Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.

PENISTONE CRICKET CLUB.

OS REF: SE 25435 03459.

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL.

Ref No: **240803.**

Date: **21st September 2024.**

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. There are plans to demolish the existing clubhouse and equipment store at Penistone Cricket Club and replace these with new buildings.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd has been commissioned to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the site to establish whether there are any issues that may affect the proposed works.

1.3. The initial site survey was carried out on 20th August 2024 with a subsequent dusk emergence survey on the 21st August 2024. This report outlines the findings of these surveys and makes appropriate recommendations.

1.4. Appendices I to III of this report provides additional information on specific species and are designed to assist the reader in understanding the contents of this report.

1.5. This report will be accompanied by a statutory metric and condition assessment sheets.

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2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.

2.1. Prior to visiting the site, the survey area was cross referenced to maps and aerial photographs to give a general idea of the habitats and potential issues within the area and to identify potential access and walking routes.

2.2. The survey area was walked where access was agreed and public rights of way were used where no access was agreed. All habitats within and immediately around the survey area were documented and the dominant species within that habitat listed in line with the UK Habitat Classification methodology to identify the primary habitat types throughout the survey area. All primary habitats are accompanied by secondary codes which are used to add further specific details where necessary. Each primary habitat and unique set off secondary codes will be shown individually in the appended annotated map.

2.3. The survey area and immediate surrounding area was thoroughly searched for evidence of badger (*Meles meles*) activity by looking for the following signs in line with Harris S, Cresswell P and Jefferies D (1989). *Surveying Badgers*. Mammal Society: -

* Badger setts.
* Badger latrines or dung pits.
* Badger snuffle holes and evidence of foraging.
* Badger paths.
* Badger prints in areas of soft mud.
* Badger hairs caught on fencing.

2.4. The survey area was searched for watercourses and where found all watercourses within the survey area and for approximately 100m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) activity by looking for the following signs, in line with Dean M, Strachen R, Gow D and Andres R (2016). *The Water Vole Mitigation Handbook (The Mammal Society Mitigation Guidance Series).* Eds Fiona Mathews and Paul Chanin. The mammal Society, London: -

* Water vole burrows.
* Water vole faeces and latrines.
* Water vole feeding stations.
* Water vole runs.
* Water vole prints in areas of soft mud.
* Water vole lawns.
* Predator field signs.

2.5. The survey area was searched for watercourses and where found all watercourses within the survey area and for approximately 50m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of otter (*Lutra lutra*) activity by looking for the following signs in line with the P Chanin (2003). *Monitoring the Otter* and *Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers: Monitoring Series No10 Guidelines: -*

* Otter prints in soft mud.
* Otter spraints.
* Otter Holts.

2.6. The survey area was searched for watercourses and waterbodies. Where found, and where safe to enter the water, all were thoroughly searched for the presence of crayfish, for approximately 50m in each direction of the site, by searching under rocks and logs. Where stated, crayfish traps were also deployed into the watercourse. All survey work was carried out in accordance with the *Conserving Natural 2000 Rivers Monitoring Series No 1, Protocol for Monitoring the White Clawed Crayfish*.

2.7. The survey area was searched for trees and structures and where found these were checked for potential bat roosting sites in line with Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition)* by looking for the following signs: -

* Holes, cracks or crevices.
* Bat Droppings.

2.8. The land immediately adjacent to the survey area was assessed for bat roosting potential and bat foraging potential. Connective routes and flight lines were also assessed whilst on site and using maps of the area.

2.9. The area within 500m of the survey site was cross referenced to maps to highlight all ponds close to the site. Where possible, all ponds identified were accessed using agreed access or public rights of way to assess the potential for great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) to be present.

2.10. The survey area was assessed for the potential for reptiles and suitable reptile habitats. Where applicable the area was also searched for the presence of reptiles.

2.11. All surveys were carried out in line with the Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management (CIEEM) survey standards and advice.

2.12. This document is prepared in line with The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This sets out the government policy on biodiversity and nature conservation and places a duty on Planning Authorities to give material consideration to the effect of a development on legally protected species when considering planning applications. The NPPF and the Planning Practice Guidance on "Natural Environment" also promote sustainable development by ensuring that developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity and that it is conserved and enhanced within the development.

2.13. This report is prepared in line with the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act that came into force on 1st Oct 2006. Section 41 (S41) of the Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.

2.14. The subsequent dusk emergence survey was undertaken with the use of Night Vision Aids (NVAs) and in line with Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition)*. The surveys were undertaken between May and August in line with the aforementioned guidelines.

2.15. Both surveys were carried out by Sam White BSc ACIEEM. Sam has had experience in a professional capacity as an Ecologist focusing primarily on survey work for protected species and botanical surveys. Sam has a BSc in Environmental Conservation from Sheffield Hallam University and Graduated in 2015. Sam joined Whitcher Wildlife Ltd in May 2018 as an Ecological Consultant and is now a Senior Ecological Consultant at the company. Sam holds a survey licences for Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus*, Barn Owl *Tyto alba*, a Level 2 Class Licence for Bats and a CL23 maintenance licence for crayfish. Sam is an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and is accredited to undertake MoRPh river condition assessments.

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3. SURVEY RESULTS.

3.1. Data Search Results.

3.1.1. A data search for existing records of protected species and designated sites within 2km was submitted to Barnsley Biological Records Centre and South Yorkshire Bat Group.

3.1.2. The results show only a single designated site within 2km of the survey area, Royd, Vicar, Lindley and Coates Great Woods Local Wildlife Site (LWS) is located approximately 1.2km to the northeast of the survey area. Several areas of ancient woodland were identified within the data search, none of which are within or adjacent to the survey area.

3.1.3. The data search returned relatively few recent records of protected species within 2km of the site.

3.1.4. There are eight recent records of badger within 2km of the survey area. The exact location of these will not be disclosed as it sensitive information, however none are within 1km of the proposed development.

3.1.5. No records of great crested newts or reptiles were returned by the data search. Whilst not showing the absence of these species, this suggest no significant population is present.

3.1.6. South Yorkshire Bat Group returned thirty-five recent records of bats within 2km of the site. The closest relevant record is of a myotis species, found in 2017 at Penistone Fire Station, 250m from the survey area. The majority of the remaining records comprise pipistrelle species, although myotis and nyctalus species were also present.

3.1.7. The large majority of the remaining records comprise bird species, brown hare and hedgehog, the closest of these is a record of hedgehog from 2017, approximately 530m east of the survey area.

3.2. The Survey Area.

3.2.1. The survey area is located in Penistone, South Yorkshire. The surrounding area comprises arable land, woodland pockets, the River Don and residential housing.

3.2.2. The aerial photograph below shows the location of the survey area, indicated by the red arrow, and the surrounding area.

3.2.3. The survey area comprises Penistone Cricket Club, specifically the clubhouse and equipment store.

3.2.4. The limits of the survey area are outlined in red in the aerial map below.

3.3. Survey Limitations.

The survey was carried out during an optimum time of year with full access to each building and the site.

3.4. Description of Habitats.

3.4.1. Appendix IV of this report contains an annotated map marked up with the varying primary habitats across the site. These are site are listed below, followed by descriptions of each habitat.

- g4 Modified Grassland
- g3c Other Neutral Grassland
- h3d Bramble Scrub
- u1b5 Buildings

3.4.2. g4 Modified Grassland

Secondary code: 32 scattered trees, 81 ruderal/ephemeral, 516 active management, 820 natural sports pitches.

3.4.2.1. The majority of the survey area comprises a modified grassland with an intensely managed sward. This is dominated by red fescue *Festuca rubra* and perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne*, a full species list is available appended to this report.

3.4.2.2. The condition assessment of this habitat found it to have poor condition, failing the essential criteria of 6 species/m^2.

3.4.3. g3c Other Neutral Grassland.

Secondary code: 10 scattered scrub, 16 tall forbs, 81 ruderal or ephemeral.

3.4.3.1. A limitation of UKHabs is there is no habitat for tall ruderal vegetation and as such it must be mapped as g3c. This habitat includes tall ruderals, most notably Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* as well as butterbur *Petasites hybridus*, grasses typical of such habitat, such as cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata* and scattered scrub, including both hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and bramble *Rubus fruticosus*. A full species list has been appended to this report.

3.4.3.2. This habitat is assessed as having poor condition, failing the essential criteria for this habitat type.

3.4.4. h3d Bramble Scrub.

Secondary code: 517 recent management.

3.4.4.1. A small area of recently cleared bramble *Rubus fruticosus* is present behind the existing clubhouse. This has been cleared as part of routine management to keep the club tidy and prevent encroachment onto the grassland.

3.4.4.2. No condition assessment is required for bramble scrub.

3.5.4. u1b5 Building.

3.5.4.1. There are three buildings within the survey area, including Building 1 (the equipment store), Building 2 (the existing clubhouse) and Building 3 (an umpire's shed). These have been described below.

3.4.5.2. Building 1, shown below, comprises the existing equipment shed. The building has a sloping roof and rendered brick walls. The roof is constructed from corrugated sheets, likely to contain asbestos and there is no loft space internally.

3.4.5.3. Building 2 comprises the existing club house, a building with rendered brick walls and a flat roof covered by a bituminous roofing felt. The building has a large awning, timber fascia boards and no loft space internally.

3.4.5.4. Building 3 comprises a small timber shed used to store umpire's equipment. The building is constructed from timber with a sloping felt roof.

3.4.6. Whilst not identified within UKHabs classification as a primary habitat, there are a small number of scattered trees within the survey area. These include silver birch *Betula pendula*, cherry *Prunus* sp., and sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* on the periphery of the adjacent woodland along the River Don. These have been assessed as having moderate condition, passing four of the respective criteria within the statutory metric.

3.5. Description of Fauna.

3.5.1. No badger setts or field signs were identified within the survey area. The intense management of the grassland make it highly unlikely badger would forage in the area.

3.5.2. There are no watercourses within the survey area to provide any habitat for water voles, otters or crayfish. The River Don flows immediately adjacent to the southern boundary of the site. Due to the close proximity of the river a River Condition Assessment was undertaken to the purposes of Biodiversity Net Gain. During this assessment, the river was also surveyed for otter, water vole and white clawed crayfish.

3.5.2.1. No otter holts were found to be present on either bank of the river. Otter spraints were found on the western bank of the river at SE 25396 03385, showing the river is used by otter.

3.5.2.2. No water vole burrows or field signs were found along the river, that lacks the grassy banks preferred by the species.

3.5.2.3. Signal crayfish were found to be present within the river, shown by the red arrow below. With Signal crayfish present, white clawed crayfish are assessed as absent from the River Don at this location. With no net, the crayfish seen could not be caught and dispatched, however it was clearly visible as a signal crayfish whilst on site.

3.5.3. A review of Ordnance Survey maps and aerial imagery found no ponds within 500m of the site. Furthermore, the intense management of the grassland leads to the survey area providing no terrestrial habitat for great crested newts. Therefore, the species is assessed as absent from the survey area.

3.5.4. The three buildings on site have been assessed below against the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines 4th Edition.

3.5.4.1. *Building 1*

3.5.4.1.1. The walls of building 1 were rendered and largely in a condition that does not allow access for roosting bats.

3.5.4.1.2. The eaves of the building had occasional gaps allowing access into the internals of the building. These lead between the corrugated roof and beneath timber boards. This area is likely to heat up greatly in the sun and therefore is highly unlikely to be used by roosting bats.

3.5.4.1.3. The roof of the building has a damaged area allowing access into the internals of the building for roosting bats. Again, the design of the building makes it highly unlikely to support a large number of roosting bats, however it may be used by individual opportunistic bats.

3.5.4.1.4. No bat field signs were found within the internals of the building, which was densely cobwebbed, suggesting no recent bat or bird activity within the building.

3.5.4.1.5. Overall, Building 1 provides potential for individual opportunistic bats, however the building is not of a suitable design for use by a larger number of roosting bats. As such, the building is assessed as providing low potential for roosting bats in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines 4th Edition.

3.5.4.2. *Building 2*

3.5.4.2.1. The walls of building 2 were rendered and largely in a condition that does not allow access for roosting bats, there was a single area, shown below, where broken rendering may provide a feature for individual opportunistic bats.

3.5.4.2.2. The above photograph also shows where the timber fascia boards are not entirely flush to the wall. These areas could be inspected by torchlight and no bats were found to be present with the area densely cobwebbed.

3.5.4.2.3. The roof of the building is not of a suitable design to be used by roosting bats due to how greatly roofing felt will heat dramatically in even light sunlight.

3.5.4.2.4. No bat field signs were found within the internals of the building, which was well sealed.

3.5.4.2.5. Overall, Building 2 provides potential for individual opportunistic bats, however the building is not of a suitable design for use by a larger number of roosting bats. As such, the building is assessed as providing low potential for roosting bats in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines 4th Edition.

3.5.4.3. *Building 3*

Building 3 is a small timber shed, whilst bats may occasionally use such buildings it is highly unlikely. In addition, the shed was in good condition with no lifted panels suitable for individual opportunistic bats. Therefore, the building has been assessed as providing negligible potential for roosting bats in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines.

3.5.5. None of the trees present within the survey area had potential features for roosting bats, these were generally small in size and young in age, not having had time to develop such features yet.

3.5.6. The site lies immediately adjacent to the River Don. The river provides a high value corridor for foraging and commuting bats adjacent to the site, however the survey area itself comprises low-lying vegetation and does not offer suitable foraging habitat for bats.

3.5.7. There is potential for nesting birds within the vegetation of the survey area, primarily along the peripheries, where vegetation has grown taller and the buildings. No active or disused nests were found during this survey.

3.5.8. The survey area is intensely managed with a short sward, making it entirely unsuitable for reptile species. In addition, there are no records of reptile species within 2km of the survey area.

3.5.9. The survey area lies outside the known UK distribution of hazel dormouse and red squirrel and the habitats in the survey area are completely unsuitable for these species.

3.5.10. The site is unlikely to support hedgehogs due to the short sward, although there may be potential along the boundaries of the survey area where grasses have been allowed to grow taller.

3.5.11. Himalayan balsam was present behind Building 1, likely to have spread from the corridor of the River Don. Himalayan balsam is a non-native invasive plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).

3.6. Dusk Emergence Survey Results 21st August 2024.

3.6.1. The dusk emergence survey was led by Sam White, who holds a level two Natural England survey licence in respect of bats (2024-11988-CL18-BAT). He was assisted by an experienced assistant.

3.6.2. The surveyors were equipped with Batbox Duet detectors. Two Anabat Rangers were deployed around the site to record bat activity for subsequent computer analysis using Anabat Insight Software.

3.6.3. Four Night Vision Aids (NVAs) were deployed to aid with the survey with each camera on a potential feature highlighted, the view of each camera is shown below.

Camera 1.

Camera 2.

Camera 3.

Camera 4.

3.6.4. The below aerial photograph shows the positions of the camera (C) and surveyor (S) during the survey. Surveyor 2 was positioned to the rear of Building 1 specifically where NVAs could not provide view due to the surrounding vegetation.

3.6.5. The survey was carried out on the 21st August 2024. The evening was fine and dry with a temperature of 15°C at the start of the survey with a breeze measuring 1 on the Beaufort scale. Sunset was at 20:17 and the survey lasted from 20:00 until 20:47.

3.6.6. Activity during the survey was moderate to high, with all foraging focused solely along the woodland edge and River Don.

3.6.7. The species of bats recorded on the Anabat Rangers were common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, myotis sp. and noctule, which corresponds to findings of the surveyors. The total number of calls recorded have been shown below.

Species	Count
Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*	162
Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*	1
Myotis *Myotis* sp.	44
Soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*	4

3.6.8. Throughout the survey and subsequent review of the NVA footage, no bats were found to emerge from either of the buildings within the survey area.

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4. BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN (BNG).

4.1. Baseline biodiversity calculations have been carried out using the Statutory Metric tool, the current metric at the time of writing this report. The calculations have been completed for habitat units and watercourse units.

4.2. Habitat Units.

The baseline area habitat calculations include all habitats that lie within the red line boundary of the site. The scores for each habitat and a total is shown below.

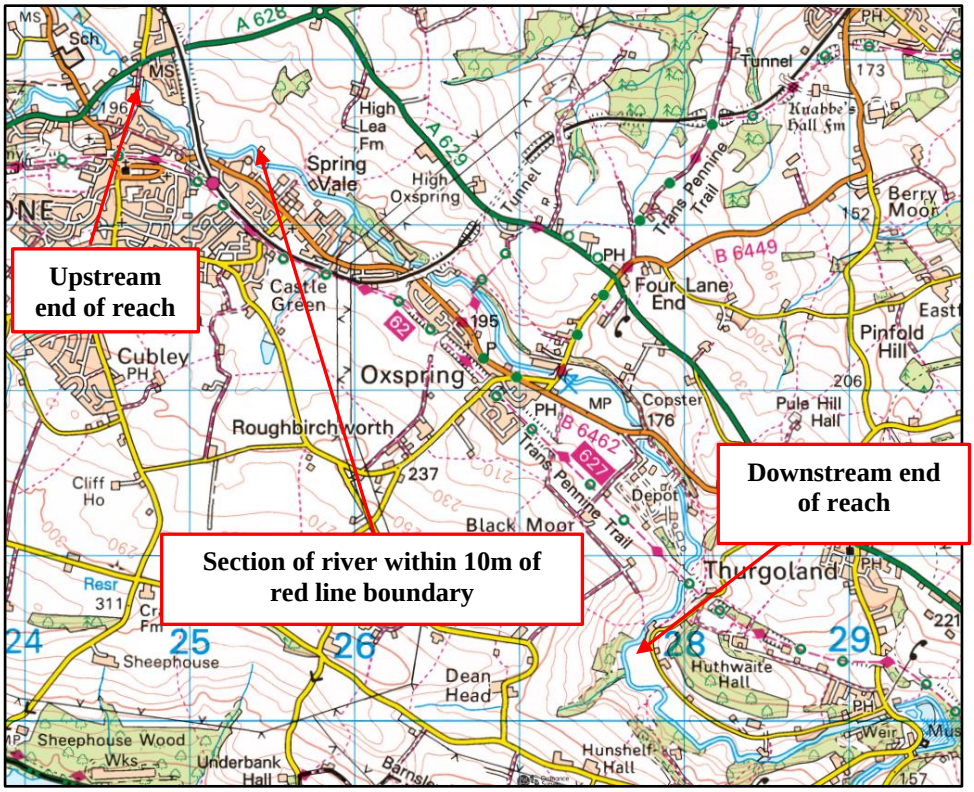
Habitat Type	Extent (ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment	Biodiversity units
Modified grassland	0.0439	Low	Poor	0.01
Ruderal/ephemeral	0.0066	Low	Poor	0.09
Bramble scrub	0.0030	Medium	N/A	0.01
Developed land sealed surface	0.0196	N/A	N/A	0
Rural tree	0.0122	Medium	Poor	0.05
Total (excl trees)	**0.0731**			**0.16**

4.3 Watercourse Units.

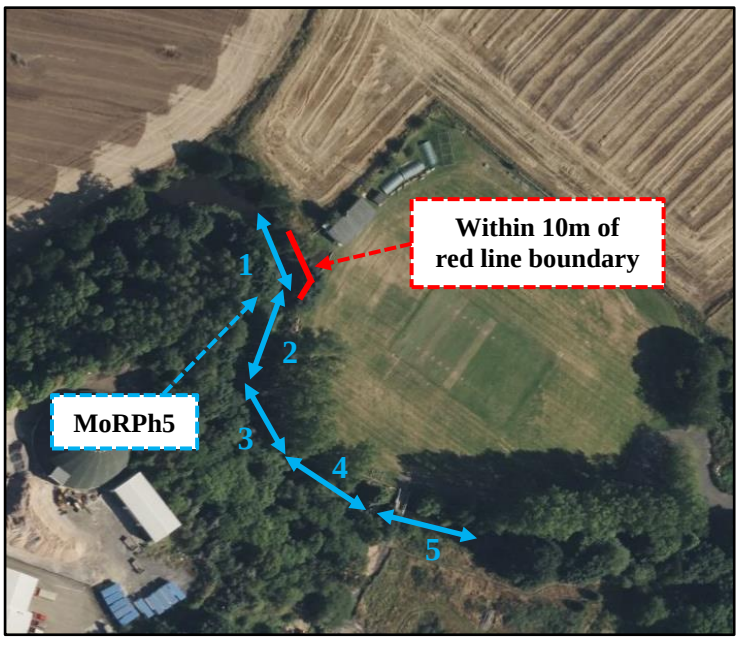
4.3.1. As the red line boundary extends within the riparian zone (within 10m of the top of the banks) of the River Don, in line with the rules of the Statutory Metric, the length of river adjacent to the southern end of the survey area is also included in the metric tool.

4.3.2. In order to assess the condition of the river, a Rivers Condition Assessment (RCA) was carried out by Sam White BSc, ACIEEM; who is accredited to undertake RCAs.

4.3.3. The length of the river reach is shown on the map below. The upstream end of the reach is defined by a weir that also appears to have a straightened section of river beyond it. The downstream end is defined by the first of a series of weirs.



4.3.4. One MoRPh5 survey was carried out at the location shown in the map below. The length of the River Don within 10m of the red line boundary is measured at approximately 25m. The MoRPh5 survey comprised five consecutive 30m sections (150m total), which covered in excess of 100% of the length of the sub reach adjacent to the red line boundary. The plan below shows the extent of watercourse within 10m and the modules surveyed throughout the MoRPh5.



4.3.5. The photographs below show the nature of the River Don throughout the area included in the MoRPh5.

4.3.6. The MoRPh field survey information was put into the Cartographer online application, along with the necessary desktop exercise to establish the river type. This had an outcome of 'moderate' condition.

4.3.7. The watercourse baseline on the site was calculated at 0.26 units as demonstrated in the tables below.

Watercourse Type	Extent (km)	Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment	Biodiversity units
Other rivers and streams	0.025	High	Moderate	0.26
Total	**0.025**			**0.26**

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5. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.

5.1. The data search found that the survey area is not within or adjacent to any designated sites and as such, the proposed development will have no impact on such sites.

5.2. The survey area comprises typically habitats of extremely low value and the works are generally small scale. The works will not impact the ecological value of surrounding woodland or habitats of higher value.

5.3. The red line boundary extends into the riparian zone of the River Don. Therefore, there is potential for the works to have a negative impact on the biodiversity value of the river.

5.4. No badger setts or evidence of badger was found within the survey area; therefore, the development of the site will have no impact on badger.

5.5. Whilst the River Don flows adjacent to the site, water vole and white clawed crayfish have been shown to be absent form the river at this location. Foraging and commuting otter have been shown to be present along the river, however given the localised nature of the works, the development will have no impact on otter if precautions are in place.

5.6. There are no ponds shown on maps within 500m of the survey area and therefore, there is no breeding habitat for great crested newts within 500m of the site. Therefore, the proposed works will have no impact on great crested newts.

5.7. Buildings 1 and 2 were assessed as providing low potential for roosting bats against the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines 4th Edition. A further dusk emergence survey was undertaken, which found no bats to emerge from either building. Therefore, the proposed works will have no impact on roosting bats with due care by the workforce.

5.8. There are occasional scattered trees within the survey area. None of these displayed any features suitable for roosting bats. Therefore, there will be no impact on roosting bats in trees as a result of the development of the site.

5.9. Despite being located adjacent to the River Don corridor, the site provides low high value habitat for foraging and commuting bats. The loss of the habitats on the site are therefore unlikely to have any significant impact on foraging bats providing the vegetation along the river corridor is retained.

5.10. There is potential for nesting birds throughout the vegetation and buildings within the survey area throughout the nesting bird season, which extends from March to August inclusive each year. The site is unlikely to host any ground nesting bird species due to disturbance. There are no suitable banks adjacent to the site along the River Don suitable for kingfishers or sand martins to nest in. Therefore, it is assessed that any impacts on nesting birds is limited to impacts on common bird species as a result of any site clearance during the nesting bird season.

5.11. The site is assessed to be unsuitable for reptile species due to the frequent disturbance and uniform sward. In addition, there are no records of reptile species within 2km of the site. Therefore, the development of the site will have no impact on reptile species.

5.12. The site lies outside the known UK distribution of hazel dormouse and red squirrel. Therefore, the proposed works will have no impact on hazel dormouse or red squirrel.

5.13. The site provides limited potential for hedgehog due to the intensity of management. Therefore, it is assessed as unlikely that the development of the site will have any impact on hedgehogs if precautionary measures are in place.

5.14. Himalayan balsam has been identified within the survey area. Himalayan balsam is a non-native invasive plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). It is an offence to allow or cause these plants to spread into the wild. The plant spreads through seeds present on the plant in late summer to autumn and within the soil all year round. Therefore, the proposed development may cause the spread of Himalayan balsam is precautions are not in place.

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6. RECOMMENDATIONS.

6.1. This Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) report is designed to advise the client of the survey results and baseline BNG assessment so that any potential ecological constraints identified can be considered within the site development plan.

6.2. Once plans are finalised and a landscaping plan has been produced and mitigation agreed, this report should be converted into an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA), suitable for submission to planning. This will include a finalised Biodiversity Net Gain calculation for the site.

6.3. It is recommended that a sensitive lighting scheme is implemented as part of the development to ensure that all lighting is downward directional and that there is no lighting directed towards any of the adjacent River Don corridor.

6.4. It is recommended that any vegetation or site clearance works are carried out outside the nesting bird season. If this is not possible, it is recommended that the clearance works are immediately preceded by a nesting bird survey. Any active nests found plus a suitable buffer around them, must be left undisturbed until the young have fledged.

6.5. As a precaution, it is recommended that measures are put in place to ensure no harm is caused to any hedgehogs. This should include the following measures:

- Prior to site clearance, all vegetation should be cut to a minimum of 200mm above ground level and the arisings should be carefully removed from site. This will encourage any reptiles or hedgehogs at ground level to vacate the area and will deter them from returning.
- Any stored materials on site should be lifted cleanly off the ground and not dragged to avoid any harm to small mammals taking refuge underneath.
- Any clearance of potential refugia, such as grass cuttings or piles or brash should not be undertaken over winter, when the species may be hibernating.

6.6. As no bats were found to emerge from the buildings no further surveys are required pertaining to roosting bats. However, due care should be taken by the workforce. If any bats are found during the demolition of the building, works must cease immediately and the undersigned contacted for further advice.

6.7. A method of working must be in place to prevent the spread of Himalayan balsam from the survey area. All soil within 7m of the plant must be treated as controlled waste in addition to the plant itself. Boot, tool and machinery washes should be available for any works within contaminated areas.

6.8. Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

6.8.1. There is a requirement to provide an overall biodiversity net gain on the site. There will be a statutory requirement to deliver a net gain of at least 10% biodiversity units. This will apply to both the habitat units on the site and the watercourse units. Both of these elements will separately need to deliver a 10% net gain. There will also be a requirement to meet the trading rules of the Statutory Metric.

6.8.2. It is recommended that a landscaping plan is drawn up to reach a 10% net gain in habitat units. This will need to deliver a minimum of 0.16 units, which could be achieved through the planting of trees and scrub species as an example.

6.8.3. With regard to the watercourse units, there are three options.

6.8.3.1. Option 1 is to reduce the red line boundary 10m back from the top of the bank to the south of the site. By doing this, there will be no requirement to deliver any watercourse units.

6.8.3.2. Option 2 is to allocate the southern end of the site as an area for planting and habitat creation that will count towards both the habitat units and watercourse units. By doing this, the current major encroachment will be reduced to minor if a 4m buffer from the bank top is created, which will provide the uplift required.

6.8.3.3. Option 3 is to develop the site up to the southern end of the red line boundary and deliver the 10% net gain off site. This option should only be considered once the above two options have been considered and ruled out.

6.8.4. It is recommended that a copy of the draft landscaping proposals for the site are provided once they are drawn up so that the biodiversity calculations can be completed.

6.8.5. Once all options have been considered and the provision of BNG on the site has been maximised, offsite compensation will then need to be considered to deliver any shortfalls.

6.8.6. Any habitats that are retained, enhanced or created for the purpose of the biodiversity net gain for the site, will have to be locked into to a thirty-year management and maintenance plan.

6.9. Biodiversity Enhancements.

In addition to ensuring a net gain of biodiversity units is achieved on the site, there will be an expectation to provide some biodiversity enhancements for fauna species on the site. It is recommended that bat and bird boxes are included in the final design of the new clubhouse or erected within the adjacent woodland.

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Prepared by:	
Sam White BSc ACIEEM	Date: 21st September 2024

Checked by:	
Ruth Georgiou. BSc, MCIEEM.	Date: 21st September 2024

7. REFERENCES.

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Appendix I. BAT INFORMATION.

Ecology

There are currently 18 species of bat residing in Britain, 17 of which of which are known to breed here. They are extremely difficult to identify in the hand and even more so in flight.

All appear to be diminishing in numbers, probably due to habitat change and shortage of food, caused by pesticides, as insects are their sole diet.

As their diet consists solely of insects, bats hibernate during the winter when their food source is at its most scarce. They will spend the winter in hollow trees, caves, mines and the roofs of buildings.

Certain species, particularly the pipistrelle (the commonest and most widespread British bat) can quickly adapt to man-made structures and will readily use these to roost and to rear their young.

Surveys

During walkover surveys, bat roosts can be identified by looking for:

- Suitable holes, cracks and crevices within any building, tree or other structure.
- Bat droppings along walls, window cills, or on the ground.
- Prey remains, such as insect wings.

Further investigations can be made using endoscopes, by carrying out aerial inspections of trees or by conducting bat activity surveys during dusk and dawn over summer months.

Legislation

Bats are protected under Appendix II and III of the Bern Convention (1982), Schedule 5 and 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), Annex IV of the Habitats Directive (some species under Annex II), Annex II of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) and EUROBATS agreement. Numerous species are also listed under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) making them species of principal importance.

All bats and their roosts are therefore protected in the UK. This makes it an offence to kill, injure or take any bat, to interfere with any place used for shelter or protection, or to intentionally disturb any animal occupying such a place.

The UK has designated maternity and hibernacula areas as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) under the Habitats Directive. Implementation of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan also includes action for a number of bat species and the habitats which support them.

Where development proposals are likely to affect a bat roost site, a licence is required from Natural England.

Appendix II. NESTING BIRD INFORMATION.

Ecology

The nesting season will vary according to the weather each year but generally commences in March, peaks during May and June and continues until September. It is also worth remembering that some birds nest in trees and scrub, but others are ground nesting or prefer man- made structures or buildings.

Surveys

Nesting bird surveys search for potential nest sites in vegetation, buildings etc. Potential nesting sites are observed over a suitable period of time for bird movements or calling male birds that would indicate the presence of a nest. The presence of a nest can be identified from the field signs without the necessity to see the nest itself, thereby avoiding any disturbance of the nests. The best way to avoid this issue is to plan for vegetation clearance to be carried out outside the bird-nesting season.

Legislation

Nesting birds are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Part 1. -(1) Of the Act states that: - If any person intentionally: - kills, injures or takes any wild bird; takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird, he shall be guilty of an offence.

Part 1. -(5) of the Act states that: - If any person intentionally: - disturbs any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on, or near a nest containing eggs or young; or disturbs young of such a bird, he shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a special penalty.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 amends the above by inserting after “intentionally” the words “or recklessly”.

Appendix III. INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES INFORMATION.

Ecology

The Government has acknowledged the problems that can be caused by non-native invasive species. In 2008 the Government launched "The Invasive Non-Native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain". The strategy provides a framework for a more co-ordinated approach to invasive species management. It seeks to create a stronger sense of shared responsibility across government, key organisations, land managers and the public.

The Non-Native Species Secretariat has been established to oversee the implementation of the strategy. Details of the secretariat including risk assessments and action plans for some species are available at www.nonnativespecies.org.

In general, there are four basic methods of controlling weeds; mechanical, chemical, natural and environmental.

- ***Mechanical control*** *includes cultivation, hoeing, pulling, cutting, raking, dredging or other methods to uproot or cut weeds.*
  Where this method is used all plant material must be considered "controlled waste" and must be disposed of properly.
- ***Chemical control*** *uses approved herbicides.*
- ***Natural control*** *uses pests and diseases of the target weed to weaken it and prevent it from becoming a nuisance.*
- ***Environmental control*** *works by altering the environment to make it less suitable for weed growth, for example by increasing or decreasing water velocity.*

Surveys

A site will be searched for invasive plant species growing on site, from mature plants to new shoots. A site will also be searched for dead stems indicating that plants that may have seasonally died back are present.

Legislation

Invasive species listed under Schedule 9 are prohibited from release into the wild. Schedule 9, Section 14(2) prohibits 'planting' or 'causing to grow' in the wild of any plant listed in Part 2 of Schedule 9.

The following is a list of all the species of plant listed under Schedule 9 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**England & Wales**	**Scotland**
Alexanders, Perfoliate	*Smyrnium perfoliatum*	✓	
Algae, Red	*Grateloupia luxurians*	✓	
Archangel, Variegated Yellow	*Lamiastrum galeobdolon subsp. Argentatum*	✓	
Azalea, Yellow	*Rhododendron luteum*	✓	
Balsam, Himalayan	*Impatiens glandulifera*	✓	
Carolina Water-shield	*Cabomba caroliniana*	✓	✓
Cotoneaster	*Cotoneaster horizontalis*	✓	
Cotoneaster, Entire Leaved	*Cotoneaster integrifolius*	✓	
Cotoneaster, Himalayan	*Cotoneaster simonsii*	✓	
Cotoneaster, Hollyberry	*Cotoneaster bullatus*	✓	
Cotoneaster, Small Leaved	*Cotoneaster microphyllus*	✓	
Creeper, False Virginia	*Parthenocissus inserta*	✓	
Creeper, Virginia	*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*	✓	
Dewplant, Purple	*Disphyma crassifolium*	✓	
False-acacia	*Robinia pseudoacacia*		✓
Fern, Water	*Azolla filiculoides*	✓	✓
Fig, Hottentot	*Carpobrotus edulis*	✓	✓
Garlic, Few-flowered	*Allium paradoxum*	✓	✓
Garlic, Three-Cornered	*Allium triquetrum*	✓	
Hogweed, Giant	*Heracleum mantegazzianum*	✓	✓
Hyacinth, water	*Eichhornia crassipes*	✓	✓
Kelp, Giant	*Macrocystis angustifolia*	✓	✓
Kelp, Giant	*Macrocystis integrifolia*	✓	✓
Kelp, Giant	*Macrocystis laevis*	✓	✓
Kelp, Giant	*Macrocystis pyrifera*	✓	✓
Kelp, Japanese	*Laminaria japonica*	✓	✓
Knotweed, Giant	*Reynoutria sachalinensis*	✓	

Knotweed, Hybrid	*Reynoutria japonica x Reynoutria sachalinensis*	✓	
Knotweed, Japanese	*Reynoutria japonica*	✓	
Knotweed, Japanese	*Polygonum cuspidatum*		✓
Lettuce, water	*Pistia stratiotes*	✓	✓
Montbretia	*Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora*	✓	
Parrot's-feather	*Myriophyllum aquaticum*	✓	
Pennywort, Floating	*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*	✓	
Pigmyweed, New Zealand	*Crassula helmsii*	✓	✓
Potato, Duck	*Sagittaria latifolia*	✓	
Primrose-willow, Floating	*Ludwigia peploides*	✓	
Primrose, Water	*Ludwigia grandiflora*	✓	
Rhododendron	*Rhododendron ponticum*	✓	
Rhubarb, Giant	*Gunnera tinctoria*	✓	
Rose, Japanese	*Rosa rugosa*	✓	
Salvinia, Giant	*Salvinia molesta*	✓	✓
Seafingers, Green	*Codium fragile*	✓	
Seafingers, Green	*Codium fragile tomentosoides*		✓
Seaweed, Californian Red	*Pikea californica*	✓	✓
Seaweed, Hooked Asparagus	*Asparagopsis armata*	✓	✓
Seaweed, Japanese	*Sargassum muticum*	✓	✓
Seaweeds, Laver (except native species)	*Porphyra sp. except -* *P. amethystea* *P. leucosticta* *P. linearis* *P. miniata* *P. purpurea* *P. umbilicalis*	✓	✓
Shallon	*Gaultheria shallon*		✓
Wakame	*Undaria pinnatifida*	✓	✓
Waterweed, Curly	*Lagarosiphon major*	✓	✓
Waterweeds	*All species of the genus Elodea*	✓	

Appendix IV. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA.

Site: Penistone Cricket Club

Reference: 240803

Date: 21.09.2024

Produced by: Sam White

Appendix V. SPECIES LISTS.

Modified Grassland	
Scientific Name	**Vernacular**
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping Bent
Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot
Festuca sp.	Fescue
Geranium robertianum	Herb-Robert
Lolium perenne	Perennial Rye-grass
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain
Rubus fruticosus	Bramble
Taraxacum	Dandelion
Trifolium repens	White Clover
Betula pendula	Silver Birch
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle
Prunus sp.	Cherry

Other Neutral Grassland	
Scientific Name	**Vernacular**
Dactylis glomerata	Cock’s-foot
Rubus fruticosus	Bramble
Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oat Grass
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle
Petasites hybridus	Butterbur
Impatiens glandulifera	Himalayan Balsam
Cirsium arvense	Spear Thistle
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn

Toolbox Talk: Himalayan Balsam

Whitcher Wildlife Ltd

Ecological Consultants

Himalayan Balsam was introduced into the UK in the early 19th century as an ornamental garden plant. The plant has since become established in the wild growing in a wide range of habitats, predominantly damp habitats and along watercourses. Himalayan Balsam grows in dense stands and therefore along river banks it can increase the likelihood of flooding during periods of heavy rainfall and can leave the river banks bare and exposed to erosion during the winter.

Identification.

Himalayan Balsam grows to around 2m and has a hollow, brittle stem. The plant stem is green to red early in the season and turns pink to red during the summer.

The plant has leaves up to 15cm long which are finely serrated along the edges and may have a pink mid-rib. The flowers are trumpet shaped and pink.

Habitat and Spreading.

Himalayan Balsam grows in a range of habitats but prefers damp habitats and river corridors. The plant grows in dense stands that out-compete native species. Along river corridors the plant can increase the likelihood of flooding during periods of heavy rainfall and leaves the river banks bare and exposed to erosion during the winter.

Himalayan Balsam spreads solely by seeds, which are small and easily carried by wind or water. The seed heads are approximately 2.5cm long and explode on touch when ripe.

The best form of control of the plant is to prevent it from seeding by cutting back or pulling before it can seed.

Legislation.

Under section 14 and Part II of Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence for it to be planted or otherwise caused to grow in the wild. This includes spreading the species by transferring polluted ground material from one area to the other.

If Himalayan balsam is identified during works, stop all works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 01226 753271 or at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk