional bramble and elder. The hedgerow did not have an associated drain

or ditch but was attached to Hedgerow 4 and was historically attached to Hedgerow 2. The hedgerow was not assessed to be an important hedgerow ecologically.

Hedgerow 4

Hedgerow 4 was a short section of defunct species-poor hedgerow in the western extent of the southern boundary of the Site, which runs for approximately 116 m, which includes a 15 m gap which provides access to the Site (Photograph 11). The hedgerow is bounded by Wood Walk to the south, and historical mapping suggests the hedgerow dates back to 1855. The hedgerow appeared unmanaged and was dominated by blackthorn with frequent bramble and occasional hawthorn and elder. The hedgerow did not have an associated drain or ditch but was attached to Hedgerow 3 and was historically attached to Hedgerow 2. The hedgerow was not assessed to be an important hedgerow ecologically.

Hedgerow 5

Hedgerow 5 was a defunct species-poor hedgerow located on the western boundary of the Site, which ran for approximately 64 m. The hedgerow was dominated by outgrown blackthorn and was approximately 4 m high with large gaps between individual plants (Photograph 12). The hedgerow appears as a field boundary on maps dating back to 1855. The hedgerow did not have an associated drain or ditch and was not connected to any other hedgerows, though may have historically connected to Hedgerow 4. The hedgerow was not assessed to be an important hedgerow ecologically.

5.0 Evaluation

Designated sites-statutory sites/non-statutory sites

There are no international statutory or national statutory designated sites within the search area. There are three non-statutory designated sites, located within 2 km of the Site centre, however, they are over 500 m from the Site boundaries. Furthermore, the sites are all designated for habitats not found on-Site, such that the proposed development of the Site is not considered to have a significant adverse impact on them.

Habitats

The habitats on-Site are common and widespread in the local area, with the hedgerows, woodland, and scattered trees providing the being of higher ecological value. The woodland and two mature ash trees are shown to be retained in the development proposals, in accordance with the pre-application response, however, the woodland has been designated as Public Open Space (POS) which could impact on its value to wildlife through increased anthropogenic disturbance and, therefore, appropriate mitigation should be put in place.

Whilst it is desirable for the hedgerows to remain since they provide an important habitat for a range of wildlife, if their loss is unavoidable in part, with regards to Site access, then it should be sufficiently compensated for through alternative linear planting at the Site. None of the hedgerows on-Site were considered to be ecologically important under the Hedgerow Regulations (1997), however, four out of five (H2 – H5) of the hedgerows are shown on historical maps to be 170 years old. Should it be possible to retain them, there is potential to improve their ecological value with suitable supplementary planting and management.

With suitable planting and appropriate management, it should be possible to avoid a ‘net loss’ in biodiversity value of the Site.

Species

The woodland, scattered broadleaved trees, hedgerows and scrub provide nesting opportunities for birds, although no evidence of recent nesting activity was recorded at the time of the survey. Ground nesting bird species were recorded at the time of the survey, such that the fallow land may be utilised by them for breeding. Mitigation should be put in place to ensure that no nesting birds are disturbed as a result of vegetation clearance to facilitate the proposals. Furthermore, compensatory nesting habitat should be included through the installation of bird boxes on retained trees together with new tree and hedgerow planting to offer shelter and foraging opportunities as part of any future development at the Site.

One tree (T1) and a telegraph pole (TN2) were assessed as offering low BRP. If these are to be removed or impacted as part of the proposed development, there is potential for any bats using these features to be harmed if appropriate mitigation is not implemented. The woodland, trees and hedgerows on the boundaries provide ideal foraging and commuting habitat and also connect the Site to the wider area, and the Site was assessed as having low potential for foraging and commuting bats. It is anticipated that that the majority of these habitats are to be retained, therefore, a sensitive lighting regime would need to be developed to ensure no light spill impacts boundary and surrounding habitats.

The Site did not support any evidence to indicate badgers were actively using or inhabiting it, however, a disused sett entrance was recorded in the woodland and there is a suitable habitat for the species on-Site and in the wider area. The woodland is due to be retained as part of the proposed development, such that, no further works are required with regards to the disused sett, and it is not considered a constraint. If this species does occur locally, it is a possibility that badgers may disperse across the Site. Therefore, precautionary measures will need to be in place during the construction phase of works to ensure that they do not become trapped in any trenches or pits.

The Site supports suitable habitat for hedgehogs, and it is a possibility that the species may disperse across the Site. The proposed development has the potential to fragment habitats used by hedgehogs at and beyond the Site through the installation of fences and walls if appropriate mitigation is not put in place. Care should also be taken to ensure that if do not become trapped during the construction phase.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 Further Survey Requirement

The findings of the initial Site assessment are considered sufficient to identify the ecological impacts of the development proposals and no further survey work is deemed necessary at this time.

6.2 Construction and Operational Phase Protection/Enhancement Measures

6.2.1 Species Protection

Nesting Birds

- Any Site clearance works of potential bird nesting habitat should be performed either before early March or after late August in order to avoid the main bird nesting season. Conflict with the development can be avoided by clearing the Site of any suitable nesting habitat outside of the breeding season in advance of any proposed works; and
- If Site clearance are deemed necessary during the nesting period, an experienced ecologist will be required to check the Site habitats immediately prior to works commencing to confirm that no nesting birds will be affected by the proposed works.

Bats

- One tree (T1) and a telegraph pole (TN3) on Site were assessed as offering low BRP and if any these are to be removed, they should be climbed by a licensed bat ecologist, to check for evidence of bat activity or;
- Alternatively, dawn return surveys of the trees should be undertaken between April and October (inclusive) on the morning works are due to proceed; and
- The detailed lighting design on Site should be functional and directional and in line with current guidance (BCT and ILP, 2018); BCT, 2014; Stone, E.L. (2013):
  - The use of lights utilising light emitting diodes (LED) without UV elements, therefore reducing the attraction of invertebrates to the lights;
  - Only luminaires with 0 % upward light ratio should be used and fitted on the horizontal to avoid excessive up-lighting, back lighting and light spill onto boundary hedgerows and trees;
  - A warm white spectrum (between 2000 – 3000 Kelvin) should be used in order to reduce blue light component, therefore reducing the number of invertebrates attracted to the lights;
  - Luminaires should feature peak wavelengths higher than 550 nm to avoid the component of light most disturbing to bats;
  - Ideally the lux level should be 0 and 2 as this is within the range of natural moonlight; and
  - The vegetation planted on Site and any roosting habitats should be unlit.

Badgers and Hedgehogs

- As is general good practice for Sites where badgers and hedgehogs may occur, it is recommended that no excavations or trenches are left uncovered overnight during the development works in order to prevent any badgers from becoming trapped. Alternatively, ramps can be provided to enable them to climb out of trenches or excavations.

Hedgehogs

- Where scrub, trees and hedgerows are required to be removed, a check should be made for hedgehogs. Should a hedgehog be found it should be carefully removed by hand and relocated off-Site in suitable habitat, such as at the base of a hedgerow; and
- Linear corridors allowing the free movement of hedgehogs around the Site boundaries and into off-Site habitats should be retained. All fencing within these areas should allow access and egress for hedgehogs. This requires 13 cm^2 access to be left in a coordinated network to enable access and egress between

suitable foraging habitats throughout the Site, and to the wider landscape. Hedgehogs require territories of up to 1 km and, as such, it is important large feeding areas are made available. Hedgehogs do not generally damage domestic gardens and this size of hole is not large enough for most household pets, or rabbits, to use.

6.2.2 Site Protection

All works on Site should follow an appropriate working methodology to avoid inadvertent damage to any habitats and associated fauna retained on, or surrounding, the Site. This includes the following:

- All works should be undertaken in accordance with the UK governments 'Pollution Prevention for Business's' guidance (www.gov.uk);
- All works on Site should follow an appropriate working methodology to avoid inadvertent damage to any habitats and associated fauna retained on, or surrounding, the Site. This includes the appropriate protection of any retained trees in line with BS 5837:2012; and
- Where works will impact protected and notable species of flora and fauna a suitable method statement should be incorporated into the Site Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

6.3 Site Enhancement

6.3.1 General Site Enhancement

The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), sets out, amongst other points, how 'Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

"*Minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressure"*

The NPPF states that this should be achieved through local planning development frameworks and gives recommendations for criteria based policies which recognise the hierarchy of designated sites which range from internationally important habitat, to sites of importance at a local level and ensure that protection is "in *a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan."*

At this Site, therefore, the following are proposed:

- Planting should aim to enhance retained or adjacent vegetation and be of native species, or those of known value to wildlife, sourced from local nurseries to enhance foraging opportunities for local birds and bats, by increasing the invertebrate diversity on-Site. It is recommended that where trees are planted, they have a functional understorey. Where possible, infill boundary species-rich hedgerow planting with trees should be undertaken to enhance it for dispersing, foraging, and sheltering wildlife. A species list of recommended trees and shrubs is provided in Appendix E; and
- Installation of bird nest and bat boxes on trees to be retained around the Site. Alternatively, bat and bird boxes should be installed on 10% of the new properties or their garages, where present. Delta-Simons can provide further advice on the type and locations of bird and bat boxes for the Site once the final development plans are known.

6.3.2 Biodiversity Net Gain

A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment has been undertaken of the Site (Appendix I). This will be a requirement of the emerging Environment Bill (predicted to receive royal assent in late 2021), and it will be required for all planning applications in the near future. Currently the level of net gain required is set by the LPA, and it is understood that currently Barnsley City Council require a 10% BNG for all planning applications.

Baseline

The Site covers an area of 3.7 hectares (ha) and comprises an arable field left fallow, with improved grassland margins, and boundary hedgerows and lengths of fencing. There were two mature broadleaved trees in the southern area of the Site. A plantation broadleaved woodland and dense scrub defined the eastern extent of the Site, with a clearing with apiaries accessed along an improved grassland track with ruderals on either side, see Figure 2. Table 2, below, gives the baseline biodiversity units for the Site.

Table 2: Baseline Score

Existing Habitats	Type of Unit	Biodiversity Units
Arable field left fallow with improved grassland margins, a plantation broadleaved woodland, dense scrub with an area of bare ground, and an improved grassland track with ruderals	Habitat Unit	**7.70**
Five species-poor hedgerows, two of which included mature broadleaved trees.	Hedgerow Unit	**1.50**

Proposed Enhancements to Achieve Net Gain

An assessment has been made of the realistic potential for environmental improvements of the Site as a consequence of its proposed development. This is summarised below, and it is confirmed that the development cannot realistically deliver material positive environmental and ecological enhancements on-Site, such that off-Site compensation may be required.

The potential post-development score (see Table 3, below) has been calculated using the following information taken from the proposed development plan (Drawing 1) which shows indicative landscaping options, as follows:

The plan indicates that the Site will include a residential properties, roads, driveways, and footpaths (circa 1.88 ha), with amenity grassland/shrub planting within private gardens (circa 1.23 ha). Areas of Public Open Space (POS) are proposed within the central and eastern extents of the Site, which would be primarily managed for their amenity value with amenity grassland and shrubs (circa 0.33 ha).

The woodland in the eastern extent of the Site is set to be retained and enhanced (circa 0.16 ha), with the potential for further woodland and scrub planting in the eastern extent of the Site (circa 0.08 ha). In addition, the mature trees within the hedgerows will be retained, and the hedgerows themselves will be largely retained, replanted, and enhanced, with a short section of H4 removed to provide access to the Site. Furthermore, an addition 65 no. trees are proposed to be planted across the Site, adjacent to roads and within areas of POS.

Despite the retention of high value habitats such as the trees, and woodland, the highest scoring combination of landscaping resulted in a score of -32.41%.

Furthermore, with the hedgerow being retained, and the additional planting of species-rich native hedgerow including the extension of the existing hedgerow and a new hedgerow, a 20.26 % Net Gain is achievable. Table 3 shows the realistic best case post-development score for the Site.

Table 3: Post-Development Score with Additional Enhancements

Planted, Retained and Enhanced Habitats	Type of Unit	Biodiversity Units	Percentage + / -
Retained broadleaved plantation woodland (0.16 ha), woodland and scrub planting (0.08 ha), amenity grassland planting (1.23 ha), modified grassland planting (0.33 ha).	Habitat Unit	**5.20 (-2.50)**	**-32.41%**
Retained existing native hedgerows, and planting to extend the hedgerow on the southern boundary (0.05 ha), and a new hedgerow planted (0.02 ha).	Hedgerow Unit	**1.81 (+0.31)**	**+20.36%**

(See Appendix F: Biodiversity Net Gain with Enhancements included for the detailed results)

The Defra Metric used to generate the above scores is appended to this Report (Appendix A), with the existing habitats shown in Figure 2, and the post development measures to achieve a net gain illustrated in Drawing 1. This initial assessment illustrates how the development can achieve a net gain in biodiversity. Detailed landscape plans for the Site should consider the principles set out in this assessment.

7.0 Disclaimer

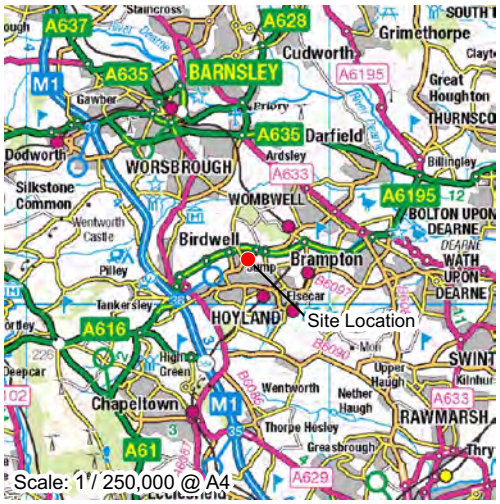
The recommendations contained in this Report represent Delta-Simons' professional opinions, based upon the information referred to in Section 1.0 of this Report, exercising the duty of care required of an experienced Ecology Consultant. Delta-Simons does not warrant or guarantee that the Site is free of Bats or other protected species.

The behaviour of animals can be unpredictable and may not conform to characteristics recorded in current scientific literature. This Report, therefore, cannot predict with absolute certainty that animal species will or will not occur in apparently suitable locations or habitats or that they will not occur in locations or habitats that appear unsuitable.

No part of the survey included an assessment of the materials and conditions of any buildings. No part of the survey included an asbestos assessment, nor did it represent an appraisal of other deleterious materials or hazardous substances.

This Report was prepared by Delta-Simons for the sole and exclusive use of the Client and for the specific purpose for which Delta-Simons was instructed as defined in Section 1.0 of this Report. Nothing contained in this Report shall be construed to give any rights or benefits to anyone other than the Client and Delta-Simons, and all duties and responsibilities undertaken are for the sole and exclusive benefit of the Client and not for the benefit of any other party. In particular, Delta-Simons does not intend, without its written consent, for this Report to be disseminated to anyone other than the Client or to be used or relied upon by anyone other than the Client. Use of the Report by any other person is unauthorised and such use is at the sole risk of the user. Anyone using or relying upon this Report, other than the Client, agrees by virtue of its use to indemnify and hold harmless Delta-Simons from and against all claims, losses and damages (of whatsoever nature and howsoever or whensoever arising), arising out of or resulting from the performance of the work by the Consultant.

Figure 1 – Site Location Map



LEGEND

Site Boundary

Upper Wood Head Farm

Wood Head Farm

Blacker Hill

Springfield Cottages

Platts Common

Roebuck Hill

Jump

Jump Valley

Hoyland

Site Location

0 250 m

Scale:1:10,000 @ A4

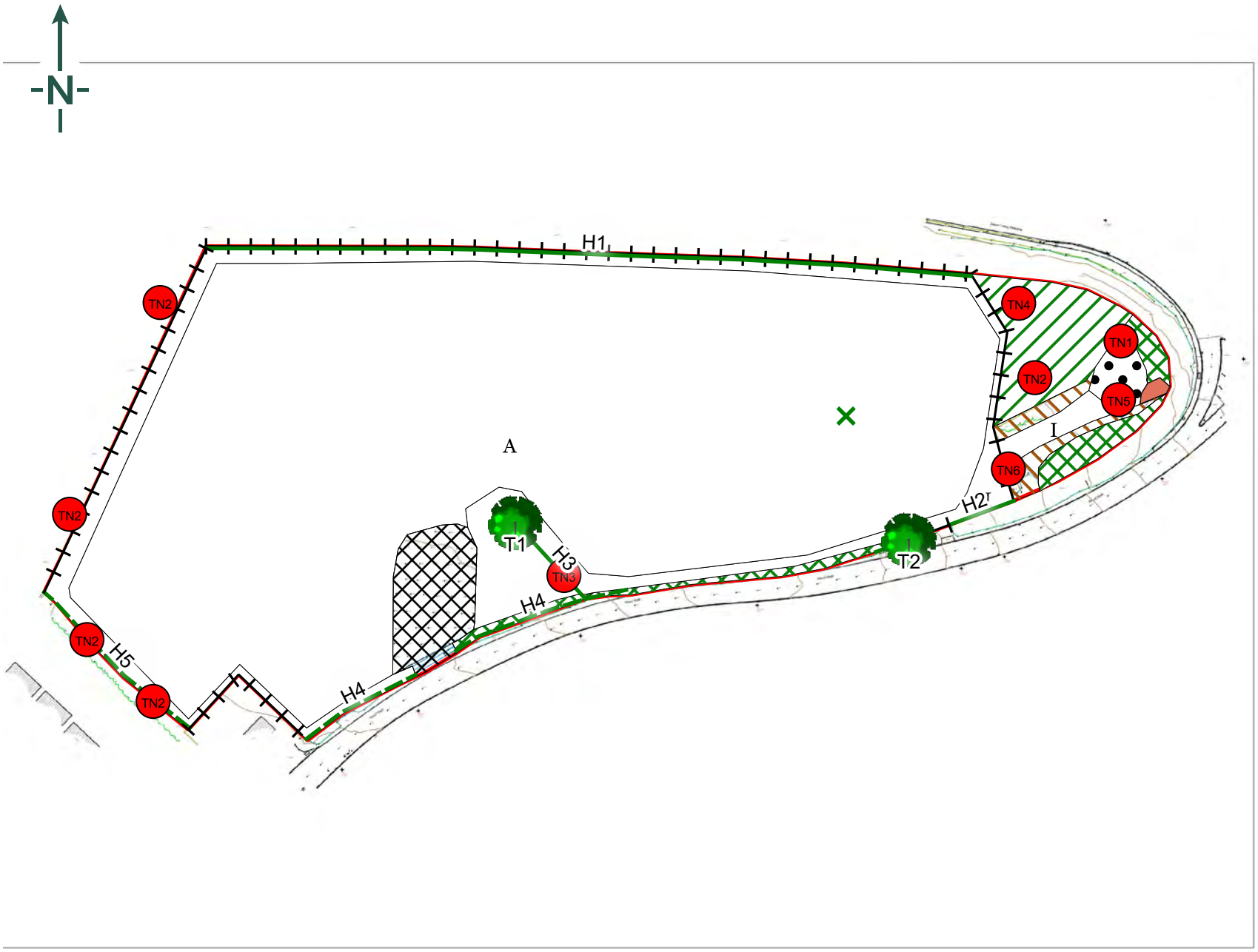
Service Layer Credits: Contains OS data @ Crown Copyright and Database Right 2019

deltasimons
Environment - Health & Safety - Sustainability

TITLE:
Site Location Map
Wood Walk, Hoyland
Barnsley

DRAWN BY:	SCALE (@A4):	PROJECT NO:
CD	1:10,000	16-0406
CHECKED BY:	REVISION:	FIGURE NO:
JS	0	1
DATE:		
11 February 2021		

Figure 2 – Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan



LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- Scattered scrub
- Scattered broadleaved trees
- TNX — Target note
- Intact species-poor hedgerow
- Defunct species-poor hedgerow
- Fence
- Broadleaved plantation woodland
- Dense scrub
- I — Improved grassland
- Tall ruderals
- A — Arable
- Bare ground
- Hardstanding
- Bracken

Site Plan Provided by Client

deltasimons
Environment - Health & Safety - Sustainability

TITLE:
Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan
Wood Walk, Hoyland
Barnsley

DRAWN BY: CD	SCALE (@A4): 1:1,800	PROJECT NO: 16-0406.07	
CHECKED BY: JS	REVISION: -	FIGURE NO: 2	
DATE: 15 February 2021			

Drawing 1 – Feasibility Site Plan

Gross Site Area

Name	Area m²	Area ft²	Area Ac.	Area ha.	Percentage
Overall Site Plan	36057 m²	388116 ft²	8.9 acres	3.6 hectare	100%

Site Constraints/Considerations

Name	Area m²	Area ft²	Area Ac.	Area ha.	Percentage
High Wall	8245 m²	88743 ft²	2.0 acres	0.8 hectare	83%
Existing Woodland	1664 m²	17907 ft²	0.4 acres	0.2 hectare	17%
Grand total	9908 m²	106651 ft²	2.4 acres	1 hectare	100%

Developable/P.O.S Area

Name	Area m²	Area ft²	Area Ac.	Area ha.	Percentage
Public Open Space	4213 m²	45351 ft²	1.0 acres	0.4 hectare	16%
Developable Area	22487 m²	242053 ft²	5.6 acres	2.2 hectare	84%
Grand total	26701 m²	287404 ft²	6.6 acres	2.7 hectare	100%

Accommodation Schedule

House Type	Quantity	Bedrooms	Area m²	Area ft²
TypeH (3Nr.)_TheBeamsley	12	2	850.4 m²	9154 ft²
TypeH (4Nr.)_TheBeamsley	4	2	284.5 m²	3062 ft²
TypeJ&K_Eastern_Kelham	18	2	1187.5 m²	12782 ft²
	34 (40.5%)		2322.3 m²	24998 ft²
TypeA(Detached)_Ingleborough	1	3	87.5 m²	942 ft²
TypeA_Ingleborough	8	3	689.0 m²	7417 ft²
TypeB_Lilac	4	3	363.0 m²	3907 ft²
TypeG_Whernside	7	3	656.9 m²	7071 ft²
	20 (23.8%)		1796.4 m²	19337 ft²
TypeC_Laurel	9	4	1049.4 m²	11296 ft²
TypeD_Sandringham	6	4	752.4 m²	8099 ft²
TypeE_Harewood	3	4	371.1 m²	3994 ft²
TypeF_Winterley	2	4	262.2 m²	2822 ft²
TypeL_Buckden	10	4	1305.8 m²	14056 ft²
	30 (35.7%)		3741.0 m²	40268 ft²
Grand total	84 Units		7859.8 m²	84602 ft²

00 Series General Arrangement Notes

1. Any areas indicated on the plans are approximate. They relate to the likely areas of the building at the current state of the design and are calculated using the stated eg(NIA) method from the Code of MEasuring Practice 5th Edition RICS/ISVA. Any decision to be made on the basis of these predictions, whether as to project viability, pre-letting, lease agreements or the like, should include due allowance for design development and building tolerances. Floor areas are subject to Planning, Building Control and other statutory approvals.

2. Any structural, services or fit out detail shown is for coordination only, refer to relevant Consultants/Clients information for details.

3. Refer to Enjoy NBS for full outline performance specification of Architectural Elements.

4. THE CONTENT OF THIS DRAWING IS FOR DESIGN INTENT AND REQUIRES FURTHER DESIGN DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION WITH ALL RELEVANT CONSULTANTS, SUB-CONTRACTORS, SPECIALIST DESIGNERS AND STATUTORY AUTHORITIES.

- Attenuation Area_ **1,424m²**
- Broadleaf Plantation Area_**1,277m²**
- Existing Hedgerow removed_ **0 linear m**
- Proposed Hedgerow added / relocated_ **36 linear m**

Key

- Vegetation - Existing
- New Hedgerow
- Vegetation - Removed
- Public Open Space
- Attenuation

Affordable houses *



Single Garage

Double Garage

Type A
The Ingleborough
3Bed
927ft² x 2
Semi Detached
No Garage

Type B
The Lilac
3Bed
977ft²
Detached
Ext. Garage

Type C
The Laurel
4Bed
1255ft²
Detached
Ext. Garage

Type D
The Sandringham
4Bed
1350ft²
Detached
Ext. Garage

Type E
The Harewood
4 Bed
1331ft²
Detached
Ext. Garage

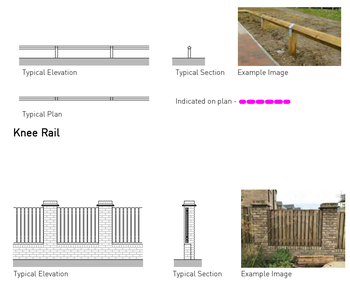
Type F
The Winterley
4Bed
1372ft²
Detached
Ext. Garage

Type G
The Whernside
3Bed
1010ft²
Detached
Ext. Garage

Type H (Typcial)
The Beamsley
2Bed
763ft² x 3
Terrace

Type J/K
The Easton/The Kelham
2Bed
685ft²/734ft² x 3
Apartments

Type L
The Buckden
4Bed
1406ft²
Detached
Int. Garage



Proposed Site Plan

1 : 500

1 : 200
0 2 4 6 8 10m

1 : 500
0 10 20 30m

Contractor must verify all dimensions on site before commencing any work or shop drawings. If this drawing exceeds the quantities taken in any way the Architects are to be informed before the work is initiated. Only figured dimensions to be taken from this drawing. Do not scale off this drawing. Drawings based on Ordnance Survey and / or existing record drawings - design and drawing content subject to Site Survey, Structural Survey, Site Investigations, Planning and Statutory Requirements and Approvals. Authorised reproduction from Ordnance Survey Map with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright reserved. Enjoy Design Ltd.

Notes.

Rev.	Des.	By	Date	Ch.
P4	2 spaces shwon on Plots 28, 38, 39, 76, 77. Road aligned to tracking at Plot 2 bend.	WD	08.07.2021	WD
P3	Boundary treatments added, minor adjustments made to housing areas to now comply with the Nationally Described Housing Standards/South Yorkshire Design Guide & GIA areas added.	WD	24.06.2021	MH
P2	Plot 27 revised to Type C. Garage added	WD	10.06.2021	
P1	Draft Planning	WD	Date 1	

Status: Planning

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Client: Yelcon Ltd		Job No: 18,030
Project: Wood Walk, Hoyland, Barnsley		
Title: Proposed - Site Plan		
Date: 05/07/21	Scale: As indicated@A1	Checked by: WD
Drawing No: 00-001	Drawn By: MH	Revision: P4

ENJOY DESIGN

Appendix A – Relevant Legislation

Relevant Legislation

National Planning Policy Framework

The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), sets out, amongst other points, how '*Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:*

"Minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity…"

The NPPF states that this should be achieved through local planning development frameworks and gives recommendations for criteria based policies which recognise the hierarchy of designated sites which range from internationally important habitat, to sites of importance at a local level and ensure that protection is *"in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan.*"

A list of principles which local planning authorities should follow when determining planning applications is included in the NPPF:

- *"If significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;*
- *Development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons[1] and a suitable compensation strategy exists;*
- *Development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest; and*
- *Development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements in and around developments should be encouraged, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity."*

It is also worth noting that where there are potential impacts upon internationally designated sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites) as a result of a proposed development, *"The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where development requiring appropriate assessment because of its potential impact on a habitats site is being planned or determined."*

In addition, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister circular 06/2005 remains current. It states that '*The presence of a protected species is a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a development proposal'. The circular advises that local authorities should consult Natural England before granting planning permission if the proposals could adversely affect a protected species.*'

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 are the British response to the Habitats & Species Directive 1992, and consolidate all the various amendments made to the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 in respect of England and Wales. The 1994 Regulations transposed Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EC Habitats Directive) into national law.

The Regulations for the protection of European Protected Species (EPS) have been amended and consolidated with key changes including the removal of most of the defences from Regulation 40 and Regulation 43 including the removal of the 'incidental result of an otherwise lawful operation' defence, and the increase in the threshold for the offence of deliberately disturbing a EPS. Proposals that will affect European protected species may require a licence from Natural England to allow an otherwise unlawful act. In the 2009 a new offence of

1 For example, infrastructure projects (including nationally significant infrastructure projects, orders under the Transport and Works Act and hybrid bills), where the public benefit would clearly outweigh the loss or deterioration of habitat.

'breaching condition of an EPS licence' was added to the regulations. The licensing process is separate from and planning process. European protected species include all species of bats, great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*, dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius*, and European otter *Lutra lutra*, amongst others.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended)

This is the primary legislation covering endangered species in England and sets out the framework for the designation of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). It confers differing levels of protection on species themselves, their habitats or both depending on their conservation status. Species offered protection by the Act are listed in a series of schedules. These Schedules are subject to a rolling review every five years. Protected species are listed under Section 1 (birds), Schedule 5 (animals other than birds and invertebrates) and Schedule 8 (plants).

The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000

The CROW Act, introduced in England and Wales in 2000, amends and strengthens existing wildlife legislation detailed in the WCA. It places a duty on government departments and the National Assembly for Wales to have regard for biodiversity, and provides increased powers for the protection and maintenance of SSSIs.

The Act also contains lists of habitats and species (Section 74) for which conservation measures should be promoted, in accordance with the recommendations of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio Earth Summit) 1992.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

Section 40 of the NERC Act places a duty upon all local authorities and public bodies in England and Wales to promote and enhance biodiversity in all of their functions. Section 41 (England) list habitats and species of principal importance to the conservation of biodiversity in England. These species and habitats are a material consideration in the planning process.

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997

Under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997, it is against the law to remove or destroy certain hedgerows without permission from the local authority.

Local planning authority permission is required before removing hedges that are at least 20 metres (66 feet) in length more than 30 years old and contain certain species of plant. The authority will assess the importance of the hedgerow using criteria set out in the regulations.

Species

Birds

All wild birds are protected under Section 1 of the WCA 1981 (as amended). Subsection 1(1) makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure, or take any wild bird; take, damage or destroy the nest of any such bird whilst it is in use or being built; or take or destroy an egg of any such wild bird. It is, furthermore, an offence to either intentionally, or recklessly, disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird. The law covers all species of wild birds including common, pest or opportunistic species.

Amphibians

All native amphibians are protected under the WCA 1981 (as amended), with some species also protected under the European Habitats Directive (92/43/EC), transposed in England and Wales through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. All amphibians are protected from keeping, transporting, selling or exchanging. This means that in practice reasonable measures must be taken to avoid their incidental mortality.

The Great Crested Newt (GCN) is protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Schedule 5/9(4)(b) and (c) of the WCA 1981 (as amended). It is an offence to deliberately kill, injure, capture GCN or to deliberately disturb this species, or to intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to their places of shelter or protection, to damage or destroy their breeding sites or resting places, or to intentionally or recklessly disturb a GCN whilst in a place of shelter or protection. The legislation applies to all stages of the life cycle including eggs, larvae and juveniles. It should be noted that GCNs spend the majority of their lives on land,

venturing up to 500 m (but more usually 250 m) from their breeding ponds and as such any ground works within 500 m of a breeding pond could potentially have an adverse effect on GCNs.

Reptiles

All six native species of reptiles are protected under the 1981 WCA (as amended), from intentional killing or injury. As such, all reasonable steps must be taken to avoid their incidental mortality when carrying out works.

Bats

All bats and their resting places are protected under Section 9(4)(b) and (c) of the WCA 1981 (as amended) and by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

It is an offence to destroy or damage a breeding site or resting place of a bat, to intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any place of shelter or protection for bats, to deliberately disturb bat species, to intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat whilst in its place of shelter or protection, or deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat. It should be noted that a breeding site or resting place of a bat is protected whether or not bats are present, as long as it is likely that they will return, and any activity or works damaging or destroying such a breeding site or resting place are likely to require a Natural England European Protected Species Licence (EPSL).

Badgers

Badgers *Meles meles* and their setts are protected under the 1992 Protection of Badgers Act. Under this Act it is an offence to wilfully kill, injure, take, possess or cruelly ill-treat badgers, or to attempt to do so. It is also an offence to intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy, or obstruct access to any part of a sett, or to disturb an occupied sett, either by intent or negligence. When interpreting the Act, Natural England defines a sett as any structure within an area used by badgers that shows signs of having been occupied by badgers within the last 12 months.

Invasive Species

Invasive species are plant species which are prohibited from release into the wild. There is an extensive list (currently 42) which are set out in section 14(2) of the WCA 1981 (as amended) which states that '*if any person plants or otherwise causes to grow in the wild any plant which is included in Part II of Schedule 9, he shall be guilty of an offence*.'

The most widespread of these are Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* and giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum* which are also is covered by several pieces of legislation. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended) is a broad ranging piece of legislation that singles out Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed for special mention. The Act places a 'Duty of Care' on the producer and anyone they employ to dispose of soil or other material contaminated with Japanese knotweed or giant hogweed, such material becomes a controlled waste, which can only be taken to licensed landfill and must be dealt with in an appropriate way.

Appendix B – References

References

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The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. HMSO

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997. HMSO

The Protection of Badgers Act 1992. HMSO

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). HMSO

Appendix C – Assessment of Structures, Trees and Habitats for Bats

Assessment of Structures, Trees and Habitats for Bats

Guidance on Assessing the Potential Suitability of Development Sites to Support Bats (adapted from Collins, J. (ed)).

Suitability	Description	
	Roosting	**Commuting and Foraging**
Negligible	An inspected structure or tree which is considered to have no features of importance for roosting bats. No further constraints apply to the method or timing of proposed works.	Negligible habitat features on-Site to support commuting or foraging bats.
Low	A structure with at least one or more features suitable to support opportunistic individual bats. However, inadequate space, shelter, protection and conditions, and the low suitability of surrounding habitats means that it is unlikely to be used as a maternity or hibernation roost site. A tree of adequate age and stature to support potential roosting features, however, either no features, or only features of limited potential recorded from the ground.	Habitat with potential to support low numbers of commuting bats due to its quality and connectivity. For example, a gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream that is isolated from the surrounding landscape. Alternatively, suitable but isolated habitats suitable to support low numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree or a patch of scrub.
Moderate	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that are of adequate size, shelter and protection, with suitable conditions and surrounding habitat to support a bat roost not of high conservation status (with respect to roost type not individual species conservation status).	Linear habitat continuity connecting to the wider landscape offering potential to support commuting bats, such as rows of trees and scrub or linked back gardens. Habitat such as trees, scrub, grassland or a waterbody with connectivity to the wider landscape offering foraging opportunities for bats.
High	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that are suitable for use by large numbers of bats on a regular basis and for long periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and the surrounding habitat.	Continuous high-quality habitat with strong connectivity to the wider landscape that is likely to be used by commuting bats on a regular basis, such as flowing waterbodies, hedgerows, rows of trees and woodland edges. High quality habitat with strong connectivity to the wider landscape that is likely to be regularly used by foraging bats, such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland. Site is close to, and connected to, known roost sites.

Appendix D – Site Photographs

Site Photographs



Photograph 1 – Broadleaved plantation woodland



Photograph 2 – Scattered ash trees in the hedgerows



Photograph 3 – Dense bramble scrub on the southern boundary



Photograph 4 – Improved grassland field margins and intact species-poor hedgerow



Photograph 5 – Small patch of bracken in the eastern extent of the Site



Photograph 6 – Tall ruderals in the eastern extent of the Site



Photograph 7 – Spoil heap and bare ground in the eastern extent of the Site



Photograph 8 – Fallow arable



Photograph 9 – Intact species-poor hedgerow on the southern boundary



Photograph 10 – Intact species-poor hedgerow protruding into the Site



Photograph 11 – Defunct species-poor hedgerow



Photograph 12 – Outgrown species-poor hedgerow on the western boundary



Photograph 13 – Hardstanding



Photograph 14 – Bare ground and apiaries



Photograph 15 – Tree 1 with rot holes and broken branches



Photograph 16 – Tree 2, negligible BRP



Photograph 17 – Telegraph pole with low BRP



Photograph 18 – Long-term disused partially collapsed sett entrance



Photograph 19 – Buddleja

Appendix E – Native Floral Species to Plant for Wildlife Enhancement On-Site

Native Floral Species to Plant for Wildlife Enhancement On-Site

The following list gives good examples of plants for different conditions which have value for native fauna either as a food source or shelter. To maximise value for wildlife plants should ideally be native, not cultivars, and sourced locally where possible. Planting should look to provide food at all levels, with underplanting of trees with shrubs or species rich grassland to provide maximum value out of an area and add interest to planting schemes.

Note: it is currently generally not advised to plant ash because of ash die back. However, ash is a very valuable plant for wildlife especially as a semi-mature and mature tree. Therefore, if locally sourced trees or self-sets known to be free of the fungus are available then these should be incorporated. Additionally, trees not showing signs of being affected should be retained where possible.

Trees and Shrubs

Large trees

- Beech *Fagus sylvatica*;
- Bird cherry *Prunus padus*;
- Elm *Ulmus procera*;
- Oaks *Quercus robur* and *Q. petraea*;
- White willow *Salix alba*;
- Field maple *Acer campestre*;
- Silver birch *Betula pendula*;
- Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*;
- Small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*; and
- Walnut *Juglans regia*.

Medium/Small Trees

- Alder *Alnus glutinosa*;
- Apples *Malus* spp. (local varieties can be found);
- Field maple *Acer campestre*;
- Holly *Ilex aquifolium*;
- Pears *Pyrus* spp.;
- Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*;
- Silver birch *Betula pendula*;
- Yew *Taxus baccata*;
- Elder *Sambucus nigra*;
- Hazel *Corylus avellana*;
- Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*;
- Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclynemum*;
- Wild privet *Ligustrum vulgare*;
- Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*; and
- Guelder-rose *Viburnum opulus*.

Plants for hedgerows and woodland understoreys

A combination of shrubs and climbers can make attractive hedges of great benefit for wildlife, as well as providing a functional boundary. Standard trees should be incorporated in hedgerows, with ash, oak and wayfarer tree three traditional choices, depending on the region. These should be marked so as not to be cut during management works. In addition, undersowing with a suitable shade tolerant wildflower mix is important to maximise value.

Trees and shrubs suitable for hedges and understorey planting

- Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*;
- Buckthorn *Rhamnus catharticus*;
- Field maple *Acer campestre*;
- Holly *Ilex aquifolium*;
- Elder Sambucus nigra;
- Guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*;
- Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*;
- Hazel *Corylus avellana*;
- Privets, including wild privet *Ligustrum vulgare*; and
- Spindle *Euonymus europaeus*.

Climber and scramblers suitable for hedgerows and understorey planting

- Dog rose *Rosa canina*;
- Field rose *Rosa arvensis*;
- Ivy *Hedera helix*;
- Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*;
- Wild clematis/old man's beard *Clematis vitalba*; and
- Hop *Humulus lupulus*.

Understorey flowering plants providing ground cover for shady areas

These species flower early before trees are in full leaf, and will do well in areas that become shady later in the year.

- Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*;
- Bugle *Ajuga reptans*;
- Wild daffodil *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*;
- Foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*;
- Lords-and-ladies/cuckoopint *Arum maculatum*;
- Primrose *Primula vulgaris*;
- Sweet violet *Viola odorata*; and
- Wood avens *Geum urbanum*.