

wardell-armstrong.com

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES
LAND AND PROPERTY
MINING AND MINERAL PROCESSING
MINERAL ESTATES
WASTE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



STRATA STERLING BARNESLEY WEST

BARNESLEY WEST

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

OCTOBER 2023

DATE ISSUED: OCTOBER 2023
JOB NUMBER: LD10361
REPORT NUMBER: APPENDIX 7.1
VERSION: V1.0
STATUS: Final

STRATA STERLING BARNESLEY WEST

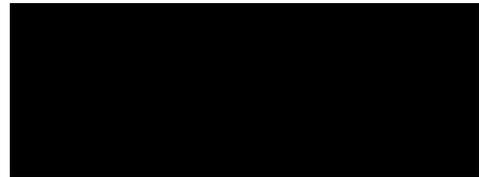
BARNESLEY WEST

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

OCTOBER 2023

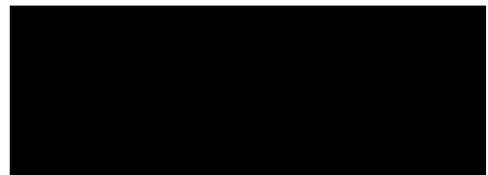
PREPARED BY:

Lorraine Palmer Associate Director
(Ecology)



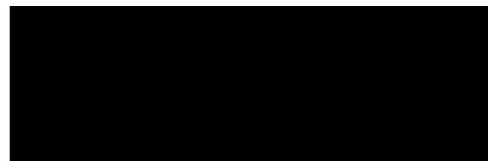
REVIEWED BY:

Tim Palmer Technical Director
(Ecology)



APPROVED BY:

Tim Palmer Technical Director
(Ecology)



This report has been prepared by Wardell Armstrong LLP with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, within the terms of the Contract with the Client. The report is confidential to the Client and Wardell Armstrong LLP accepts no responsibility of whatever nature to third parties to whom this report may be made known.

No part of this document may be reproduced without the prior written approval of Wardell Armstrong LLP.



CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1	Terms of Reference	1
1.2	Background Information	2
1.3	Site Context	2
1.4	Local Planning Policy	2
2	METHODOLOGY	5
2.1	Desk Study.....	5
2.2	Extended UKHab Habitat Survey.....	5
2.3	Evaluation and Assessment of Features	6
2.4	Nomenclature.....	6
2.5	Caveat.....	7
2.6	Quality Assurance & Environmental Management	7
3	RESULTS AND EVALUATION	9
3.1	Statutory and Non- Statutory Conservation Sites.....	9
3.2	Habitats	12
3.3	Species.....	28
4	DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	36
4.1	Sensitive Receptors	36
5	BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN	39
5.2	Habitat Condition Assessment	39
5.3	Biodiversity Enhancement	39
5.4	Conclusion	40
7	REFERENCES.....	41

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Legislation and Policy Summary

DRAWINGS	TITLE	SCALE
LD10361/002	UKHab Habitat Survey Plan	1:1,000@A3
LD10361/004	Site Location Plan	1:50,000@A3

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong was commissioned by Strata Sterling Barnsley West Ltd to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of a proposed mixed use development scheme. The project is located on land west of Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

The following habitats and species (receptors) have been evaluated as being subject to potential adverse effects (constraints) in the absence of mitigation and /or further surveys or assessment.¹

- NERC Section 41 (s.41) and LBAP Habitat (Broadleaved Woodland, Hedgerows and waterbodies)
- Protected species including Badger, Bats, Otter and Water vole, Great crested newt;
- Breeding (including nesting) and Wintering Birds

Additional assessments, surveys and pre-construction checks have been recommended as necessary to fully inform the planning application, such surveys have been undertaken and are reported separately:

- Building emergence-dawn re-entry surveys for bats
- Roost surveys of trees that are suitable for roosting bats
- Update surveys for otter and water vole
- eDNA surveys for Great crested newts
- Breeding and Wintering Bird Surveys

Mitigation² compensation³ and enhancement⁴ opportunities are discussed in the final section of the report but include the following:

- Retention of a suitable buffer (minimum of 15m) around Ancient Woodland habitat (Craven Wood).
- Enhancement of retained habitats and compensation for unavoidable habitat loss, including 'like for like' compensation of high distinctiveness habitats. To ensure overall net gain >10%.
- Vegetation clearance undertaken outside of the bird nesting season or an inspection carried out by an appropriately qualified ecologist.

¹ Note: the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report provides an overview of likely effects and therefore may not be sufficient to support a planning application on its own. Specialist surveys may be required to fully investigate effects and/or to support an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA).

² Mitigation are measures required in order to reduce the severity and magnitude of identified effects to an acceptable level.

³ Compensation is required where effects cannot be fully mitigated.

⁴ Enhancements are required in accordance with national planning policies in order to ensure no net loss of site biodiversity.

- Provision of a (framework) Landscape Biodiversity Management Plan to ensure protective mitigation and habitat creation/enhancement measures.

Given the identified evidence of presence and/or likely presence of ecological constraints, further surveys and/or assessments are required to inform a full evaluation of adverse effects. The results of further protected species surveys and evaluations shall be considered within an Ecology Environmental Statement Chapter, in line with standard industry practice (CIEEM). This report will include a formal assessment of impacts and will be suitable to fully inform the planning application.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Terms of Reference

1.1.1 Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) was commissioned by Strata Sterling Barnsley West Ltd to undertake an Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of a proposed mixed use development scheme. The project is located on land west of Barnsley, South Yorkshire. The project is located west of Barnsley. The centre of the site has an approximate Ordnance Survey Grid Reference of SE 31778 07075.

1.1.2 This report has been produced with reference to current guidelines for UK Habitat (UKHAB) Classification (Butcher, 2020), Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM 2017a) and Code of Practice for Planning and Development (BSI 2013).

1.1.3 The purpose of the report is in broad terms to undertake the following:

- Identify and report to the project team the likely ecological constraints associated with a project, such that the site design can adequately take account of ecological features;
- identify any mitigation measures likely to be required, following the 'Mitigation Hierarchy'⁵;
- identify any additional surveys that may be required to inform an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA); and
- Identify the opportunities offered by a project to deliver ecological enhancement.

1.1.4 Certain species, habitats and nature conservation sites receive legislative protection which is detailed fully within Appendix 1. Other species/groups and habitats are notable due to their identification in national and/or local planning policy or via local records. An indicative assessment of potential adverse effects to such receptors is provided, although this is not a substitute for full Ecological Impact Assessment (CIEEM 2018) which may be required to fully inform any subsequent planning application along with additional (Phase II) surveys and assessments.

1.1.5 Provisional mitigation and enhancement opportunities are also discussed, where appropriate.

⁵ As defined in British Standard BS 42020:2013 (BSI 2013)

1.1.6 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements are briefly highlighted in this report although separate reports with parallel BNG assessments are provided (Wardell Armstrong 2023). It is anticipated that such assessments will contribute towards an iterative design process and hence will need to be updated sequentially until a final BNG report or Biodiversity Gain Plan is provided to support the planning application. The mitigation, compensation and enhancement recommendations made in the final sections of this report may contribute towards the overall assessment of BNG but may be superseded by specific requirements arising from the BNG assessment process.

1.2 Background Information

1.2.1 The updated proposed development comprises a mixed-use development to provide up to 1,560 new homes and up to 43 hectares of employment land for Use Class E/B2/B8. In addition, the proposals will provide:

- Part of the Link Road between M1, Junction 37 and the A635, Barugh Green Road (The section from Higham Lane to Barugh Green Road);
- A new primary school;
- Small local shops and community facilities; and
- Strategic areas of greenspace and wildlife corridors.

1.3 Site Context

1.3.1 The planning application area comprises a large formerly open cast mine and surrounding land covering approximately 120 hectares. The study site (the Site) includes all land within the Application Site plus an additional surrounding buffer of 50-100m. The Site generally comprises of open pastoral and arable fields, with associated boundary hedgerows, trees and ditches, and areas of semi-natural **and ancient woodland**. The pasture fields are heavily grazed by horses/ponies.

1.3.2 The site lies 2 km west of Barnsley town centre, on farmland between the communities of Gawber, Higham, Pogmoor, Redbrook and Barugh Green and immediately north-east of Junction 37 of the M1 motorway.

1.4 Local Planning Policy

1.4.1 Relevant current and emerging policies are summarised in Box 1, below and are discussed with regard to compliance in the final Discussion section of the report.

Policy Reference	Policy Summary
------------------	----------------

<p>Policy ENV4: Green and Blue Infrastructure</p>	<p>Green and blue infrastructure will be protected, and where appropriate, improved and extended to provide a quality, safe and accessible network of well connected, multifunctional open spaces for recreation and play and to enhance visual amenity, biodiversity, landscape and productivity</p>
<p>Policy ENV5: Green Infrastructure Standards</p>	<p>Residential development of 20 dwellings (or 0.2hectares) or more, or non-residential developments of 1,000m gross floorspace or more, will, subject to the quantity, quality and accessibility of existing provision, be expected to provide new green infrastructure, based on standards set out separately in the adopted Planning Obligations SPD. Green Infrastructure should be delivered on-site and designed as multi-functional blue-green space to perform a range of green infrastructure functions where possible</p>
<p>Green Infrastructure Strategy 2013-2026</p>	<p>The Green Infrastructure Strategy sets out 7 Objectives with Priorities for Action to create a green infrastructure network based on national and local strategies to help maintain and enhance green infrastructure in Darlington. This includes creating space and habitats for wildlife to live and breed with access to nature for people and will help make sure that biodiversity levels in Darlington remain viable in the long term.</p> <p>The priority actions to provide a connected network of healthy, wildlife rich, natural ecosystems are set out in Objective 2 of the Strategy and include the following:</p> <p>Action 1: Improve the amount and mix of protected and priority habitats and species in the urban area.</p> <p>Action 2: Improve the biodiversity value of the urban fringe and countryside.</p> <p>Action 3: Provide more stepping stones and buffer zones for wildlife to move more easily.</p> <p>Action 4: Maintain and improve the Borough’s air and water quality.</p>
<p>Design of New Development Supplementary Planning Document (adopted July 2011)</p>	<p>The Design of New Development Document provides a range of detailed design guidance showing how the location, form and type of new development in Darlington’s different neighbourhoods and villages should be considered through the design process over the next 10 years or so.</p> <p>Developers will be expected to:</p> <p>Creatively incorporate a variety of biodiversity features appropriate to their location to help prevent biodiversity loss, reverse habitat fragmentation, promote priority habitats and maintain and enhance links to the existing network of wildlife corridors and local wildlife sites. Important design principles to consider:</p> <p>Where protected species exist on or next to a site, mitigation measures should be incorporated to protect species, enhance biodiversity and allow movement through improved connectivity to the wider green infrastructure network. Measures should be consistent with the Habitats Regulations</p>

	<p>Local native species should be used in all landscaping and biodiversity schemes. Locally distinctive flora and fauna and natural features like trees, hedgerows, waterbodies and grassland should be incorporated and/or enhanced. Where de-culverting watercourses and SuDS are appropriate, new habitats should be provided where practicable. The Environment Agency and the Council should be consulted on all proposals near or within a river or floodplain.</p> <p>The scale and proximity of buildings should be designed to minimise shading of biodiversity features on or next to the Site</p>
--	--

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Desk Study

2.1.1 The desk study was informed by review of existing available information provided by Barnsley Biological Records Centre (data requests operated by Sheffield BRC) (BBRC) and from available internet-based resources for a 2km search radius and from the Sites central grid reference .OS and satellite mapping was also used to gain contextual habitat information.

2.1.2 Specific information was sought for:

- Statutory designated sites⁶;
- Locally designated sites;
- Ancient woodland⁷;
- Protected and priority species;
- Priority Habitats and Species⁸;
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) priority habitats and species.

2.1.3 The ecological desk study was carried out by a Qualifying member of CIEEM, who has completed numerous ecological desk studies within the last four years.

2.2 Extended UKHab Habitat Survey

2.2.1 WA carried out a UK Habitat (UKHab) Classification Survey of the Site on 12th April 2023, with supplementary botanical information provided following the entomological assessment (undertaken by a specialist entomologist/botanist) during June 2023. The survey was carried out by experienced WA ecologist.

2.2.2 The survey broadly followed the 'UK Habitat Classification' methodology as set out in the user manual (UKHab, 2023) and each of the main habitats were classified according to the relevant criteria including vegetation composition expressed according to the DAFOR system.

⁶ Locations provided by MAGIC <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

⁷ As defined by Natural England in their Inventory of Ancient Woodlands
http://www.gis.naturalengland.org.uk/pubs/gis/tech_aw.htm

⁸ As defined under Section 41 (England) and Section 42 (Wales) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, which have superseded UK Biodiversity Action Plan lists.

2.2.3 In addition to the mapping and description of habitats, the survey was 'extended' to include the incidental observations of protected and/or notable species and the potential for such species to occur on Site (and in the surrounding landscape where relevant) were also recorded onto secure digital media for mapping and data collection. The extended element of the survey was based on professional judgement.

2.2.4 Specific habitat features are mapped on Drawing LD10361/002 with appropriate reference numbers identifying features of particular note.

2.3 Evaluation and Assessment of Features

2.3.1 Evaluation of the importance/likely importance of ecological features and the likelihood of impacts affecting important features was made, where possible, using professional judgement in accordance with published guidance (CIEEM 2017b).

2.3.2 Protected and NERC s.41 Priority species were evaluated in order to identify potential adverse effects in Table 2, based on the following criteria:

- Desk study records;
- Evidence found during the survey;
- Presence, extent, quality and viability of suitable on-site habitat;
- Ecological connectivity to viable off-site habitats; and
- Perceived impacts of habitat loss/impact to individuals in relation to proposals.

2.3.3 A 'traffic light' system is used in Table 1 and 2 to highlight potential constraints and opportunities whereby:

- **Green:** No constraint or limited constraint unlikely to be of planning and/or legal significance.
- **Amber:** Potential constraints which require further survey and/or mitigation and may be of planning and/or legal significance depending on the outcome of further survey/assessment.
- **Red:** Constraints which have already been identified by the PEA survey/desk-based assessment and are likely to be of planning and/or legal significance.

2.4 Nomenclature

2.4.1 Vascular plant names follow 'New Flora of the British Isles' (Stace 2010) with vernacular names as provided in the Botanical Society of the British Isles website (BSBI,

2013)⁹. All other flora and fauna names following the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas (NBN, 2017). The common and scientific name of species/taxa is provided (if available) when first mentioned in the text, with only the vernacular name referred to thereafter.

2.5 Caveat

- 2.5.1 Ecological surveys are limited by factors that affect the presence of plants and animals such as time of year, weather, migration patterns and behaviour. The survey was undertaken in April (and supplemented in June) and therefore represents a valid sample of ecological evidence present on that date/season. The report is not designed, nor is it required to present a complete inventory of flora/fauna.
- 2.5.2 The survey was completed within the optimum survey season for botanical survey, thus the habitat present on Site was accurately classified by ecologists experienced surveying similar habitat complexity and composition.
- 2.5.3 In general terms this report remains valid for up to 2 years from the date of Habitat survey, however a walkover survey within this period may be required to demonstrate whether or not the habitats have remained as described. Note, survey results for European Protected Species typically require updates within 3 months of licence applications being submitted. Additional checks may also be necessary prior to the onset of development work for certain species to ensure legal compliance.
- 2.5.4 The absence of desk study records is not relied upon to determine absence of a particular species/habitat. Often, the absence of records is a result of under-recording within the given search area and as such the experience of the ecologist concerned together with a range of additional factors, in particular the presence/absence of potentially supporting habitat; is used to infer likely presence/absence of ecological receptors.

2.6 Quality Assurance & Environmental Management

- 2.6.1 The surveys and assessments have been overseen by and the report checked and verified by a member of CIEEM, whom is bound by its code of professional conduct. All surveys and assessments have been undertaken with reference to the recommendations given in British Standard BS 42020, and as stated within specialist guidance, as appropriate and referenced separately. The surveys reported remain

⁹ <http://rbg-web2.rbge.org.uk/BSBI/intro.php>

valid for a period up to 2 years although a walkover survey may be required to establish any changes in habitat/species distribution in order to provide a current baseline position.

3 RESULTS AND EVALUATION

3.1 Statutory and Non- Statutory Conservation Sites

3.1.1 Desk study results for conservation sites are evaluated in Table 1, below.

3.1.2 Sites which are considered potentially sensitive to the development proposals by virtue of their supported species or habitat assemblages, the distance/ecological connectivity to the application site and the nature of the perceived impacts are discussed in detail in the final sections of the report.

3.1.3 Sites for which potential adverse effects are not anticipated are excluded from further assessment.

Table 1: Statutory and Non-Statutory Sites Evaluation

Site Name and Status ¹⁰	Distance from Site	Reason for Designation/identification	Potential Impacts
Redbrook Pastures LWS	30m to west	This LWS comprises two fields with hedgerows (some with mature trees) and areas of scattered scrub, both dominated by a neutral sward; although, the southern-most field contains elements of acidic grassland. English bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> and wood millet <i>Millium effusum</i> , both South Yorkshire indicators of ancient woodland, are present.	The proposed development is located wholly outside the survey area (c30m distant) and is separated by the Craven Wood and Red Brook corridor. The topography of the designated site is higher above the stream valley. Taking into account the 15m buffer which is to be retained (following standing advice from Natural England /Forestry commission) and the topography of the land, no direct effects are anticipated as a result of the proposed development. Indirect effects as a result of dust pollution during site clearance operations may result in a negative effect without appropriate mitigation.
Hugset Wood LWS/Ancient woodland	0.74 km west	Predominantly comprised of coniferous plantation with linear areas of broadleaved semi-natural woodland. Replanted ancient woodland and ancient and semi-natural woodlands form the main classifications of the site. Thirteen ancient woodland indicators species (flora) are	The site lies wholly outside the designated site (approximately 0.75km distant) and is separated by the M1 corridor and residential housing. Given the distant from site and the lack of ecological connectivity no adverse effects are anticipated as a result of this development.

¹⁰ SPA – Specially Protected Area, SAC – Special Area for Conservation, Ramsar – site designated under the Ramsar Convention, SSSI – Site of Special Scientific Interest, NNR – National Nature Reserve, LNR – Local Nature Reserve.

Site Name and Status ¹⁰	Distance from Site	Reason for Designation/identification	Potential Impacts
		cited. A number of woodland birds and white-letter hairstreak <i>Satyrrium walbum</i> .	
Daking Brook LWS	0.96 km northwest	An often tree-lined brook, which is largely unmodified and unpolluted. It flows west-east, passing through arable and pastoral farmland. Notable species cited include white-clawed crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> , brown trout <i>Salmo trutta</i> and bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i>). South Yorkshire ancient woodland indicator species Dog's mercury <i>Mercurialis perennis</i> , remote sedge <i>Carex remota</i> , English bluebell, wood sorrel <i>Oxalis acetosella</i> , greater stitchwort <i>Stellaria holostea</i> and opposite leaved golden saxifrage <i>Chryso-splenium oppositifolium</i> have been present. Signal crayfish <i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i> and Indian balsam have also been recorded.	The site lies wholly outside the designated site and is approximately 0.97km distant. The site is separated from the designated area by a series of a roads, residential and commercial development and pasture fields, with no ecological or hydrological connections. No adverse effects are anticipated as a result of the proposed development.
Barnsley Canal at Wilthorpe LWS	1.09 km northeast	This LWS comprises a stretch of the disused Barnsley Canal and adjacent pastoral farmland. The River Dearne is to the north of the LWS and a railway line is situated just south. An old section of the river forms part of the northern LWS boundary. Ancient woodland indicator species remote sedge, English bluebell, wood speedwell <i>Veronica montana</i> and sessile oak <i>Quercus petraea</i> are cited. Other notable species include reed bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i> , grasshopper warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i> , dunnock, bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i> and song thrush. Standing water offers	The site lies wholly outside the designated site and is approximately 1.09km distant. The site is separated from the designated area by a series of a roads, a railway line residential and commercial development and pasture fields. , with limited ecological connections and no obvious hydrological connections. The site is considered to be sufficiently distant . No adverse effects are anticipated as a result of the proposed development.

Site Name and Status ¹⁰	Distance from Site	Reason for Designation/identification	Potential Impacts
		potential habitat for GCN and common toad <i>Bufo bufo</i> are considered likely present.	
Silkstone Fall Wood LWS	1.7 km southwest	A mixture of semi-natural broad-leaved, mixed plantation and coniferous plantation woodland, with small watercourse and a small pond. South Yorkshire ancient woodland indicator species of remote sedge, English bluebell, wood millet <i>Milium effusum</i> , dog's mercury, sessile oak, greater stitchwort, wood speedwell, wood melick <i>Melica uniflora</i> , wood sorrel, yellow archangel <i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i> and yellow pimpernel <i>Lysimachia nemorum</i> are all present on this site. Other notable species include willow tit, dunnock, bullfinch, song thrush and brown hare <i>Lepus europaeus</i> . Lesserspotted woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos minor</i> has previously been recorded.	The site is located wholly outside of the designated area by approximately 1.7km and is separately by the M1 corridor, woodland and Silkstone Golf club. Given the distance of the site from the designated area no negative direct or indirect effects are considered likely.
Langford ancient woodland	0.26km South west	Ancient and semi-natural woodland. No information	The site is located wholly outside of the designated site and at least 0.26km distant. The site is separated by residential housing and gardens, the M1 corridor and roadside trees and scrub and pasture fields. Given the distance and separation form site no adverse effects are anticipated.
Denby Grange Colliery Ponds SAC	8.2 km north- west	Waterbody created by coal-mining activity, which has consistently yielded high counts of great crested newt in recent years.	Denby Grange Colliery Ponds SAC is located at least 8.2 km from the Site. Given the distance from site and lack of connectivity no negative effects are considered likely.
South Pennine Moors SAC	11.5 km southwest	European dry heaths, blanket bogs and old sessile oak woods (with Ilex and Blechnum) are the primary features of selection. Northern Atlantic wet heaths (with <i>Erica tetralix</i>) and transition mires and quaking bogs are also	The site is located 11.5km distant from the designated site. Given the distant from site and lack of ecological connectivity, the proposed development is unlikely to have any direct or indirect impacts of the designated site and its qualifying features. No negative effects are considered likely.

Site Name and Status ¹⁰	Distance from Site	Reason for Designation/identification	Potential Impacts
		present but not a primary selection criteria.	
Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA	11.5 km southwest	Notable breeding populations (i.e. regularly used by 1% or more of the Great Britain population) of the following Annex 1 species; golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> , merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> and short-eared owl <i>Asio flammeus</i> .	The Site is not considered likely to support species associated with the Peak District Moors / South Pennine Moors SPA, given the separation distance of at least 11.5km between the Site and the SPA., and the lack of appropriate breeding habitat for the qualifying species on site. No adverse effects are anticipated as a result of the proposed works.

3.1.4 The search area is extended to allow for the inclusion of Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) for SSSIs¹¹. IRZs define areas around SSSI's which could be impacted by development schemes. The zones vary depending on the particular sensitivities of the features for which the SSSI is notified and indicate the types of development proposal which could potentially have adverse impacts. The proposed development does not fall within a SSSI IRZ.

3.2 Habitats

3.2.1 All habitats within the survey area are described in Table 2, below, together with an indication of their NERC s41¹² 'Priority' status and status and reference within the Barnsley Local BAP¹³.

3.2.2 Habitats which could be subject to adverse effects (coded in yellow or red) are discussed in the latter sections of the report. Habitats for which potential adverse effects are not anticipated are excluded from further assessment. The location and extent of habitats is shown on Drawing LD10361/002, UKHab Habitat Survey Results.

¹¹<https://data.gov.uk/dataset/ssi-impact-risk-zones>

¹²Habitats listed under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act as habitats of Principal Importance

¹³<http://www.barnsleybiodiversity.org.uk/biodiversityplan.html>

Habitat Description – WYG 2021	2023 UKHab Update	UK Hab Classification	Local BAP/UK Priority Status	Potential Impacts
<p><u>Lowland mixed deciduous woodland</u></p> <p>Three areas of broad-leaved semi-natural woodland were present on site. These woodland areas have previously been assessed as both semi-natural woodland (Wildscapes, 2013b; 2014) and plantation woodland (AECOM, 2017). Following the 2020 site visit by WYG and a review of historic maps, the woodlands were assessed to be broadleaved semi-natural, as they are mature plantations over 120 years old (with reference to JNCC, 2010). The woodlands are not listed as ‘Ancient’ on MAGIC. The first woodland area was located in the east of the site, south of Hermit Lane. This area was dominated by pedunculate oak <i>Quercus robur</i>, with frequent sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> and occasional ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>. The further two areas of woodland were located north of Hermit Lane, with one small area in the centre of the site and third running north-east, from the centre of the site, towards Redbrook Farm. The smaller area of woodland was dominated by alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i>, with frequent pedunculate oak. The woodland covered a larger area and was dominated by</p>	<p>The three areas of broadleaved semi-natural woodland are still present on site with no changes. An expanded species list has been compiled.</p> <p>The area of woodland to the north of hermit supports pedunculate oak <i>Quercus robur</i>, with frequent sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> and occasional ash, whitebeam <i>Sorbus aria</i> and silver birch <i>Betula pendula</i> and alder, with an understory of occasional holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>, hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i>, wild cherry <i>Prunus avium</i>, dog rose <i>Rosa canina</i> and blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i>.</p> <p>Woodland flora comprises ransomes <i>Allium ursinum</i>, lesser celandine, frequent ivy <i>Hedra helix</i>, bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>, wood sorrel <i>Oxalis acetosella</i>, wood avens <i>Geum urbanum</i>, herb Robert <i>Geranium roberatum</i>, Creeping soft -grass <i>Holcus</i></p>	<p><u>Primary code</u></p> <p>Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (w1f)</p> <p><u>Secondary codes</u></p> <p>Ancient woodland site (28)</p> <p>Native (522)</p>	<p>s.41 LBAP</p>	<p>The woodland may be indirectly impacted by accidental pollution, and by encroachment into tree root protection areas. Parts of the woodland have ancient characteristics and may be subject to specific NPPF provisions and Standing Advice guidance.</p>

Habitat Description – WYG 2021	2023 UKHab Update	UK Hab Classification	Local BAP/UK Priority Status	Potential Impacts
<p>pedunculate oak, with a number of frequent occurring species such as silver birch <i>Betula pendula</i>, ash and alder.</p>	<p><i>mollis</i>, cleavers, and occasional greater stitchwort, wood sedge, wood anemone, wood dock, dog’s mercury <i>Mercurialis perennis</i>, barren strawberry <i>Potentilla sterilis</i> and garlic mustard.</p> <p>The smaller compartment of woodland is as previously described, and supports abundant Alder with occasional willow sp and osier <i>Salix viminalis</i>.</p> <p>The compartment of woodland to the south of Hermit Lane Farm supports a canopy of oak and sycamore with an understory of occasional hawthorn, hazel, holly, wych elm and elder. The woodland flora is not as floristically diverse as the section to the north but does support ancient woodland indicators lords and ladies <i>Arum maculatum</i>, wood melick <i>Melica uniflora</i> and greater stitchwort <i>Stellaria hollostea</i>.</p>			

Habitat Description – WYG 2021	2023 UKHab Update	UK Hab Classification	Local BAP/UK Priority Status	Potential Impacts
<p><u>Dense Scrub</u></p> <p>Within the grassland near Redbrook farm, an area of dense bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i> was identified. In addition, small areas of dense scrub were present along the fence between the grassland and arable habitat to the north. A mixture of hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>, rose <i>Rosa sp.</i> and bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> was present. In the south-east of the site, two areas of dense scrub were present in the tall ruderal dominated field. The larger of the two areas was dominated by mature hawthorn, with semi-mature ash and elder <i>Sambucus</i></p>	<p>Dense scrub remains much the same within the site, the mixed scrub was dominated by hawthorn, bramble with occasional rose sp, snowberry <i>Symphoricarpos albu</i> and gorse <i>Ulex europea</i>.</p> <p>Pockets of bramble scrub were located adjacent to the woodland section north of Hermit Lane.</p>	<p><u>Primary Code</u></p> <p>Mixed Scrub (h3h)</p> <p>Bramble Scrub (h3d)</p> <p>Gorse Scrub (h3e)</p> <p><u>Secondary Code</u></p> <p>Native (522)</p> <p>Bare ground (510)</p> <p>Scattered scrub (10)</p> <p>Young trees – self-set (202)</p>	LBAP	<p>The majority of this habitat will be lost to facilitate the proposed development, although it is of limited intrinsic value. Loss of habitat will be accounted for within the BNG metric.</p>
<p><u>Scattered Scrub</u></p> <p>Scattered scrub was associated with a number of field boundaries on site and was typically either bramble or hawthorn dominated.</p>	<p>Scattered scrub is not available within the UKHab symbology, areas of scattered scrub have been added as mixed/bramble scrub habitats or as secondary codes within larger habitats.</p>	N/A	N/A	<p>The majority of this habitat will be lost to facilitate the proposed development, although it is of limited intrinsic value. Loss of habitat will be accounted for within the BNG metric.</p>

Habitat Description – WYG 2021	2023 UKHab Update	UK Hab Classification	Local BAP/UK Priority Status	Potential Impacts
<p><u>Broadleaved scattered trees</u></p> <p>Scattered trees were present along the section of Hermit Lane from Hermit House Farm, to the eastern-most site boundary. Species typically comprised pedunculate oak and ash. To the north of these trees, an isolated, mature pedunculate oak was located in the centre of an improved grassland field. South of Hermit Lane, to the east of the site, further scattered trees were noted. Four pedunculate oaks were present within an improved grassland field. South of these trees, within an adjacent field, scattered trees including ash and silver birch were noted on the banks of a small stream. Three mature beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> were recorded in the east of the site, adjacent to Farm House Lane, and two mature ash trees were noted in the south and south-west of the site</p>	<p>Scattered trees are still present on site within the open fields and field boundaries. No change.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Scattered trees may be lost within internal field boundaries and open fields as a result of the proposed development. No trees are of specific value or considered to be ancient or veteran. This habitat feature is common and widespread nationally and locally and no negative effects are anticipated as a result of the proposed development.</p> <p>It is recommended that where possible mature trees should be retained and incorporated into the development scheme, with any losses accounted for within the BNG metric.</p>
<p><u>Hedgerows</u></p> <p>Approximately 40 hedgerows were identified on Site nine of which (H3, H4a, H9, H13, H15a, H17a, H17b, H28, H35) were considered species rich. The majority of the remaining, species poor, hedgerows were intact, with approximately one-third being defunct,</p>	<p>No change.</p> <p>For ease of referencing between reports hedgerow numbers have been retained for use within the BNG calculations.</p>	<p><u>Primary code</u> Hedgerows (priority habitat) (h2a)</p>	<p>s.41 LBAP</p>	<p>Loss of hedgerow habitat should be minimised in site design, however losses are anticipated in order to create a level development platform.</p>

Habitat Description – WYG 2021	2023 UKHab Update	UK Hab Classification	Local BAP/UK Priority Status	Potential Impacts
<p>though some had been made stock proof through installation of fencing. Ground flora associated with the hedgerows was not considered to be notable and typically comprised species associated with the adjacent habitat type (typically improved grassland / arable fields).</p> <p>Mature hedgerows are present throughout the site providing peripheral and internal field boundaries. Hedgerows are generally mature and hawthorn dominant.</p>				
<p><u>Semi-improved neutral grassland</u></p> <p>Was isolated to an area between the centre and east of the site, north of Hermit Lane. This grassland has historically been assessed as unimproved neutral grassland (Wildscapes, 2013b); however, had been assessed as semi-improved neutral grassland more recently (AECOM, 2017). This grassland was less intensively grazed than areas of improved grassland elsewhere on the site; however, the grassland is subject to regular grazing by a small number of cattle (observed to be grazed during all of the 2020 surveys) and large amounts of animal droppings were present, considered to provide enrichment to the soil. The</p>	<p>The isolated grassland to the east of the site (north of Hermit Lane) remains. The grassland supports abundant perennial ryegrass, Yorkshire fog, with creeping bent and cock’s-foot, ribwort plantain <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>, teasel <i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>, broadleaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> and spear thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i>. The grass becomes more diverse on the sloping embankment towards the</p>	<p><u>Primary Code</u> Other neutral grassland (g3c)</p> <p><u>Secondary Codes</u> Sheep grazed (102) Scattered rushes (14) Bare ground (510)</p>	<p>LBAP</p>	<p>The area of greatest floristic diversity is likely to be retained and enhanced as it falls within a 15m buffer of the ancient woodland Craven Wood.</p> <p>If possible this area of grassland should be retained and incorporated into a green protective corridor around the woodland edge. Any areas of grassland that will be lost to development will be accounted for within the BNG metric.</p>

Habitat Description – WYG 2021	2023 UKHab Update	UK Hab Classification	Local BAP/UK Priority Status	Potential Impacts
<p>grassland also had a lower abundance of rye-grasses <i>Lolium</i> spp. and white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> but a greater abundance and diversity of vascular plant species than the improved grasslands on the site. As such, this grassland was assessed as semi-improved neutral grassland in 2020. This grassland was in use by a small number of cattle for grazing, with a typical sward height of 5-10 cm; though some areas of taller grasses were occasionally present (up to 30 cm). The grassland showed a notably higher diversity of botanical species than the improved grassland fields on site. The sward was dominated by Yorkshire-fog <i>Holcus lanatus</i>, with frequent perennial rye-grass <i>Lolium perenne</i> and cock's-foot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>. Herbs present included bird's-foot trefoil <i>Lotus corniculatus</i>, creeping cinquefoil <i>Potentilla reptans</i>, buttercups <i>Ranunculus</i> spp., red clover <i>Trifolium pratense</i> and dove's-foot cranesbill <i>Geranium mole</i>,</p>	<p>woodland. Here the grassland appears finer with abundant red fescue <i>festuca rubra</i>, occasional Timothy <i>Phleum pratense</i>, common ragwort <i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>, ribwort plantain <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>, common sorrel <i>Rumex acetosa</i>, black knapweed <i>Centaurea nigra</i>, yarrow <i>Achillea millefolium</i>, meadow vetchling <i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>, crested dogs tail <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> and cowslip <i>Primula veris</i>.</p>	<p>Scattered scrub (10) Rushes dominant (15) Young trees - self-set (202)</p>		
<p><u>Improved Grassland</u> Two improved grassland fields in the north of the site were grazed by horses and/or cattle Improved grassland areas to the south of Hermit Lane were of a</p>	<p>Modified grassland is the major habitat on site. All fields to the north of Hermit Lane now support modified grassland which is cut for silage crops for horses,</p>	<p><u>Primary Code</u> Modified grassland (g4) <u>Secondary Code</u></p>	<p>LBAP</p>	<p>The majority of this habitat is likely o be lost as a direct result of the proposed habitat. However, this habitat is of low ecological value and is considered to be</p>

Habitat Description – WYG 2021	2023 UKHab Update	UK Hab Classification	Local BAP/UK Priority Status	Potential Impacts
<p>similar nature to the two fields located in the north of the site but were grazed by horses, ponies and sheep. Whilst botanical species differed from field-to-field, they were typically dominated by perennial ryegrass, with abundant annual meadow-grass <i>Poa annua</i> and herbs indicative of improved grassland habitats (i.e. plantain species <i>Plantago</i> spp., white clover, daisy <i>Bellis perennis</i> and buttercup species). The abundance and diversity of vascular species was notably lower than the semi-improved grassland discussed above. A further three improved grassland fields were present in the north of the site which differed from other improved fields on site due to their mixed usage. In the spring and early summer, these fields were used to grow grasses, for the purpose of creating hay / silage bales (as was the case during walkover). Following cutting of the fields and removal of bales in mid-summer, cattle are then allowed to graze on the fields. These fields were dominated by perennial rye-grass, with herbs typical of an improved grassland sward (e.g. plantain species, white clover and buttercup species).</p>	<p>ponies and sheep. The fields are still typically dominated by perennial ryegrass, annual meadow-grass <i>Poa annua</i>, common knotgrass <i>Polygonum aviculare</i>, Marsh foxtail <i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>, white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i>, field speedwell <i>Veronica persicaria</i>, creeping thistle, groundsel <i>Senecio vulgare</i>, common mouseear <i>Cerastium fontanum</i>, dandelion sp <i>Taraxacum</i> agg and Timothy.</p>	<p>Ruderal/ephemeral (81) Cattle grazed (101) Sheep grazed (102) Horse grazed (103) Young trees - self-set (202)</p>		<p>common and widespread in a national and local context.</p> <p>However, the loss of this habitat will be accounted for in the BNG metric.</p>
<p><u>Marshy Grassland</u></p>		<p><u>Primary Code</u></p>	<p>s.41 LBAP</p>	<p>n/a</p>

Habitat Description – WYG 2021	2023 UKHab Update	UK Hab Classification	Local BAP/UK Priority Status	Potential Impacts
A small area of marshy grassland was present in the south of the site, fenced off from an improved grassland field. The area was dominated by soft rush <i>Juncus effusus</i> , with frequent bulrush <i>Typha latifolia</i> .	During 2023 survey this area of marshy grassland was recorded holding water (WB8). This area has been treated as pond habitat and is described further under standing water.	Eutrophic standing water (r1a6) <u>Secondary Codes</u> Scattered rushes (14) Scattered scrub (10) Rushes dominant		
<u>Amenity Grassland</u> Two residential gardens were present at Hermit House Farm and were indicative of amenity grass areas. They appeared to be subject to regular mowing and were dominated by perennial ryegrass, with abundant annual meadow-grass.	No change	<u>Primary Code</u> Modified grassland (g4) <u>Secondary Code</u> Frequently mown (108)	LBAP	This area of amenity grassland shall be lost as a result of the proposed development scheme. This area of habitat is to be common and widespread in a national and local context, however its loss shall be accounted for within the BNG metric.
<u>Tall ruderal</u> A grazed field in the south-east of the site, located adjacent to Farm House Lane, was dominated by	No change. Other species recorded include fat hen <i>Chenopodium album</i>	<u>Primary Code</u>	N/A	This habitat shall be lost as a result of the proposed development scheme. This habitat is common and widespread in a

Habitat Description – WYG 2021	2023 UKHab Update	UK Hab Classification	Local BAP/UK Priority Status	Potential Impacts
<p>tall ruderal species, with areas of bare ground also present. This field was considered likely to have previously been of a similar nature to adjacent improved grassland areas (assessed as improved grassland in previous years (AECOM, 2017)); however, intensive grazing by ponies appears to have resulted in poaching of the field and heavy suppression of grass species. As such, tall ruderal species such as broad-leaved dock and nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> have been able to colonise and dominate the area. Smaller areas of tall ruderal were also present, located within the grassland near Redbrook Farm, adjacent to an arable field to the north of Hermit Lane and an improved grassland in the east of the site; dominated by spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> and broad-leaved dock.</p>	<p>and groundsel. There is no primary code for tall ruderal in UKHab. Given the large areas of bare ground, this vegetation has been mapped as sparsely vegetated land (rather than other neutral grassland).</p>	<p>Sparsely vegetated Land (s) Secondary Code Tall forb (16) Ruderal/ephemeral (81) Horse grazed (103)</p>		<p>national and local context and of low ecological value. However any losses shall be accounted for within the BNG metric.</p>
<p><u>Standing Water</u> A single area of standing water was present on site; Pond 1, located within the woodland north of Hermit Lane. This standing water formed a pooled area of water, located along the stream which also runs through this woodland. A man-made dam created the pooling effect. At the time of the survey, the water was very shallow and turbid, with large areas of the pond</p>	<p>Three waterbodies are located (r1) on site within the application boundary. Pond 1 which is as described is located within Craven Wood to the north of Hermit Lane. Pond 2 is located to the southwest of Hermit Lane in the location of a former stock pile and Pond</p>	<p><u>Primary Code</u> Other eutrophic standing waters (r1a6) <u>Secondary Code</u> Ponds (Priority Habitat (19)</p>	<p>s.41 LBAP</p>	<p>None of the ponds meet the criteria for Priority habitat due to the lack of invertebrate/amphibian and plant assemblage. Pond 1 shall be retained as it is located within Craven Wood Ancient Woodland. No direct impacts are anticipated as a result of the proposed development.</p>

Habitat Description – WYG 2021	2023 UKHab Update	UK Hab Classification	Local BAP/UK Priority Status	Potential Impacts
noted to be heavily silted. Great willowherb <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> was dominant, while bulrush was also abundant.	3 was previously mapped (WYG 2020) as a marshy area.			Pond 2 and Pond 3 shall be lost as a result of the proposed development. However, any losses shall be accounted for within the BNG metric. New pond creation is to be incorporated within the landscape masterplan.
<u>Dry Ditch</u> A number of dry ditches were identified on site and were typically bare of vegetation. Although dry during the survey visit, some of these ditches have been observed to support water in previous months / years (during delivery of other habitat / species surveys on site). As such, these ditches were considered to support surface water runoff following prolonged periods of rain and during the wetter months of the year.	No change. Ditches D1, D5, D6, D7, D9, D10 and D11 were all dry at the time of survey. Refer to Drawing LD10361-020	<u>Primary Code</u> Other rivers and streams (r2b). <u>Secondary code</u> Ditch (50)	N/A	Dry ditches located at the internal field boundaries shall be lost as a result of the proposed development. This habitat is of low ecological value.
<u>Arable</u> Three forms of arable farmland were present on site. Firstly, a large arable field in the north-west of the site contained a crop of wheat. Field margins of up to 1 m were present around the field and comprised a mixture of grasses and herbs, commonly found with improved grasslands.	There are no longer any arable fields to the north of Hermit lane. All are now modified grassland. The arable fields still exist in the very south and the southeast of the site comprising of five fields in total.	<u>Primary Code</u> Modified grassland (g4)	N/A	Loss of arable habitat will occur as a are direct result of the proposed development. This habitat is of intrinsically low ecological value.. The loss of arable habitat will be accounted for within the BNG metric.

Habitat Description – WYG 2021	2023 UKHab Update	UK Hab Classification	Local BAP/UK Priority Status	Potential Impacts
<p>Four arable fields did not appear to be seeded / contain any crops during the survey. The first, a large arable field split into two by a dry ditch and hedgerow, was present in the east of the site, adjacent to Farm House Lane. The remaining three uncropped fields were present in the south of the site. The remaining arable fields were in use as hay meadows for the purpose of creating hay / silage bales and therefore assessed as arable land (with reference to JNCC, 2010). The fields have not been previously observed by WYG (during previous site visits for other habitat / protected species surveys) to be grazed by any horses or cattle after cutting; however, the fields have previously be identified as improved grassland (Wildscapes 2013a; 2013b; 2014; & AECOM, 2017). Field margins in these fields were narrow (approx. 20-40 cm) and typically comprised similar grass species as the hay meadows. However, some other grasses and a higher proportion of herbs were also present (e.g. false oat-grass <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>, spear thistle, broad-leaved dock and cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>). Species typically associated with arable margins were also</p>				

Habitat Description – WYG 2021	2023 UKHab Update	UK Hab Classification	Local BAP/UK Priority Status	Potential Impacts
present (i.e. brome species <i>Bromus</i> spp. and historic crops such as oil-seed rape <i>Brassica napus</i>).				
<u>Bare ground</u> In the west of the site, poached ground from regular horse trampling and a large manure pile were noted. In the centre of the southern half of the site, poached ground caused by regular horse trampling was also noted.	No change to 2020 surveys.	<u>Primary Code</u> Sparsely vegetated land (s)	N/A	This habitat may be modified by the development proposals but is of negligible intrinsic value.
<u>Hardstanding</u> Bare ground associated with Hermit Lane and Hermit House Farm comprised concrete / asphalt hardstanding.	No change to 2020 surveys.	<u>Primary Code</u> Developed land; sealed surface (u1b)	N/A	This habitat may be modified by the development proposals but is of negligible intrinsic value.
<u>Buildings</u> A number of buildings were identified on and adjacent to the site. These are summarised below and shown on Figure 2a, Figure 2b and Figure 3. Eight buildings were present on site, all located at Hermit House Farm. These buildings comprised six outbuildings / barns (B1 – B6), constructed from brick / breeze block / meta and two stone built residential buildings (B7 & B8). Wooden cladding was present on some of the outbuildings / barns.	No change to 2020 surveys. Only the buildings within the red line application area were surveyed.	<u>Primary Code</u> Buildings (u1b5)	N/A	Buildings are likely to be lost/demolished to accommodate the proposed development. No negative effects are anticipated by the loss of buildings on site.

Habitat Description – WYG 2021	2023 UKHab Update	UK Hab Classification	Local BAP/UK Priority Status	Potential Impacts
<p>A further ten buildings were noted directly adjacent to the site or within areas which are now off site but have been previously surveyed due to their location within / proximity to the previous site boundary (as per WYG surveys in 2018 and 2019). Eight buildings were present at Redbrook Farm and were previously surveyed due to their location within or proximity to the 2018/2019 site boundary. Buildings at Redbrook Farm comprised of metal agricultural buildings / barns (B9, B10, B12, B13 and B17), stone / brick / breeze block-built outbuildings (B11, B14, B15 and B19) and a stone-built farmhouse (B16). Building 17 was previously located on site but falls outside of the current site boundary. It was located to the north of Redbrook Farm and comprised a derelict metal barn / shed. Building 18 remains directly adjacent to the southern part of the site (along the southeastern boundary) and comprises a stone-built garage.</p>				

3.3 Species

3.3.1 Protected and NERC s.41 Priority species are evaluated in order to identify potential adverse effects in Table 3 below, based on the following criteria:

- Desk study records;
- Evidence found during the survey;
- Presence, extent, quality, and viability of supporting on-site habitat;
- Ecological connectivity to viable off-site habitats; and
- Perceived impacts of habitat loss/impact to individuals in relation to proposals.

3.3.2 Species for which adverse effects are predicted (shaded red or orange) are discussed in more detail in the Discussion and Recommendations section. Species/taxa for which potential adverse effects are not anticipated (shaded green) are excluded from further assessment.

Receptor(species/taxa)	Description of Desk Study records	Status ¹⁴	Evaluation	Supporting Habitat(s)Present	Potential Adverse Effects
Bats <i>Chiroptera</i>	Common Pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> Soprano Pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i> Daubenton's Bat <i>Myotis daubentonii</i> Noctule <i>Nyctalus noctule</i> Unidentified bat <i>Myotis</i> spp.	EPS, WCA, s.41,	Site	A number of mature trees/tree groups within field boundaries and woodland provide suitable roosting habitats for bats across the site. In addition, eight buildings within Hermit House Farm also provide suitable roosting habitat.	The loss of suitable roosting habitat may occur as a result of the proposed development. Further survey are being undertaken to update previous survey data and determine status of the roosting/foraging and commuting opportunities on site.
Badger <i>Meles meles</i>	✓ ¹⁵	BA	Site	No badger activity or evidence was recorded on site during 2023. However, foraging habitat in the form of grassland and hedgerows and woodland provides viable opportunities for sett creation.	No badger activity was recorded on site during surveys. Potential foraging and sett creation habitat may be impacted by the proposed works.
Brown Hare <i>Lepus europaeus</i>	None	s.41	Negligible	Suitable habitat for brown hare does exist but none were recorded during 2020/23 surveys.	No adverse effect.
European Hedgehog <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	Multiple records.	s.41	Site	Hedgerows and scrub.	Adverse effects through minor habitat losses are unlikely to be significant due to the small scale of

¹⁴ EPS – European Protected Species, WCA – Wildlife and Countryside Act, A1 – Annex 1 (Birds Directive), BA – Protection of Badgers Act, s.41- species listed under section 41 of the NERC Act as species of principal importance

¹⁵Locations of badger activity are confidential due to the sensitivity of this species

Receptor(species/taxa)	Description of Desk Study records	Status ¹⁴	Evaluation	Supporting Habitat(s)Present	Potential Adverse Effects
					the development together with the vast availability of equivalent supporting habitats elsewhere in the locality
Dormouse <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	None.	EPS, WCA, s.41	Negligible	The site is located outside this species natural range.	Species is considered to be absent.
Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	One recording from within the Silkstone Beck.	EPS, WCA, s.41	Negligible	Sub-optimal habitat is present within stream habitat within Craven Wood. No otter evidence was recorded during previous surveys undertaken in 2020.	Stream habitat shall be retained on site throughout the proposed works and species is likely to be absent due to built-up surrounds.
Water Vole <i>Arvicola amphibia</i>	None.	WCA, s.41	Negligible	Sub-optimal habitat is present within stream habitat and wet ditches on site. No water vole evidence was recorded on site within streams or ditches during 2020.	Stream habitat shall be retained on site throughout the proposed works and species is likely to be absent.
Reptiles	None.	WCA, s.41	Negligible	Grassland habitats are generally unsuitable, there are no desk study records and previous surveys did not record presence of reptiles.	Reptiles are likely to be absent from the developable areas of the site.
Great Crested Newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>	Multiple records from Land to south of Dearne Hall Lane, Low Barugh.	EPS, WCA, s.41	Negligible.	Three waterbodies suitable for supporting GCN's are present on	eDNA surveys have been repeated in 2023, no positive results were

Receptor(species/taxa)	Description of Desk Study records	Status ¹⁴	Evaluation	Supporting Habitat(s)Present	Potential Adverse Effects
				site (P1, P7 and P8) with a further five ponds (P2-P6) present within the wider area. eDNA surveys during 2020 resulted in a negative result for GCN DNA on and off site.	returned indicating the likely absence of this species.
Other amphibians	Common frog <i>Rana temporaria</i> Common toad <i>Bufo bufo</i> Smooth newt <i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>	s.41	Negligible.	Suitable habitat is present around ponds and wet ditches and woodland areas.	Pond 1 and woodland edge habitats shall be retained and incorporated in the landscape scheme for the site. Some suitable habitats (namely Pond 7 and 8 and ditches on site) shall be lost the loss of this habitat is not considered likely to result in a loss to the overall population on site.
White-clawed Crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>	None	EPS, WCA, s.41	Negligible.	No suitable habitat on site	N/A
Birds	Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i> Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i> Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i> Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i> Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> Coal Tit <i>Parus ater</i>	s.41, WCA BoCC	Local.	Yes – Foraging and breeding habitat in habitats around periphery of Site.	Potential breeding and overwintering habitat may be lost/disturbed by proposals. Foraging habitat may also be lost. Wintering and breeding bird surveys are being undertaken during 2022/23.

Receptor(species/taxa)	Description of Desk Study records	Status ¹⁴	Evaluation	Supporting Habitat(s)Present	Potential Adverse Effects
	Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> Mealy Redpoll/ Common Redpoll <i>Carduelis flammea</i> Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i> Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i> Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i> Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i> Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i> Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricari</i> Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i> Great Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos major</i> Great Tit <i>Parus major</i> Green Woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i> Greenfinch <i>Carduelis chloris</i> Grey Partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i> Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> House Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i> House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i> Jack Snipe <i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i> Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>				

Receptor(species/taxa)	Description of Desk Study records	Status ¹⁴	Evaluation	Supporting Habitat(s)Present	Potential Adverse Effects
	Lesser Whitethroat <i>Sylvia curruca</i> Long-eared Owl <i>Asio otus</i> Long-tailed Tit <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i> Meadow Pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i> Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> Mistle Thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i> Nuthatch <i>Sitta europaea</i> Pied Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i> Red Kite <i>Milvus milvus</i> Red-legged Partridge <i>Alectoris rufa</i> Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i> Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i> Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i> Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i> Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i> Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i> Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i> Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> Stonechat <i>Saxicola torquatus</i> Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i> Swift <i>Apus apus</i> Tawny Owl <i>Strix aluco</i> Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i> Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>				

Receptor(species/taxa)	Description of Desk Study records	Status ¹⁴	Evaluation	Supporting Habitat(s)Present	Potential Adverse Effects
	Treecreeper <i>Certhia familiaris</i> Waxwin <i>Bombycilla garrulus</i> Northern Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> Whitethroat <i>Sylvia communis</i> Willow Tit <i>Poecile montana</i> Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i> Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i> Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>				
Protected Plant Species	Bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	WCA, s.41	n/a	n/a	N/A
Protected Invertebrate Species	Dingy Skipper <i>Erynnis tages</i>	WCA, s.41	Site	Limited habitat available on site for these species. A small amount of elm sp, (the food plant for white letter hairstreak) is present within the woodland habitats. Minimal habitat present on site for small heath, dingy skipper with the exception of the finer grassland adjacent to Craven wood (north of Hermit lane). Only small Heath has been identified by previous invertebrate surveys on site (Tetra tech, 2020).	Invertebrate surveys are being repeated during 2023 in order to evaluate the site and consider impacts.

Receptor(species/taxa)	Description of Desk Study records	Status ¹⁴	Evaluation	Supporting Habitat(s)Present	Potential Adverse Effects
Invasive species	Signal Crayfish <i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i> American mink <i>Mustela vison</i> Grey squirrel <i>Sciurus carolinensis</i> Himalayan Balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i>	WCA Sch 9	Negligible	Japanese Knotweed was identified to the west of the site during 2021, however this had been treated at the time of survey. No specimens were observed in 2022/2023.	None.

4 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Sensitive Receptors

4.1.1 The following conservation sites, habitats, and species (receptors) have been evaluated as being subject to potential adverse effects and hence can be constraints to the proposals:

- NERC s.41 and Local BAP habitats (Broadleaved woodland, Hedgerows; Scrub);
- Bats;
- Badger;
- Otter and Water vole;
- Great Crested Newts (GCN); and
- Breeding and wintering birds.

4.1.2 The nature of potential effects, further surveys, and proposed mitigation/compensation are discussed below for each of the identified receptors.

NERC s.41 and Local BAP Habitats

4.1.3 Craven Wood broadleaved semi-natural woodland is considered to support several ancient woodland indicator species; however, this woodland is not identified as Ancient Woodland on the Ancient Woodland Inventory¹⁶. Ancient woodlands may be missed as an oversight and occasionally woodlands smaller than two hectares may not appear on these inventories. For this reason, further cartographic analysis of historic mapping, field survey for archaeological features and a botanical assessment has been undertaken (WA, 2023). Craven Wood is continuously depicted on all of the 'official maps' dating to 1821 and 1949 (Fig.8-13), though woodland clearly covered a much wider area. The evidence suggests it is reasonably likely that that Craven Wood is a remnant of the much larger expanse of woodland depicted to the west of Barnsley. The botanical survey of the woodland flora identified 15 species of known ancient woodland indicator species, supporting the cartographic evidence. Ancient woodland is considered to be an irreplaceable habitat. In line with standing advice, all direct and

¹⁶<https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/Defra::ancient-woodland-england/explore?location=53.564472%2C-1.504991%2C14.30>

indirect impacts should be avoided. Woodland should be retained with a minimum protective buffer of 15m from the woodland edge.

- 4.1.4 Where hedgerow removal cannot be avoided, any losses should be compensated for by the provision of a new hedgerow elsewhere on Site of at least equivalent length. In this event, appropriate woody species of local provenance should be selected.
- 4.1.5 Scrub is identified within the Local Biodiversity action Plan (LBAP) as being of value for biodiversity. Scrub loss will occur as a result of the proposed development, however scrub and shrub planting shall be incorporated into the proposed landscape master plan and loss of scrub habitat shall be accounted for within the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Metric.

Bats

- 4.1.6 Eight buildings (B1-B8) are present within the application boundary. Further survey is recommended to identify if the buildings support a roost(s) and if so, establish the species and seasonality of use. Bat emergence/dawn surveys are currently being undertaken and shall be reported separately. Refer to Bat Survey Report (WA, 2023) for the full results.
- 4.1.7 A number of mature trees are present with features suitable for roosting bats including two mature ash trees which have been subject to emergence surveys the results of the surveys are provided in the Bat Survey report (Wardell Armstrong 2023).

Badger

- 4.1.8 No evidence of badgers or setts were recorded within the application area during the 2020 (Tetra Tech) or 2023 (WA) surveys. However, the Site contains suitable habitats for foraging and sett creation (i.e. woodland, hedge base, scrub and pasture).
- 4.1.9 No further surveys are considered necessary however in order to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation, it is recommended that survey is undertaken to search for the presence of mammal burrows with an entrance diameter exceeding 100mm prior to the onset of works. In the event that such mammal burrows are recorded clearance operations should cease until advice has been sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.

4.1.10 In terms of loss of potential foraging habitat, a reduction in modified grassland and arable is not expected to result in the loss of favourable conservation status if indeed badgers are present within the wider area.

Otter and water vole

4.1.11 Although no evidence of otter and water vole was recorded in the previous surveys of waterbodies on site (Tetra Tech 2020), survey data was greater than 2 years old. In line with current survey standard guideline (CIEEM, 2020) repeat surveys are required to validate the results. The update survey results are provided within Otter and Water Vole Survey Report (WA, 2023)

Great Crested Newts (GCN)

4.1.12 No GCN have been recorded within the waterbodies on site and in the wider area (Tetra Tech 2020), however repeat surveys are recommended to assess the newly identified waterbodies on site and update the results of previously surveyed waterbodies in line with current survey standards to validate the findings of the previous surveys. The results of the EDNA surveys are provided in GCN eDNA Surveys (WA, 2023).

Breeding and Wintering Birds

4.1.13 The preliminary survey and desk study has confirmed that the Site supports a range of bird species, mainly those associated with scrub, hedgerow, and woodland edge, as well as species with more catholic habitat requirements.

4.1.14 Further survey works are currently being undertaken to identify the assemblage of breeding and wintering birds on site. A full assessment of impacts is provided within Breeding Birds Survey and Wintering Bird Survey Report WA, 2023).

Nesting Birds

4.1.15 In addition, due to the potential presence of ground nesting bird species (e.g., skylark and meadow pipit) within the Site, it is recommended that initial development works are undertaken outside of the usual bird breeding season (normally taken to be March – July inclusive). If such timescales cannot be accommodated, it is recommended that a check for the presence of active nests, and nesting birds should be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist prior to the commencement of works. Any active nests should be identified and protected subject to the relevant legal provisions until the nesting attempt is complete.

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

4.1.16 The NPPF states that development should deliver net gains in biodiversity, though at present, no numerical figure for gains in percentage terms is prescribed/mandated by either national policy or legislation. The Environment Act 2021 will, once fully implemented (est. January 2024), mandate that all developments provide a 10% net gain in biodiversity. Where required, percentage gains should be demonstrated by use of an appropriate dedicated net gain metric, such as DEFRA Metric 4.0.

4.2 Habitat Condition Assessment

4.2.1 In order to inform a BNG assessment, each habitat within the Site, was subject to a condition assessment and this information is provided in the Biodiversity Net Gain Report (WA 2023). The condition assessment determines the current condition of each habitat and is broken down into sub-sections, where differences in condition within the wider habitat are recorded. For example, broad-leaved woodland is scattered throughout the Site, some areas would be of a higher condition than other areas, due to age, structure, species diversity etc., even though they are the same broad habitat type.

4.3 Biodiversity Enhancement

4.3.1 In accordance with the requirements of the NPPF and BSI 42020:2013 ecological enhancements should be proposed that are over and above measures required to mitigate effects on biodiversity. Such enhancements could include the provision of the following, in addition to any measures required as mitigation (with exact specifications to be determined at the detailed design stage):

- Bird boxes, including a variety of designs, such as 45mm entrance boxes, 32mm entrance boxes, sparrow terraces, owl/kestrel boxes and swift boxes;
- Bat boxes including for a variety of species and for a variety of seasons, to be installed on retained mature trees.
- Management of retained standing and fallen deadwood.
- Planting of native trees and shrubs of local provenance which naturally occur within the local area. To include berry, pollen and nectar producing species.
- Areas of green spaces planted with diverse native flora and linked to the wider landscape character.
- Creation of ponds to provide habitats for invertebrates and amphibians.

4.3.2 It is recommended that all future establishment and management of habitats is detailed within a Landscape and Biodiversity Management Plan (LBMP), with habitat development targets set in accordance with the Target Habitat Condition proposed in the Metric as part of the BNG assessment.

4.4 Conclusion

4.4.1 Given the identified evidence of presence and/or likely presence of ecological receptors which may be adversely impacted by the development scheme, further surveys and/or assessments have been recommended and are reported separately. The results of further protected species surveys and evaluations are considered within an ecology chapter of the overall Environmental Statement.

6 REFERENCES

Botanical Society of the British Isles. (2013). *Online atlas of the British and Irish Flora* http://www.brc.ac.uk/plantatlas/index.php?q=title_page

British Standards Institute. (2013). *Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development*. BS 42020:2013.

Institute of Environmental Assessment. (1995). *Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment*.

Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management. (2017). *Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal*.

JNCC. (2007). *Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey: A technique for environmental audit*. English Field Unit, Nature Conservancy Council.

National Biodiversity Network. (2017). NBN Atlas <http://data.nbn.org.uk/>

Stace. C. A. (2010). *'New Flora of the British Isles'*. Cambridge University Press.

UKHab Ltd (2023). *UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0* (at <http://www.ukhab.org>).

APPENDICES

Appendix 1
Legislation and Policy Summary

Appendix 1 – Legislation and Policy Summary

Legislation for Habitats/Sites

Designated Site/Habitat	Status
Ramsar Sites	Ramsar Sites are wetlands of international importance designated following The Ramsar Convention. RAMSAR sites have the same level of protection as SAC's and SPA's under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
SPA (Special Protection Areas)	SPAs seek to protect the habitats of rare and vulnerable European and UK birds. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 protect such sites in the UK.
SAC (Special Areas for Conservation)	SACs are strictly protected areas which represent important and threatened habitats in Europe and the UK. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 protect such sites in the UK.
SSSI (Sites of Special Scientific Interest)	SSSIs protect the best examples of the UK's flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features. Originally notified under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, SSSIs were renotified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Modified provisions for the protection and management of SSSIs were introduced by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.
NNR (National Nature Reserves)	NNRs are examples of some of the most important natural and semi-natural terrestrial and coastal ecosystems in Great Britain. NNRs are declared by the statutory country conservation agencies under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 or the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Legal protection of NNRs is provided under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
Hedgerows	All hedgerows are protected by the Hedgerows Regulations 1997, under which it is an offence to remove or destroy certain hedgerows without planning consent or permission from the Local Planning Authority. These regulations do not apply to any hedgerow within the curtilage of, or marking the boundary of the curtilage of, a dwelling house.
LNR (Local Nature Reserves)	Designated by the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, LNRs may be declared for nature conservation by local authorities after consultation with the relevant statutory nature conservation agency. Legal protection of LNRs is provided under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Legislation for Species

Species	Legal Status
Creeping Marshwort, Early Gentian, Fen Orchid, Floating-leaved Water Plantain, Killarney Fern, Lady’s Slipper, Shore Dock, Slender Naiad, Yellow Marsh Saxifrage	Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (and as amended), it is illegal to deliberately pick, collect, uproot or destroy any such species.
Bats, Dormouse, Otter, Wild Cat, Great Crested Newt, Natterjack Toad, Sand Lizard, Smooth Snake, Large Blue Butterfly	<p>These animals and their breeding sites or resting places are protected under Regulation 41 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (and as amended), which makes it illegal to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliberately capture, injure or kill any such animal or to deliberately take or destroy their eggs; • Deliberately disturb¹⁷ such an animal; and • Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal. <p>European Protected Species (EPS) licenses can be granted by Natural England in respect of development to permit activities that would otherwise be unlawful under the Conservation Regulations, providing that the following 3 tests (set out in the EC Habitats Directive) are passed, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development is for reasons of overriding public interest; • There is no satisfactory alternative; and • The favourable conservation status of the species concerned will be maintained and/or enhanced. <p>LPA’s must consider the above 3 ‘tests’ when determining whether Planning Permission should be granted for developments likely to cause an offence under the Conservation Regulations.</p>
Bats, Dormouse, Great Crested Newt, Heath Fritillary, High Brown Fritillary, Large Blue, Marsh Fritillary, Natterjack Toad, Pine Martin, Otter, Red Squirrel, Sand Lizard, Smooth Snake, Swallowtail, Water Vole, Wildcat	<p>These animals receive full protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and as amended), which makes it illegal (subject to certain exceptions) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intentionally kill, injure or take any such animal; • Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct any place used for shelter or protection; and

¹⁷ Under the Conservation Regulations, disturbance of protected animals includes in particular any disturbance which is likely to: (i) impair their ability to survive, breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young or to hibernate or migrate; (ii) significantly affect the local distribution or abundance of the species in question.

Species	Legal Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intentionally or recklessly disturb such animals while they occupy a place used for shelter or protection.
Adder, Common Lizard, Grass Snake, Slow Worm, White-clawed Crayfish	These animals receive partial protection under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000), which provide protection against intentional killing or injury of any such animal.
Nesting Birds	<p>All wild birds (as defined by the act) are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and as amended), which makes it illegal (subject to exceptions) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird; Take, damage or destroy the nest (whilst being built or in use) or eggs of any wild bird.
WCA Schedule 1 listed Birds	Additional protection is provided to birds listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and as amended). In addition to the offences detailed above relating to all wild birds, it is illegal to intentionally or recklessly disturb any bird listed on Schedule 1, or their dependent young while nesting.
Badgers	<p>The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 makes it illegal to wilfully kill or injure a Badger, or attempt to do so and to intentionally or recklessly interfere with a Badger sett. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> damaging or destroying an active sett; obstructing access to a sett; and disturbing a Badger while it is occupying a sett. <p>Licences can be granted to permit sett closure and/or disturbance between July and November inclusive (i.e. outside the sow pregnancy/birth period).</p>
Wild Mammals	The Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 provides legal protection to all wild mammals (as defined by the act) against the following actions: mutilate, kick, beat, nail, or otherwise impale, stab, burn, stone, drown, crush, drag or asphyxiate any wild mammal with intent to inflict unnecessary suffering.
WCA Schedule 9 listed invasive animals (Part 1) and plants (part 2)	Certain species of plants and animals that do not naturally occur in Great Britain have become established in the wild and represent a threat to the natural fauna and flora. Section 14 of the WCA prohibits the release or allowed escape of animals listed in Schedule 9 to the Act and planting, or allowed growth, of any plant listed in Schedule 9 to the Act.

Policy Summary

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act imposes a legal duty on Planning Authorities to ‘have regard’ to the conservation of biodiversity when considering planning applications.

Section 41 of the NERC Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of species and habitats of principal importance for conserving biodiversity in the UK. Such Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Habitats and Species (2007) do not offer the species any specific protection but help to highlight the species importance at a national level. This list is used by Local Planning Authorities to identify the species and habitats that should be afforded priority when applying the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The NPPF underpins the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are to be applied. The central theme of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. This presumption does not apply where development requiring Appropriate Assessment because of its potential impact on a habitats site is being planned or determined.

The NPPF states:

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

- *if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;*
- *development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;*
- *development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons⁶³ and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and;*
- *development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity*

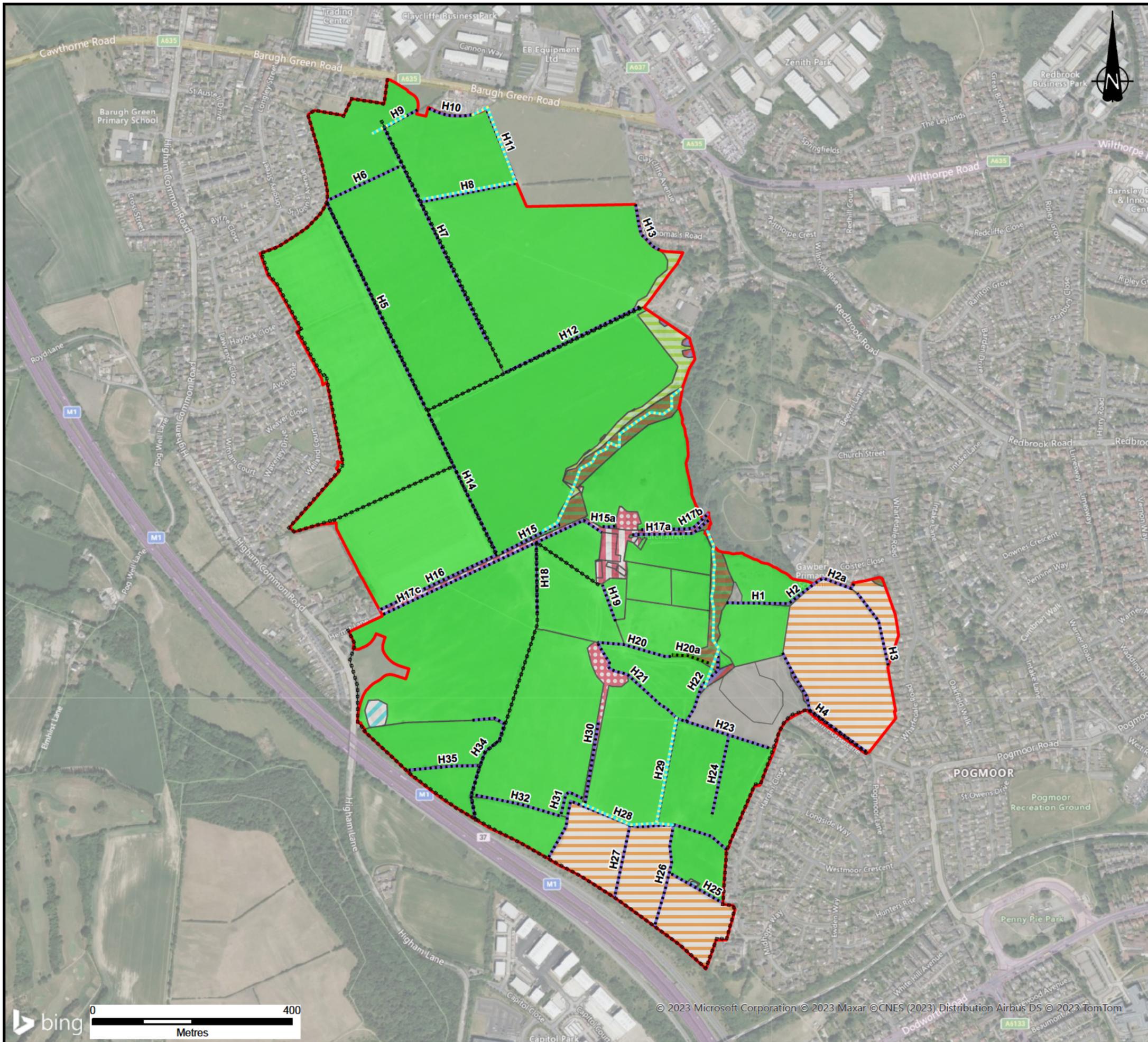
should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.

- *The following should be given the same protection as habitats sites:*
 - a) *potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;*
 - b) *listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and*
 - c) *sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.*

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

The NPPF requires the Planning Authority to have a responsibility to promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets, and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan. In addition, the planning system 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, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.

DRAWINGS



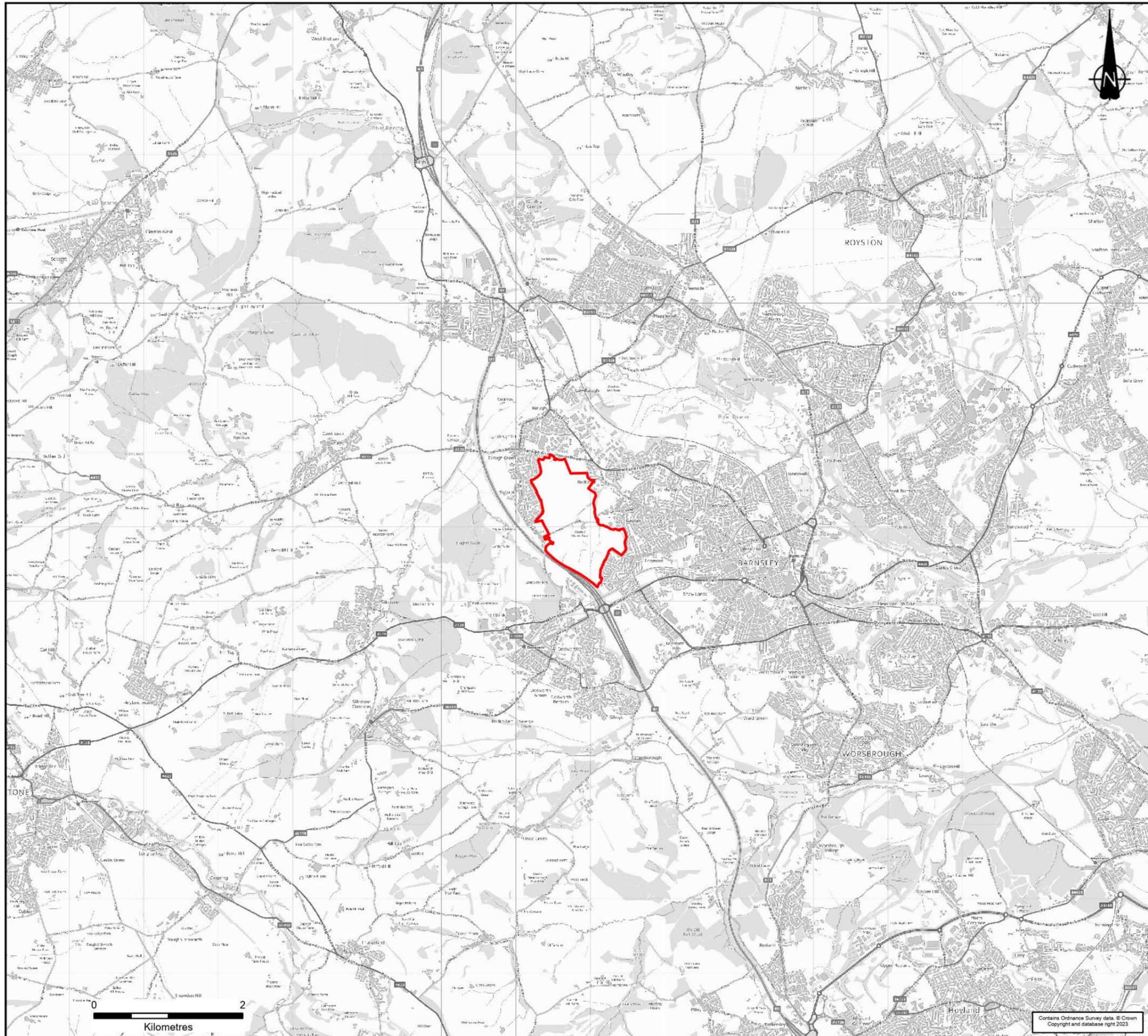
KEY

- Site Boundary
- c1c - cereal crops
- g3c - other neutral grassland
- g4 - modified grassland
- h3 - dense scrub
- r1 - standing open water and canals
- s - sparsely vegetated land
- u1b - developed land, sealed surface
- u1c - artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- w1f - lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- h2a - hedgerow (priority habitat)
- r1e - canal or ditch
- w1g6 - line of trees
- Fence

Notes:
 Boundaries are indicative.
 Aerial imagery shown for context purposes only.

REVISION	DETAILS	DATE	DRAWN	CHKD	APPRD
CLIENT					
STRATA STERLING BARNLEY WEST LTD					
PROJECT					
BARNLEY WEST					
DRAWING TITLE					
UKHAB HABITAT PLAN					
DRG No.	LD10361/002	REV	A		
DRG SIZE	A3	SCALE	1:7,500	DATE	12/10/2023
DRAWN BY	SRW	CHECKED BY	AD	APPROVED BY	TP





KEY
 Site Boundary

Notes:
 Boundaries are indicative.

REVISION	DETAILS	DATE	DRAWN	CHKD	APPRD

CLIENT
STRATA STERLING BARNSELY WEST LTD

PROJECT
BARNSELY WEST

DRAWING TITLE
SITE LOCATION PLAN

DRG No.	LD10361/004	REV	A
DRG SIZE	A3	SCALE	1:50,000
DRAWN BY	SRW	DATE	11/10/2023
CHECKED BY	AD	APPROVED BY	TP




Contains Ordnance Survey data. © Crown Copyright and database right 2023

STOKE-ON-TRENT

Sir Henry Doulton House
Forge Lane
Etruria
Stoke-on-Trent
ST1 5BD
Tel: +44 (0)1782 276 700

BIRMINGHAM

Two Devon Way
Longbridge Technology Park
Longbridge
Birmingham
B31 2TS
Tel: +44 (0)121 580 0909

BOLTON

41-50 Futura Park
Aspinall Way
Middlebrook
Bolton
BL6 6SU
Tel: +44 (0)1204 227 227

BRISTOL

Temple Studios
Temple Gate
Redcliffe
Bristol
BS1 6QA
Tel: +44 (0)117 203 4477

BURY ST EDMUNDS

Armstrong House
Lamdin Road
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP32 6NU
Tel: +44 (0)1284 765 210

CARDIFF

Tudor House
16 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ
Tel: +44 (0)292 072 9191

CARLISLE

Marconi Road
Burgh Road Industrial Estate
Carlisle
Cumbria
CA2 7NA
Tel: +44 (0)1228 550 575

EDINBURGH

Great Michael House
14 Links Place
Edinburgh
EH6 7EZ
Tel: +44 (0)131 555 3311

GLASGOW

24 St Vincent Place
Glasgow
G1 2EU
Tel: +44 (0)141 428 4499

LEEDS

36 Park Row
Leeds
LS1 5JL
Tel: +44 (0)113 831 5533

LONDON

Third Floor
46 Chancery Lane
London
WC2A 1JE
Tel: +44 (0)207 242 3243

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

City Quadrant
11 Waterloo Square
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4DP
Tel: +44 (0)191 232 0943

TRURO

Baldhu House
Wheal Jane Earth Science Park
Baldhu
Truro
TR3 6EH
Tel: +44 (0)187 256 0738

International office:

ALMATY

29/6 Satpaev Avenue
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Office Tower
Almaty
Kazakhstan
050040
Tel: +7(727) 334 1310