

Sheffield City Council Local Plan NWS31- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Sheffield City Council

Date: 10/09/2025
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Ref: 25518-NWS31-PEA-V3.0

Report to: Sheffield City Council
Report Title: Sheffield City Council Local Plan NWS31 - Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Version: V3.0
Issue Date: September 2025
Report Ref: 25518-NWS31-PEA-V3.0

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Version	Author	Description	Date
V0.1	JS	First draft	19/08/2025
V0.2	ST	Quality assurance check 1 (QA1)	22/08/2025
V0.3	JS	Amendments following QA1	22/08/2025
V0.4	CC	QA2	26/08/2025
V1.0-3.0	JS	Client issue	10/09/2025

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Contents

Executive Summary	3
1. Introduction	5
1.1 Background	5
1.2 Legislation	5
2. Methodology	7
2.1 Data Consultation	7
2.2 Ecological Walkover Survey	8
2.3 Protected and Key Species	8
2.4 Invasive Species.....	11
2.5 Assumptions and Limitations	11
3. Results and Evaluation	12
3.1 Site Description	12
3.2 Designated Sites	12
3.3 Habitats.....	13
3.4 Species.....	16
3.5 Invasive Species.....	21
4. Ecological Constraints and Recommendations	22
4.1 Proposals	22
4.2 Constraints, Potential Impacts and Recommendations	22
5. Ecological Enhancement	38
6. References.....	40
Figure 1:UK Habitat Classification Map.....	41
Figure 2: Designated Sites Map	42
Figure 3: Waterbody Location Map	43
Appendix 1: Target Notes	44
Appendix 2: Site Photographs.....	45
Appendix 3: Non-Statutory Designated Sites.....	46
Appendix 4: Bird Species.....	50

Executive Summary

Cura Terrae Land & Nature (Cura Terrae) was commissioned in July 2025 by Sheffield City Council (SCC) to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) for a circa 3.91-hectare (ha) area of land between Storth Lane and School Lane, Wharncliffe Side, Sheffield, S35 0DT (Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OS NGR): SK 29645 94442), hereafter referred to as 'the Site' and as annotated in Figure 1.

At the time of writing, no detailed development proposals for the Site were available. However, it is understood that SCC may consider removing the Site from its current Green Belt designation and bringing it forward for potential residential development in the future, so this report is based on reasonable estimates and assumptions. The impact assessment and recommendations made within this report would therefore need to be confirmed following a review of any finalised plans for the Site where these become available.

Wheata Woods Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is located within 2 km and the Site is located within one Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) relating to Peak District Moors Special Protection Area (SPA), South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Dark Peaks Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) that are all located approximately 5 km west of the Site. Consultation with Natural England may be required once finalised plans for the Site become available.

The Glen Howe Park Local Wildlife Site (LWS) including the Tinker Brook (WC1, Figure 1) adjoin the Site directly to the south. If detailed proposals become available, a full impact assessment should be undertaken prior to any planning decision so SCC can identify any potential impacts and if necessary, design an appropriate mitigation strategy to safeguard the conservation objectives and status of the LWS including the Tinker Brook.

It is recommended that a Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEMP) be prepared to inform any future proposals for the Site given the proximity of the LWS and the range of habitat and species protection measures likely to be required.

The habitat information detailed within this report should form the baseline habitat information for a feasibility stage Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment (BNGA) and predicted quantitative biodiversity values, to be completed should detailed proposals become available for the Site. Given that the Tinker Brook is located within 10 metres of Site, impacts from any future proposals will need to be assessed through a River Condition Assessment (RCA) which would feed into the BNGA and any post-development scenario modelling.

It is recommended that an Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) walkover survey is undertaken during the appropriate botanical season (April to September inclusive) to fully determine the presence or likely absence of INNS within the Site ahead of any proposed development commencing. This will inform recommendations for management, treatment, or removal of any INNS encountered to facilitate the works. Any proposed works should follow standard measures to include biosecurity measures to be

implemented during the construction and operational phases to reduce the possibility of spread of invasive species and wildlife diseases.

Key recommendations with regards to protected species are as follows:

Due to the presence of suitable terrestrial habitat within the Site and waterbodies within 500 m of the Site (including WB1 within 250m and WB2 located at 500m from the Site; Figure 3), it is possible that Great Crested Newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus* are present on or nearby to the Site. Therefore, it is advised that an application is made through the District Level Licencing (DLL) Scheme for GCN to allow any proposed works to proceed. Alternatively, waterbodies within 250 m of the Site should be subject to a GCN eDNA survey to inform the need for any mitigation measures with regards to GCN (including the requirement for DLL).

A pre-works badger *Meles meles* walkover is recommended to check for badger activity field signs including signs of newly established badger setts on Site and within 30 m of the Site boundary within three months prior to any development commencing, with a second check within 24 hours (h) ahead of site clearance and construction works commencing.

Should felling/removal or management of trees assessed as displaying suitability for roosting bats be required, these should be subject to further assessment to determine the presence or likely absence of roosting bats and requirement for any mitigation, including licencing, where appropriate.

In order to assess any impacts of any proposals on the Site which is considered to display 'Moderate' suitability for foraging and commuting bats, a suite of bat activity surveys comprising of nighttime bat walkover surveys (NBW) and static monitoring surveys should be undertaken in accordance with good practice guidelines (Collins, 2023).

Breeding bird surveys are recommended to fully consider the impacts of any proposals to the future conservation of certain species in the local area.

Reptile surveys should be carried out to determine the presence or likely absence of reptiles on-site and inform appropriate mitigation and compensation measures where appropriate.

Best Practice Measures (BPM) with regards to nesting birds should be in place during any proposed vegetation clearance.

BPM are outlined for common amphibians, badger, otter *Lutra lutra*, hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* and brown hare *Lepus europaeus* to be adhered to during any proposed vegetation clearance and construction (to be detailed in CEMP).

Outline recommendations for ecological enhancement in the form of bat and bird boxes, hedgehog houses, hedgehog highways, insect towers and native planting are recommended to be incorporated as part of any proposals for the Site. Final details for enhancements for those species requiring further survey would need to be confirmed following a review of any finalised plans for the Site along with the results of any further protected species surveys undertaken.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Cura Terrae Land & Nature (Cura Terrae) was commissioned in July 2025 by Sheffield City Council (SCC) to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) for a circa 3.91-hectare (ha) area of land between Storth Lane and School Lane, Wharncliffe Side, Sheffield, S35 0DT (Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OS NGR): SK 29645 94442), hereafter referred to as ‘the Site’ and as annotated in Figure 1.
- 1.1.2 The red line boundary for the Site is taken from the ‘Housing Site’ boundary for NWS31, as detailed in the ‘Sheffield Plan Proposed Additional Site Allocations May 2025’ document (SCC, 2025).
- 1.1.3 At the time of writing, no detailed development proposals for the Site were available. However, it is understood that SCC may consider removing the Site from its current Green Belt designation and bringing it forward for potential residential development in the future, so this report is based on reasonable estimates and assumptions. The impact assessment and recommendations made within this report would therefore need to be confirmed following a review of any finalised plans for the Site where these become available.
- 1.1.4 The purpose of the PEA was to record and map habitats and assess the potential for the Site to support (or contain) species protected under UK nature conservation legislation, namely the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA), the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the Habitats Regulations) and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC). For full details of legislation relating to those habitats and species discussed within this report visit <http://www.legislation.gov.uk>.
- 1.1.5 This report details the findings of a data consultation and ecological walkover survey carried out during July 2025. The methodologies employed and all survey findings are described along with an evaluation and assessment of the ecological importance of habitats present within the Site and a discussion of likely protected/priority species presence. Any requirement for further survey or assessments and/or mitigation/enhancement is also detailed as required.

1.2 Legislation

- 1.2.1 The primary purpose of the PEA was to identify any ecological constraints to the proposed works, including designated sites, habitats and species protected by legislation, namely, but not limited to:

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

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (“the Habitats Regulations”);

The Protection of Badgers Act 1992;

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006; and

The Environment Act 2021; and,

The Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for Sheffield originally produced by the Sheffield Biodiversity Partnership (Sheffield Biodiversity Steering Group, ‘Sheffield Local Biodiversity Action Plan’, 2002) with updates made in 2012 (in partnership with SCC) including production of Action Plans for four main habitat types (grassland, woodland, heathland and wetland), Action Plans for the River Don and South Yorkshire Navigation Canals, Action Plans for Green Roofs and Species Action Plans (e.g. white clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*).

2. Methodology

2.1 Data Consultation

- 2.1.1 A data consultation was undertaken by Cura Terrae in July 2025 with SCC to determine the presence of existing biological records and local non-statutory designated sites of nature conservation interest within 2 km of the Site. All records were received directly from SCC and were reviewed, but records dating from the past ten years are considered to have greater relevance. Data consultations are an important component of a PEA and are the first stage of identifying any ecological constraints and assessing the likely ecological effects of a development proposal.
- 2.1.2 The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website (<http://magic.defra.gov.uk>) was consulted in July 2025 for information on statutory designated sites of nature conservation interest, including the presence of any relevant Impact Risk Zones (IRZs). IRZs were developed by Natural England to provide an initial assessment of the potential risk to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) (statutory designated sites). MAGIC was also used to identify the presence of European Protected Species (EPS) mitigation licences within 2 km of the Site. MAGIC was also used to search for information relating to Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus* (GCN) class survey licence return data and GCN pond survey data (2017-2019) within 250 m of the Site, as well as the presence of watercourses within 30 m of the Site.
- 2.1.3 Natural England's (NE) GCN Risk Zone dataset was consulted to give an understanding of the potential presence of GCN in the local area and therefore the likelihood of the species being present on the Site. This dataset identifies areas where the distribution of GCN has been categorised into district zones relating to GCN occurrence and the level of impact development is likely to have on this species. These zones are split into Red, Amber, Green and White and are described as follows:
- Red zone – contains key populations of GCN, which are important on a regional, national or international scale and include designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest for GCN;
- Amber zone – contains main population centres for GCN and comprise important connecting habitat that aids natural dispersal;
- Green zone – contains sparsely distributed GCN and are less likely to contain important pathways of connecting habitat for this species; and,
- White zone – contains no GCN. However, as most of England forms the natural range of GCN, white zones are rare and will only be used when it is certain that there are no GCN.
- 2.1.4 Information obtained from SCC, MAGIC, and NE is included within this report where appropriate.

2.2 Ecological Walkover Survey

- 2.2.1 The Site was surveyed on the 23rd July 2025 by Senior Ecologist James Storey MSc BSc following good practice: the UK Habitat Classification System (UKHab 2.0) (UKHab Ltd., 2023). This survey method aims to define the habitat types present and is not intended to provide a complete list of all plants occurring across the Site.
- 2.2.2 The UKHab survey covered land within the Site (as illustrated by the red line boundary in Figure 1). Habitats and vegetation types present inside the Site were recorded using primary codes on to a field map and notable, rare or scarce plant species, including other features of ecological interest, were highlighted and marked using Target Notes (TN). The current management of habitats and associated features were noted and assigned UKHab secondary codes where relevant. Secondary codes are denoted in square brackets e.g. [32 - Scattered trees] within the report and Figure 1.
- 2.2.3 Evidence of protected species or species of nature conservation importance were recorded where present at the time of survey. Habitats present that are listed as Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI) under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 or as priority habitats in the Sheffield Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) were also noted.
- 2.2.4 Survey findings and TN are detailed in Section 3 and annotated on Figure 1, with details of TNs provided in Appendix 2, and photographs in Appendix 2.
- 2.2.5 The abundance of plant species recorded within each habitat was classified according to the DAFOR rating. The standard terms are as follows:
- D – Dominant;
 - A – Abundant;
 - F – Frequent;
 - O – Occasional; and,
 - R – Rare.
- 2.2.6 The importance of ecological features present within the Site was determined based on the guidance given in CIEEM Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM, 2017) and Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (CIEEM, 2024). Individual ecological receptors (habitats and species) that could be affected by the proposed development were assigned levels of importance for nature conservation. The highest level is International, then decreasing in order of importance through UK, national, regional, county, local, and lastly site level (within the zone of influence).

2.3 Protected and Key Species

- 2.3.1 Any evidence of or potential for protected species or groups encountered during the survey was recorded. These included observations of field signs and an assessment of the suitability of the

habitats present to support protected species. For full details of legislation relating to all habitats and species discussed within this report visit <http://www.legislation.gov.uk>.

Amphibians

- 2.3.2 The Site was assessed with regards to its potential to support amphibians, including GCN.
- 2.3.3 A desk-based search for waterbodies within 500 m of the Site, which are not separated by a significant barrier to amphibian dispersal, were searched for using 1:10,000 OS mapping.
- 2.3.4 Habitats within the Site were assessed for their suitability to support amphibians during their terrestrial and aquatic stages. The connectivity of any suitable habitat within the Site to other habitat within the surrounding area was assessed during the Site visit and through visual analysis of aerial imagery.

Badger

- 2.3.5 Signs of badger *Meles meles* activity were searched for within the Site and up to 30 m beyond the perimeter of the Site observed, where possible.
- 2.3.6 The survey followed standard methodology detailed in 'Surveying Badgers' (Harris et al., 1989), 'The History, distribution, status and habitat requirements of the badger in Britain' (JNCC, 1990) and guidance from the Badger Conservation Trust (August 2023) 'Badger Protection: Best Practice Guidance for Developers, Ecologists and Planner (England)'.
- 2.3.7 This included survey for badger setts, latrine/dung pits, foraging marks, feeding signs (e.g. snuffle holes), footprints, badger hairs and worn pathways.
- 2.3.8 The survey focused on areas with suitable topography and/or vegetation for sett building as well as key habitats favoured for foraging such as woodland, hedgerows, field margins and banks.

Bats

- 2.3.9 A Daytime Bat Walkover (DBW) assessment of trees on or immediately adjacent to the Site was undertaken during the ecological walkover survey, where accessible, using the recommended survey protocol (Collins, 2023).
- 2.3.10 An individual tree may have several features of potential interest to roosting bats associated with it and given their often highly transient nature, it is not always possible to confirm usage of a feature by bats during a single visit. Consequently, it is customary when undertaking such surveys to assign each feature on a tree to a defined category of: None, Further Assessment Required (FAR), Potential Roosting Feature – Individual (PRF-I), or Potential Roosting Feature – Multiple (PRF-M).

- 2.3.11 The Site was also assessed for its suitability for use by foraging and commuting bats in accordance with good practice guidelines (Collins, 2023) in relation to the availability of suitable habitat in the wider area off-site.

Birds

- 2.3.12 In 2021, an assessment of Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) was published by Stanbury *et al.* (2021), which defined rare and threatened bird species on three lists (Red, Amber and Green) describing the level of threat to each species of concern. “Red” is the highest conservation priority, with species needing urgent action, to “Green”, indicating that the species are relatively unthreatened.
- 2.3.13 Records provided by SCC was filtered for WCA 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 bird species and those species protected under Annex 1 of the EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds, also known as the Birds Directive. Priority species (NERC Act 2006, LBAP) were likewise highlighted and the BoCC was also referred to.
- 2.3.14 During the survey, habitats on the Site and immediately surrounding the Site were assessed for their potential value to nesting, wintering and foraging birds.

Invertebrates

- 2.3.15 The habitats present on the Site and immediately surrounding the Site were assessed for their suitability to support protected and notable invertebrates.

Reptiles

- 2.3.16 The habitats present on the Site were assessed for their suitability to support reptiles, with reference to their connectivity with other areas of suitable habitat within the wider landscape. Any incidental reptile encounters made during the survey were recorded.

Riparian Mammals and White-clawed Crayfish

- 2.3.17 A desk-based search for watercourses on, and within 30 m of, the Site which are not separated from the Site by a significant barrier to dispersal was undertaken using OS 1:10,000 mapping.
- 2.3.18 Where present and access was possible, watercourses were subsequently assessed for their suitability to support otter *Lutra lutra*, water vole *Arvicola amphibius* and white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*.

Other Key and Notable Species

- 2.3.19 Whilst on Site habitats were assessed for their potential to support any other nationally, locally scarce, or locally notable species.

2.4 Invasive Species

- 2.4.1 Whilst on the Site any evidence of invasive non-native species (INNS), as listed on Schedule 9 of the WCA 1981 (as amended), was recorded and mapped where seen.

2.5 Assumptions and Limitations

- 2.5.1 Data provided by SCC was supplemented by submissions from local species groups (i.e. South Yorkshire Bat Group (SYBG)). However, at the time of reporting, SCC had not provided any data held by the Sheffield Bird Study Group. As a result, the bird records included in this report do not represent a comprehensive list for the local area. For the purposes of this PEA, this omission was not considered a significant constraint when evaluating the habitats on-site for their potential to support nesting, wintering, or foraging bird species.
- 2.5.2 An ecological walkover survey is intended to provide a rapid assessment of habitats present within a site and is not intended to replace detailed vegetation or targeted protected species surveys, where deemed necessary. Where a greater level of information is necessary to inform an assessment, recommendations have been made to undertake further detailed survey.
- 2.5.3 The roosting suitability of the trees was assessed from ground level. Based on the height of PRFs recorded, it was not possible to adequately assess PRFs and as such, as a precautionary measure all trees with potential suitability were categorised as FAR.

3. Results and Evaluation

3.1 Site Description

- 3.1.1 The Site is approximately 3.91 ha and is formally identified under SCC's 'Green Belt' designation, forming part of a wider area of Public Open Space (POS) located between Storth Lane to the west, the Tinker Brook and Glen Howe Park & Woodland immediately to the south, and the village of Wharncliffe Side to the north and east. The wider landscape consisted of agricultural land interspersed by pockets of woodland largely associated with the Peak District National Park located approximately 1 km to the west, and the villages of Wharncliffe Side and Oughtibridge, and Wharncliffe Wood to the north, east and south of the Site respectively. The Tinker Brook watercourse is located beyond the southern boundary (≤ 10 metres (m)) and flows from west to east before feeding into the River Don, which is located approximately 0.12 km east of the Site.

3.2 Designated Sites

- 3.2.1 One statutory designated site was identified within 2 km of the Site, which relates to Wheata Woods Local Nature Reserve (LNR), as detailed in Table 1 below and illustrated in Figure 2.

Table 1: Designated Sites within 2 km of the Site

Designated Site	Citation Summary	Approximate Distance and Direction from the Site
Statutory		
Wheata Woods LNR	Comprising of ancient woodland which supports kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> , sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i> , woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> and red deer <i>Cervus elaphus</i> .	2 km east

- 3.2.2 Wheata Woods LNR is of importance to nature conservation at the national level.
- 3.2.3 The Site is located within one Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) relating to Peak District Moors Special Protection Area (SPA), South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Dark Peaks Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) that are all located approximately 5 km west of the Site. No risks relating to the IRZ and likely impacts from a residential development at the Site were identified when consulting the risk register, although this would need to be assessed in full should detailed proposals become available.

- 3.2.4 A total of 19 non-statutory designated sites were provided by SCC for locations within 2 km of the Site, relating to 19 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS). Glen Howe Park LWS adjoins the Site directly to the south, which is designated as an area of POS comprising a mixture of habitats including ornamental gardens, plantation woodland, semi-natural woodland and semi-improved neutral grassland, plus two streams and a small pond. All non-statutory designated sites within 2 km of the Site are listed and described further in Appendix 3.
- 3.2.5 The non-statutory designated sites are of importance to nature conservation at between the local and county level.

3.3 Habitats

- 3.3.1 Habitats recorded on the Site, their distribution and composition are discussed in order of dominance below. Habitat locations and TN depicting features of ecological interest are annotated on Figure 1. TN descriptions are provided at Appendix 2. Site photographs are displayed in Appendix 2.

Grassland – Other Neutral Grassland (g3c) [10 – Scattered scrub, 12 – Scattered bracken, 16 – Tall forbs, 200 - Tree, 518 – Neglected, 521 – Unmanaged]

- 3.3.2 The majority of the Site comprised other neutral grassland which had a varying sward height of between 10 and 50 cm (Plates 1-2, Appendix 2). Species included abundant common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, frequent red fescue *Festuca rubra*, cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*, meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, common couch *Elymus repens*, creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera* and cleavers *Galium aparine*.
- 3.3.3 More localised areas contained occasional broadleaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, lady's mantle *Alchemilla vulgaris* agg., common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, red clover *Trifolium pratense*, marsh woundwort *Stachys palustris*, and rare sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, cut-leaved cranesbill *Geranium dissectum*, greater plantain *Plantago major*, white clover *Trifolium repens*, lesser stitchwort *Stellaria graminea*, meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, rosebay willowherb *Chamerion angustifolium*, tufted vetch *Vicia cracca*, knotgrass *Polygonum aviculare* and red bartsia *Pteridium aquilinum*.
- 3.3.4 Areas of scattered bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. scrub [10] and bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* [12] were also present amongst the sward in localised areas towards the boundaries of the Site. Three trees [200] were present including one sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and two ash *Fraxinus excelsior*.

- 3.3.5 Other neutral grassland of this nature is not a HPI under the NERC Act 2006, although grasslands are covered within the Grasslands Habitat Action Plan for Sheffield. Neutral grassland of higher biodiversity tends to cover unimproved neutral grassland (e.g. lowland meadows). Such habitats are typically characterised by a high proportion of broadleaved herbaceous species relative to grasses and are often maintained through traditional practices such as hay cutting followed by aftermath grazing. In this case, the habitat shows signs of neglect, including encroaching scrub and trees, dominance of coarse grasses, and high footfall from local residents creating several well-worn and trampled paths which support species indicative of sub-optimal condition. These features suggest that natural succession is underway, and that this habitat may be part of a broader network of degraded or unmanaged meadows that are known to be prevalent in the local area. Despite this, this habitat remains suitable for supporting a variety of protected species (discussed in Section 3.4) and is therefore considered to be of up to local value for nature conservation.

Heathland and shrub – Bramble Scrub (h3d) [32 – Scattered trees, 201 – Young trees – planted]

- 3.3.6 Two well established areas of bramble scrub were present towards the west and centre of the Site (Plates 3-4, Appendix 2), with the central area containing an area of recently planted tree saplings [201] that included occasional hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, hazel *Corylus avellana* and oak [32].
- 3.3.7 Bramble scrub with scattered trees is not a HPI under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 and is not listed as a priority habitat within the LBAP. These areas were of limited botanical value due to the prevalence of commonly occurring species. Given the prevalence of this habitat locally and its limited species diversity; bramble scrub at the Site is considered to be of no more than site level importance to nature conservation.

Heathland and shrub – Other Blackthorn Scrub (h3a6)

- 3.3.8 An area of blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* dominated scrub was present adjacent to the east boundary of the Site (Plate 5, Appendix 2).
- 3.3.9 Other blackthorn scrub is not a HPI under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 and is not listed as a priority habitat within the LBAP. Given the prevalence of this habitat locally and its limited species diversity; other blackthorn scrub at the Site is considered to be of no more than site level importance to nature conservation.

Other Broadleaved Woodland (w1g) [34 – Ecologically valuable line of trees]

- 3.3.10 Four sections of line of trees (L1-3, Figure 1) were present through the centre and along the west and south boundaries of the Site (Plate 6, Appendix 2), with the latter being associated with the Glen Howe Woodland located immediately south of the Site. All sections comprised

predominantly of mature species including frequent sessile oak, ash, sycamore, with occasional hawthorn, wild cherry *Prunus avium*, elder *Sambucus nigra* and hazel.

- 3.3.11 The ground layer beneath L1-3 was predominantly composed of colonising young bramble (less than 10cm height) and lacked herbaceous ground flora species.
- 3.3.12 L1-3 fall under the definition ‘lines of trees’ given that they are a boundary feature over 20 m long and less than 5 m wide and the canopy base is more than 2m in height with open habitat on each side. The lines of trees are classed as ecological valuable lines of trees [34] due to presence of more than or equal to one mature tree per 30m length. L1-3 would qualify as a HPI under the NERC Act 2006 as a boundary line of trees or shrubs (over 20m long and less than 5m wide, where gaps between the trees or shrub species are less than 20m wide) and comprising 80% of at least one native woody species. Line of trees are also listed within the LBAP and form a network of habitat connected to the neighbouring Glen Howe Park LWS to the south. As such, the line of trees at the Site are considered to be of importance to nature conservation at the local level.

Woodland and Forest – Other Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (w1f7) [30 – Semi-natural woodland, 203 – Mature tree, 204 – Veteran tree]

- 3.3.13 Three areas of other lowland deciduous woodland (w1f7) associated with the Glen Howe Park LWS straddle the south boundary of the Site (Plate 7, Appendix 2). Tree and shrub species recorded were predominantly mature and included frequent sessile oak (including one specimen with veteran features (TN9, Appendix 1 - Plate 10, Appendix 2), ash, sycamore, and wych elm *Ulmus glabra*, and rare holly *Ilex aquifolium*.
- 3.3.14 The ground layer included frequent common ivy *Hedera helix*, garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolate* and wood avens *Geum urbanum*, with occasional common nettle *Urtica dioica*, wood speedwell *Veronica montana*, herb robert *Geranium robertianum*, and rare broadleaved willowherb *Epilobium montanum*, germander speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys*, black bryony *Dioscorea communis*, wood millet *Milium effusum*, wood fern *Dyopteris sp.* and enchanter’s nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*.
- 3.3.15 Other lowland mixed deciduous woodland is listed as a HPI under the NERC Act 2006 and is covered in the LBAP’s Woodlands Habitat Action Plan for Sheffield. Given the association of this habitat with the neighbouring Glen Howe Park LWS and its importance for supporting protected and notable species (discussed in Section 3.4), the woodland present on the Site is considered to be of importance to nature conservation at the county level.

Species-rich Native Hedgerow [11 – Hedgerow with trees]

- 3.3.16 One section of species-rich native hedgerow (H1, Figure 1) with mature trees was present along the north boundary of the Site, comprising of frequent ash, hawthorn, sycamore, sessile oak and hazel (Plate 8, Appendix 2).

- 3.3.17 The species-rich native hedgerow with trees present at the Site qualifies as a HPI under the NERC Act 2006 as it comprises 80% of at least one native woody species. Hedgerows are also listed within the LBAP and as such, the hedgerow on Site is considered to be of importance to nature conservation at up to the local level.

3.4 Species

Amphibians

- 3.4.1 SCC provided no records of amphibians for locations within 2 km of the Site. A search of MAGIC revealed no GCN EPS licences, Class Survey Licence Returns or Pond Survey Data within 2 km of the Site. The Site is located partially within Amber and Green Risk Zones for Natural England (NE) District Level Licencing (DLL). Amber Zones contain main population centres for GCN and comprise important connecting habitat that aids natural dispersal and Green Zones contain sparsely distributed GCN and are less likely to contain important pathways of connecting habitat for this species.
- 3.4.2 No aquatic habitat was recorded on the Site. Using OS mapping, a total of two waterbodies (WB1-2, Figure 3) were identified within 500 m of the Site (the typical upper dispersal limit for GCN), with WB1 being located within 250 m of the Site (the typical dispersal distance for GCN) which may provide suitable aquatic breeding habitat for amphibians including GCN. Tinker Brook (WC1, Figure 3) is located within 10 m of the Site to the south, however flowing watercourses are typically unsuitable for breeding amphibians and the brook is therefore considered unlikely to support breeding GCN and common amphibians.
- 3.4.3 The Site offers suitable terrestrial habitats for amphibians including GCN for dispersal, foraging, sheltering and hibernating. Suitable dispersal habitat in the form of grassland, woodland and hedgerows is located between the Site and waterbodies within 500 m of the Site, although WB1 is separated from the Site by Tinker Brook which may act as minor barrier to dispersal during periods of high flow, and a mixture of roads and buildings exist between the Site and WB2.
- 3.4.4 Garden ponds/water features may exist in the local area off-site. In general, such water features are usually relatively small in size and are more likely to be used by common amphibians i.e. smooth newt *Lissotriton vulgaris*, palmate newt *Lissotriton helveticus* and/or common frog *Rana temporaria* (albeit GCN and common toad *Bufo bufo* may use them in certain circumstances; for example, if there is a larger waterbody close by that supports either of these species).
- 3.4.5 Based on the availability of similar to higher quality terrestrial habitat in the surrounding area of the Site, lack of aquatic habitat within the Site, and low number of waterbodies identified within 500 m of the Site, the Site is considered unlikely to support large populations of amphibians including GCN and is therefore considered to be of no higher than site level importance to amphibians.

Badger

- 3.4.6 SCC provided no records of badger for locations within 2 km of the Site.
- 3.4.7 No signs of badger, including setts or latrines, were identified on or within 30 m of the Site during the survey. The habitats within the Site display suitability for sett building, primarily beneath the lines of trees, the hedgerow and within and around the edges of bramble and blackthorn scrub, and within 30 m of the Site particularly within the Glen Howe Park woodland to the south and west. All habitats on the Site provide suitability for foraging and commuting badgers and these are connected to other similar habitat in the wider area including grassland, scrub and woodland.
- 3.4.8 Given the lack of badger setts recorded on or within 30 m of the Site during the walkover survey and the abundance of suitable sett building, foraging and commuting habitats in the wider area, it is considered that the Site is of importance to badgers at up to site level only.

Bats

- 3.4.9 SCC provided a total of 44 records of bats for locations within 2 km of the Site, 23 of which pertained to records of roosting bats. Roost records pertained to brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*, common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, whiskered bat *Myotis mystacinus*, Pipistrelle species *Pipistrellus spp.* and soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*. The closest record pertained to a whiskered bat day roost, located approximately 0.11 km south of the Site from 2018. The remaining records pertained to foraging, commuting or grounded bats, with species including common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, whiskered bat, Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii*, brown long-eared bat, Leisler's bat *Nyctalus leisleri* and noctule *Nyctalus noctula*.
- 3.4.10 A search of MAGIC returned seven EPS licences relating to bats within 2 km of the Site, the closest located approximately 0.11 km south of the Site and covered the damage of a brown long-eared bat and whiskered bat resting place between 2018 and 2023 (2018-38141-EPS-MIT).

Roosting bats

- 3.4.11 A total of nine trees located on or within 10 m of the Site boundary were assessed as displaying suitability for roosting bats and categorised as Further Assessment Required (FAR) (Plates 9-10, Appendix 2). All other trees were considered to display 'None' suitability for roosting bats. A description of trees displaying suitability for roosting bats is provided in Appendix 2.

Foraging and commuting bats

- 3.4.12 The Site contains suitable foraging and commuting habitat including grassland, scrub, mature trees, the hedgerow and woodland straddling the south boundary of the Site. The wider woodland block and neighbouring Tinker Brook form a corridor connecting other suitable to higher quality habitats in the wider area including the River Don and a mosaic of ancient and semi-natural woodland to the south and east.

- 3.4.13 Given the presence of suitable habitat with connectivity to similar to higher quality habitats in the wider area, the Site is deemed to display 'Moderate' suitability for foraging and commuting bats in accordance with good practice guidelines (Collins, 2023).

Birds

- 3.4.14 SCC provided a total of 102 records pertaining to 44 bird species for locations within 2 km of the Site, pertaining to one Schedule 1 species (as listed within the WCA 1981 (as amended), seven Red, 13 Amber and 24 Green listed BoCC species, as summarised in Appendix 4.
- 3.4.15 The woodland, hedgerow, line of trees and scrub on the Site have suitability to support a variety of breeding and foraging bird species including nesting associated with the PRFs on trees identified as suitable for roosting bats. The grassland also displays some suitability for ground-nesting bird species, although this is considered limited due to high footfall from local residents and dog walkers.
- 3.4.16 The grassland within the Site and connectivity to other suitable habitats in the wider landscape provide suitable hunting grounds for barn owl and other birds of prey due to these habitats likely supporting local populations of prey species including voles, shrews and mice. None of the trees identified as having suitability for roosting bats on or adjacent to the Site were considered to display suitability for nesting barn owl.
- 3.4.17 Similar to high quality habitat is available in the wider area including grassland, scrub, mature trees and hedgerows as well as the woodland directly to the south and west of the Site suitable for a variety of bird species. As such, habitats on the Site are considered to be of importance to breeding and foraging birds at the site level only.
- 3.4.18 The hedgerows, scrub and trees on Site include berry-producing species such as hawthorn, bramble, blackthorn, holly and elder which provide a foraging resource in autumn and winter for species such as redwing *Turdus iliacus* and fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* as well as other overwintering bird species, although there is extensive availability of these habitats within the wider area. Overall, based on the relatively small size of the Site and the availability of similar to higher quality habitats in the wider area, the Site is unlikely to support notable numbers of wintering birds and is therefore considered to be of importance for wintering birds at up to the site level only.

Invertebrates

- 3.4.19 SCC provided a total of 91 records of invertebrates for locations within 2 km of the Site, with the closest record pertaining to a holly blue *Celastrina argiolus* butterfly recorded within the Site boundary from 2018.
- 3.4.20 The Site supports a variety of plant species and habitat structures that provide suitable floral resources and basking opportunities for a range of invertebrates. The grassland, scrub, hedgerow and line of trees on the Site provide suitable foraging and commuting corridors for a variety of

pollinators. Whilst suitable habitat is present at the Site, given the availability of habitat in the wider area of similar to higher quality, the Site is considered unlikely to be importance to invertebrates at above the site level.

Reptiles

- 3.4.21 SCC provided no records of reptiles for locations within 2 km of the Site.
- 3.4.22 Site habitats including a mixture of grassland with varied sward heights along with scrub and hedgerow margins provide a variety of shelter (including hibernation), basking, dispersal and foraging opportunities for reptiles, although areas of the Site that receive regular footfall from residents and dog walkers are considered to be suboptimal based on existing disturbance levels. There is direct connectivity to suitable habitats within the Site with other similar to higher quality habitats such as grassland, woodland edges and scrub in the wider area off-site.
- 3.4.23 It is considered highly unlikely that the Site would support more than low numbers of common reptiles such as common lizard, slow worm and grass snake given the small size of the Site, existing disturbance levels, and the availability of larger areas of similar to higher value habitat in the wider area. As such, the Site is considered to be of no more the site level importance for reptiles.

Riparian Mammals and White-Clawed Crayfish

Otter

- 3.4.24 SCC provided no records of otter for locations within 2 km of the Site.
- 3.4.25 No evidence of otter was recorded during the survey on Site or within 30 m of the Site, although the Tinker Brook located beyond the south boundary displays suitability for otter foraging and commuting. Given the existing disturbance levels experienced by the brook and surrounding woodland from local residents and dog walkers, this section of watercourse is unlikely to provide opportunities for holt/den establishment compared to sections of the River Don located to the east, which will also offer more foraging opportunities. Site habitats are similarly sub-optimal based on existing disturbance levels and lack of seasonally available food resources that may support resting and foraging otter. Otters have a large home range of up to 20-40 km (depending on whether female or male) and therefore if present locally could use the Site as part of a wider territory for commuting purposes only.
- 3.4.26 Based on the relatively limited value of habitats on Site compared to the availability of similar to higher quality habitats located further downstream off-site, the resources available on Site are considered unlikely to be of more than site level importance to otter.

Water Vole

3.4.27 SCC provided no records of water vole for locations within 2 km of the Site.

3.4.28 No suitable aquatic habitat is present for water vole on Site. No evidence of water vole was recorded on or within 30 m of the Site during the survey. The Site itself is not considered to contain habitats typically considered to be suitable for water vole.

3.4.29 The Tinker Brook located off-site is surrounded by closed canopy woodland and has a lack of suitable bankside vegetation (i.e. tall grasses and herbs) for feeding and shelter, although more suitable riparian habitat exists further downstream along the River Don (i.e. unimproved grassland). Given the lack of suitable habitat on Site and the limited suitability of aquatic habitat within 30 m of the Site, it is considered unlikely that water vole would be associated with the Site and they are not discussed further. Safeguards outlined for otter will help to protect water vole should they are associated with Tinker Brook at the time of any proposed works.

White-Clawed Crayfish

3.4.30 SCC provided no records of white-clawed crayfish (WCC) for locations within 2 km of the Site.

3.4.31 Tinker Brook is considered of limited suitability for WCC due to its high flow rate and limited dispersal opportunities for WCC upstream from the River Don given the presence of cascade and chute features identified along the watercourse. Furthermore, established populations of the American signal crayfish *Pacifastacus leniusculus* are known to exist along the River Don, which is known to outcompete, predate and bring disease into populations of WCC, making the presence of WCC in the Tinker Brook even more unlikely. Given this, and the lack of aquatic habitat on Site, it is considered unlikely that WCC would be associated with the Site and they are not discussed further in this report. Should they be associated with the River Don further downstream off-site, general pollution measures outlined in Section 4.1 will safeguard WCC should they be present off-site at the time of any proposed works.

Other Notable and Key Species

Hedgehog

3.4.32 SCC provided no records of hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* for locations within 2 km of the Site.

3.4.33 Site habitats including grassland, scrub, tree lines and hedgerow display suitability for foraging, commuting and sheltering/hibernating hedgehog. However, given the abundance of similar to higher quality habitat in the surrounding area including woodland to the north of the Site, the resources on the Site are considered to be of importance to hedgehog at no greater than site level.

Brown Hare

3.4.34 SCC provided no records of brown hare *Lepus europaeus* for locations within 2 km of the Site.

- 3.4.35 Brown hares live in very exposed habitats, commonly found in grassland habitats and woodland edges, favouring a mosaic of arable field, grasses, woodland edge and hedgerows. Brown hare do not use burrows but make a small depression in the ground among long grass, known as 'forms'. Site habitats including the grassland, hedgerows, tree lines, scrub and woodland edges provide some suitability for brown hare although similar to higher quality habitat is present in the wider area. Therefore, the resources on the Site are considered to be of importance to brown hare at no greater than site level.

3.5 Invasive Species

- 3.5.1 SCC provided one record of invasive non-native plants for locations within 2 km Site, which pertained to Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* recorded approximately 0.1 km west of the Site in 2015. No records of invasive fauna were provided by SCC for locations within 2 km of the Site.
- 3.5.2 No invasive species were recorded within or adjacent the Site at the time of the survey.

4. Ecological Constraints and Recommendations

4.1 Proposals

- 4.1.1 At the time of writing, no detailed development proposals for the Site were available. However, it is understood that SCC may consider removing the Site from its current Green Belt designation and bringing it forward for potential residential development in the future, so this report is based on reasonable estimates and assumptions.

4.2 Constraints, Potential Impacts and Recommendations

- 4.2.1 The ecological constraints, and opportunities at the Site are discussed in the next sections with potential impacts (should development proposals be brought forward) included together with further survey/mitigation requirements detailed in Table 2. As detailed, the impact assessment and recommendations made within this report would need to be confirmed following a review of any finalised plans for the Site where these become available.
- 4.2.2 It is envisaged that this report will form an ecological baseline to aid the council's decision of removing the Sites current Green Belt designation. It is recommended that the council considers completing the protected species surveys identified in Table 2 to fully inform this decision. The Site habitats are considered to offer potential to support a range of species/species groups and opportunities exist to enhance habitats on Site to generate additional biodiversity value which will be considered further in the baseline BNGA to be prepared for the Site. Options such as registering the Site as a biodiversity net gain site on the national register may be a consideration together with Local Nature Recovery Strategy biodiversity priorities.
- 4.2.3 In accordance with published advice from CIEEM (2019), this PEA report will remain valid for a period of 18 months from the date of the survey. Should there be changes to the Site within this timeframe which may result in a change in the presence of habitats and/or species, an update survey should be considered. After 18 months an update PEA including site visit and desk study are likely to be required to inform an appropriate assessment of the potential impacts to ecological features and presence of protected species.

Table 2: Ecological Constraints, Impacts and Recommendations

Feature/Constraint	Potential Impact and Effect	Recommendation	Deliverable	Timing
Designated sites				
Wheata Woods LNR within 2 km and the Site is located within one Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) relating to Peak District Moors Special Protection Area (SPA), South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Dark Peaks Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) that are all located approximately 5 km west of the Site.	Due to the presence of both SSSI and LNR sites within 2 km and the Site falling within a SSSI IRZ, there is a risk that certain works on Site may have negative impacts on the identified statutory designated sites. Any development proposals brought forward for the Site are anticipated to be localised and are not expected to impact the integrity of the statutory designations listed. This is based on any proposals remaining wholly within the Site boundary and the distance between the Site and the designations as well as the specifics of the relevant IRZ. This will however need to be reviewed in full should proposals be brought forward.	Part of the Site is located within a SSSI Impact Risk Zone (IRZ). Works involving the following within the IRZ require consultation with Natural England: Infrastructure: Airports, helipads and other aviation proposals. Minerals, Oil and Gas: Oil & gas exploration/extraction. Air Pollution: Any industrial/agricultural development that could cause AIR POLLUTION (including: industrial processes, livestock & poultry units with a floorspace > 500m², slurry lagoons > 750m² & manure stores > 3500 tonnes). Combustion: General combustion processes >50MW energy input. Including: energy from waste incineration, other incineration, landfill gas generation plant, pyrolysis/gasification, anaerobic digestion, sewage treatment works, other incineration/combustion.	Consultation with Natural England if required	In advance of works if required

Feature/Constraint	Potential Impact and Effect	Recommendation	Deliverable	Timing
Glen Howe Park LWS	No direct impacts from any future proposals on the integrity of the LWS including the Tinker Brook are anticipated should the works remain wholly within the Site boundary, although there is likely to be some encroachment into the 'riparian zone' within 10 m of the brook. Indirect impacts from noise, vibration and pollution are anticipated during the any construction and operation phases.	It is recommended that a full impact assessment should be undertaken prior to any planning decision so SCC can identify any potential impacts and if necessary, design an appropriate mitigation strategy to safeguard the conservation objectives and status of the LWS including the Tinker Brook.	Further consultation and mitigation strategy (if needed)	Prior to any proposed works commencing
		If development proposals are brought forward for the Site, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is likely to be required for the Site to include appropriate mitigation measures to ensure the LWS is protected both during construction and post-development. This should include but may not be limited to dust management, noise control, designated refueling areas, spill mats, temporary fencing to prevent machinery encroachment, pollution prevention measures with regards to watercourses and lighting strategy to ensure the off-site riparian corridor and adjoining habitats (e.g. woodland) are not impacted by increased levels of illumination.	CEMP	Prior to any proposed works commencing

Feature/Constraint	Potential Impact and Effect	Recommendation	Deliverable	Timing
Other non-statutory designated sites	Any proposals brought forward for the Site will likely be localised and are not expected to impact the integrity of the other non-statutory designated sites identified within 2 km of the Site. This is based on any proposals remaining wholly within the Site boundary and the distance between the Site and the designated Site. This will however need to be reviewed in full should proposals be brought forward	N/A – although this should be re-addressed once any detailed proposals are made available for the Site.	N/A	N/A
Habitats	It is anticipated that any development proposals will likely result in the loss of the majority of Site habitats to accommodate residential plots, access roads and landscaping. Potential for impacts such as pollution of waterbodies and watercourses during works	The habitat information detailed within this report would form the baseline habitat information for a feasibility stage & design stage Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment (BNGA) and predicted quantitative biodiversity values, which can be completed once detailed proposals are made available or the Site. Given that the Tinker Brook is located within 10 m of Site and is likely to be impacted by any future proposals, it is recommended that a River Condition Assessment (RCA) is undertaken which	BNGA and associated report(s) including RCA	Feasibility Stage & Design stage BNGA to be completed ahead of any proposed works commencing

Feature/Constraint	Potential Impact and Effect	Recommendation	Deliverable	Timing
	without appropriate precautions	would feed into the BNGA and any post-development scenario modelling.		
		Pollution prevention measures should be followed in accord with the current Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP), documents that replace the old series of Pollution Prevention Guidance (PPGs) documents. All pollution prevention measures should be included in the CEMP.		
		Once any further surveys have been undertaken where required following review of proposals for the Site, the CEMP document should draw together the various precautionary measures and timing constraints into one document. This will include habitat protection measures such as the use of fencing of Root Protection Zones (RPZs) to safeguard retained trees and hedgerows and pollution presence (dust, noise, lighting) to protect both retained on Site habitats and off-site habitats.	CEMP document	Prior to any proposed works commencing
Protected and notable species				
Amphibians	Any vegetation clearance/ground works at the Site would result in loss/damage /disturbance of suitable terrestrial habitat for	Based on the presence of suitable terrestrial habitat on-site and the potential for GCN to be present within 500 m of the Site, it is advised that application is made through the District Level Licencing (DLL) Scheme for GCN to allow any future	DLL enquiry (if chosen) and license application (if required)	Prior to any proposed works commencing

Feature/Constraint	Potential Impact and Effect	Recommendation	Deliverable	Timing
	amphibians together with the associated risk of killing / injury/disturbance of amphibians, if present at the time of any proposed works.	development works to proceed. This application will advise a monetary contribution which will offset the damage done to GCN and their habitats during the works through compensatory habitat creation elsewhere within the district area. Alternatively, it is recommended that WB1 is subject to a GCN eDNA survey to determine the presence or likely absence of GCN and inform next steps.	eDNA survey (if chosen)	
		The CEMP should include Best Practice Measures (BPM) for common amphibians to be adhered to during any proposed construction works to avoid disturbance/injuring/killing of individual common amphibians and minimise the risk of disturbing/damaging potential aquatic habitat and terrestrial shelter and/or hibernation sites.	BPM included within CEMP document	Prior to any proposed works commencing and during works
Badger	Any habitat loss associated with proposals for the Site is considered to result in the loss of suitable sett building and foraging/commuting habitat for badgers.	It is advised that a pre-works badger walkover covering the Site and within 30 m of the Site boundary is completed by a suitably qualified ecologist within three months prior to any development commencing to confirm the presence/likely absence of badger on-site and the status of any setts identified on and/or off-site and appropriate mitigation measures. A second walkover survey should be completed within 24	Pre-works badger check/walkover(s)	Prior to any proposed works commencing

Feature/Constraint	Potential Impact and Effect	Recommendation	Deliverable	Timing
		hours (h) ahead of any site clearance and construction works commencing.		
	Killing injury /disturbance of badgers during construction and disturbance risks during construction and operational phases of the development (e.g.. increased levels of lighting, public access etc).	As a precautionary measure, BPM for badgers should be implemented throughout the construction phase to protect badgers in the event they are present at the time of any proposed works. The BPM should include: Deep excavations (>1m) or excavations with potential to flood will be securely fenced off to ground level or completely covered to ensure badgers cannot fall into potential pitfalls; Unfenced/uncovered shallow excavations (<1m) should have a pair of scaffold boards placed to one corner to act as an escape ramp, allowing any badgers to exit should they fall in; Open pipework will not be left open overnight; Any proposed works should be carried out during daylight hours, where possible; Lighting implemented during the construction and operational stages to be directed away from retained vegetation and off-site vegetated habitats. Tower lighting is not recommended. Hoods should be fitted to all lights to prevent light spill	BPM to be included in CEMP	CEMP to be prepared ahead of works and to apply during pre-works checks.

Feature/Constraint	Potential Impact and Effect	Recommendation	Deliverable	Timing
		behind or above the light. Lights should be turned off when not in use. It is recommended that vegetation clearance is kept to a minimum and does not exceed the planned amount. Appropriate storage of equipment and materials in designated areas and avoidance of stockpiling on Site. All waste to be securely stored in covered skips or containers to prevent materials littering the site. No litter to be left on Site. Should a suspected badger sett be encountered on Site or within 30m of the Site then works within 30m of the sett should cease and the ecologist contacted for advice. The CEMP should outline all measures to safeguard badgers during site clearance and construction.		

Feature/Constraint	Potential Impact and Effect	Recommendation	Deliverable	Timing
Bats (roosting)	Should any trees assessed as displaying suitability to support roosting bats require felling/removal or management to facilitate the proposals, roosting bats would be impacted through damage /destruction/obstruction of access to PRFs and associated injury/killing/disturbance of individual bats if present at the time of works.	Should felling/removal or management of trees categorised as FAR be required, these should be subject to further assessment to determine the presence or likely absence of roosting bats and requirement for any mitigation, including licencing, where appropriate.	Further survey (if required)	Prior to any proposed works commencing
	Impacts through artificial lighting during construction and operational phases of the development has the potential to disturb roosting bats without mitigation.	Sensitive lighting should be designed for the construction and operational phases, in accordance with current guidance from the Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night' (Guidance note 08/23). No artificial lighting (during the construction or operational stages) will be placed near to any potential bat roost features.	Sensitive lighting to be included in CEMP	

Feature/Constraint	Potential Impact and Effect	Recommendation	Deliverable	Timing
Bats (foraging and commuting)	The Site is considered to display 'Moderate' suitability for foraging and commuting bats. Any future proposals are likely to result in the loss of foraging and commuting habitats for bats and cause indirect impacts from increased lighting during the construction and operational phases, which may spill onto retained and created habitats.	In order to assess any impacts on foraging and commuting bats, a suite of bat activity surveys comprising of nighttime bat walkover surveys (NBW) and static monitoring surveys will be required. NBW surveys would be undertaken with at least one survey per season (i.e. once within April/May, once within June/August and once within September/October). Static bat detectors will cover linear and open habitats at the Site that would likely be impacted by the proposals and will be deployed for a minimum of five consecutive nights per month throughout the survey season (April to October inclusive) in line with current good practice guidance (Collins 2023). The findings of these surveys will inform the need for mitigation and compensation measures.	Bat activity surveys and associated report(s)	Prior to any proposed works commencing
		Lighting and the layout of any proposals (as well as any temporary lighting to be used during the construction phase) should be designed to avoid light-spill onto suitable retained and created habitats to safeguard these habitats as foraging, commuting and potential roosting resources. The lighting design should include consultation with an ecologist and be designed in accordance with current guidance from the Bat Conservation Trust '<i>Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night</i>' (Guidance note 08/23).	Sensitive lighting strategy	During any proposed works and post-development

Feature/Constraint	Potential Impact and Effect	Recommendation	Deliverable	Timing
		The CEMP should outline all measures to safeguard bats during site clearance and construction.		
Birds	Any vegetation clearance will likely result in a loss of suitable habitat for nesting birds and associated risk of injury/killing/disturbance to nesting birds/active nests/chicks/eggs.	Due to the suitability of the Site for use by breeding birds, it is recommended that breeding bird surveys are undertaken based on online guidance produced by the Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group (https://birdsurveyguidelines.org) to fully consider any impacts from any proposals to the future conservation of certain species in the local area. The surveys would comprise six survey visits spread evenly between late March and early July, starting from between half an hour before sunrise and half an hour after sunrise until mid-morning to record breeding behaviour and to map territories at the Site. At least one evening visit would be included within the six visits, beginning during the last few hours of the day, and extending beyond sunset for at least one hour. Although the Site is considered suitable for wintering birds, further survey is unlikely to be necessary given that on-site habitats are unlikely to support a diverse species assemblage or large population of any given wintering bird species and the extensive availability of similar to higher quality habitat in the wider area.	Breeding bird survey and associated report(s)	Prior to any proposed works commencing

Feature/Constraint	Potential Impact and Effect	Recommendation	Deliverable	Timing
		It is recommended that nesting bird checks are undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist if any vegetation clearance is scheduled to place during the nesting bird season (March to September inclusive). Nesting bird checks are valid for a 24-hour period only. If an active nest is identified, an appropriate exclusion zone (species dependent) must be installed around the nest until it is no longer active. This may require monitoring for periods of at least up to a month dependent on nesting stage. Be aware some species can nest all year round e.g. feral pigeon.	Appropriate timing of works and nesting bird checks where appropriate.	Prior to any proposed works commencing and during works
Reptiles	Any proposals will likely cause disturbance and loss/damage of suitable habitat which has the potential to impact reptiles through killing/injury/disturbance if present at the time of works.	It is recommended that reptile surveys are carried out to determine the presence or likely absence of reptiles on-site and inform appropriate mitigation and compensation measures where appropriate. Surveys should involve the deployment of refugia in suitable habitat and undertaking a minimum of seven visits to check the refugia. Should reptiles be encountered during the survey, further visits may be required to determine the population size of the species present. This survey should be undertaken during the optimal survey season which encompasses April – May and September. Refugia will need to be installed on Site in advance of	Reptile surveys and associated report(s).	Prior to any proposed works commencing.

Feature/Constraint	Potential Impact and Effect	Recommendation	Deliverable	Timing
		surveys (a minimum of 2 weeks ahead of first survey visit).		
Otter	There is considered to be a low risk otters may be encountered on the Site (or close to the Site) during any proposed works given the proximity of the Tinker Brook, resulting in killing/injury or disturbance if present at the time of works. Due to the nature of habitat present on Site and within 30m it is considered that impacts will largely be restricted to foraging/commuting otter.	The CEMP should include Best Practice Measures (BPM) to with regards to otter to be adhered to during site clearance and construction. These will work in tandem with the measures to be outlined for other mammals such as badger. Pollution prevention measures will also work to safeguard otter in the event that they are associated with off-site watercourses/habitats.	BPM	Prior to any proposed works commencing and during works
Hedgehog	Any disturbance and loss of suitable habitat may have the potential to impact hedgehog through killing/injury/disturbance if present at the time of works.	Any proposed works should be carried out following BPM combined with the recommendations made for common amphibians and badgers. Further detail would be provided in the CEMP, however key measures include:. Maintaining vigilance for hedgehogs at all times during the works. Allow any hedgehogs to move away from the Site of their own volition. Should a	BPM	During any proposed works

Feature/Constraint	Potential Impact and Effect	Recommendation	Deliverable	Timing
		hedgehog be in immediate danger, they should be picked up by gloved hand to and placed in an area of suitable shelter and safety away from the proposed works (i.e. within woodland habitat/tall vegetation outside of the immediate works footprint). If hedgehog is encountered between November and March or juveniles are encountered the ecologist should be contact for advice immediately.		
Brown Hare	Any disturbance and loss of suitable habitat may have the potential to impact brown hare through killing/injury/disturbance if present at the time of works.	Works should be carried out following BPM combined with the recommendations made for common amphibians and badgers. Further detail will be provided in the CEMP.	BPM	During any proposed works
Invasive Species				
INNS	Although no INNS were recorded at the time of the survey, any time elapsed since this assessment and a future development commencing means that the	It is recommended that an INNS walkover survey is undertaken during the botanical season (April to September inclusive) to fully determine the presence or likely absence of INNS within the Site ahead of any proposed development commencing. This will inform recommendations for management,	INNS walkover survey	Prior to and during any proposed works

Feature/Constraint	Potential Impact and Effect	Recommendation	Deliverable	Timing
	potential for INNS to establish within the Site boundary cannot be ruled out.	treatment, or removal of any INNS encountered to facilitate the works.		(where appropriate)
		Any proposed works should follow standard measures to include biosecurity measures to be implemented during the construction and operational phases to reduce the possibility of spread of invasive species and diseases (e.g. Chytridiomycosis an infectious disease in amphibians, caused by the chytrid fungi <i>Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis</i> and <i>Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans</i>). Site staff should be provided with a toolbox talk and information sheet which will detail and display common invasive species which may encountered on Site, e.g. giant hogweed <i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>, Himalayan balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> and Japanese knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i>. Biosecurity measures should be implemented during site clearance works to ensure that invasive plants are not spread throughout and off the Site. Plant material can be easily spread on equipment, machinery and clothing. In accordance with the	Adherence to standard biosecurity protocols	

Feature/Constraint	Potential Impact and Effect	Recommendation	Deliverable	Timing
		Non-Native Species Secretariat (NNSS) protocol, the Check, Clean, Dry principles should be implemented, with boots, equipment and machinery cleaned before leaving Site, where possible. The above information should be detailed further within the CEMP document.		
		Any soft landscaping proposals at the Site must avoid the use of species listed on Schedule 9 of the WCA 1981 (as amended) and ideally no non-native species where possible.	Soft landscaping plan	

5. Ecological Enhancement

- 5.1.1 Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment (feasibility and design stage) would be undertaken for the Site should development proposal be brought forward to provide a predicted quantitative biodiversity value ahead of planned works and review options to achieve 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) on Site post-construction wherever possible. A Biodiversity Gain Plan (BGP) and associated Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) should be produced for the Site in tandem with Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment (BNGA).
- 5.1.2 Any Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) strategy associated with proposals for the Site should include retention of key on Site habitats and should include enhancement of habitats and new habitat creations works on Site. The Site habitats are considered to offer potential to support a range of species/species groups and opportunities exist to enhance habitats on Site to generate additional biodiversity value which will be considered further in the baseline BNGA to be prepared for the Site. Options such as registering the Site as a biodiversity net gain site on the national register may be a consideration instead of development which may also work towards Local Nature Recovery Strategy biodiversity priorities.
- 5.1.3 The provision of bat roosting opportunities in the Site post-development would contribute towards biodiversity enhancement at the Site. Integrated bat boxes for buildings (e.g. Habitat integrated bat boxes) are recommended to be used to enhance the value of the Site for roosting bats. A minimum of one bat box should be installed per dwelling and be located preferably on the southern/south-eastern/south-western elevations. Some northern elevations are acceptable to provide a variety of microclimates for use by roosting bats throughout the year. Bat boxes should be positioned at eaves level (at least 4 m above the ground where possible) and in locations away from direct and indirect lighting, as far as possible. Bat box positions should be agreed with an ecologist at the design stage once detailed proposals are available.
- 5.1.4 To enhance the bird nesting potential of the Site post development it is recommended that swift bricks are incorporated into the properties at construction stage to provide enhancements for this species and other nesting bird species such as house sparrow *Passer domesticus*, starling *Sturnus vulgaris* and blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*. Swift bricks should be located at eaves level (at least 4 m above ground level), in less disturbed areas, out of direct sunlight avoiding south facing aspects and prevailing weather conditions, with an uncluttered adjacent flight space e.g. avoiding electricity cables, vegetation etc. There should a minimum of one swift brick installed per dwelling although placement of swift bricks in groups to encourage species which nest in colonies should be considered. Positions of swift bricks should be agreed with an ecologist at the design stage once detailed proposals are available.
- 5.1.5 Hedgehog houses and insect towers are recommended to be placed on-site, ideally within areas of retained vegetation and out of view. The number and location of which should be decided once detailed proposals are available for the Site.

- 5.1.6 Should any closed board fencing be used as part of any proposals, holes (at least 13 cm x 13 cm) will be created to allow passage for hedgehog thereby creating “hedgehog highways” through the development, with locations to be agreed with an ecologist at the design stage once detailed proposals are available.
- 5.1.7 The Site habitats are considered to offer potential to support a range of species/species groups and opportunities exist to enhance habitats on Site to generate additional biodiversity value which will be considered further in the baseline BNGA to be prepared for the Site. Options such as registering the Site as a biodiversity net gain site on the national register may be a consideration together with Local Nature Recovery Strategy biodiversity priorities.
- 5.1.8 The final details of the above recommendations for ecological enhancement at the Site, including number and type of species-specific enhancement features, should be informed by the results of any further protected species to be undertaken where appropriate.

6. References

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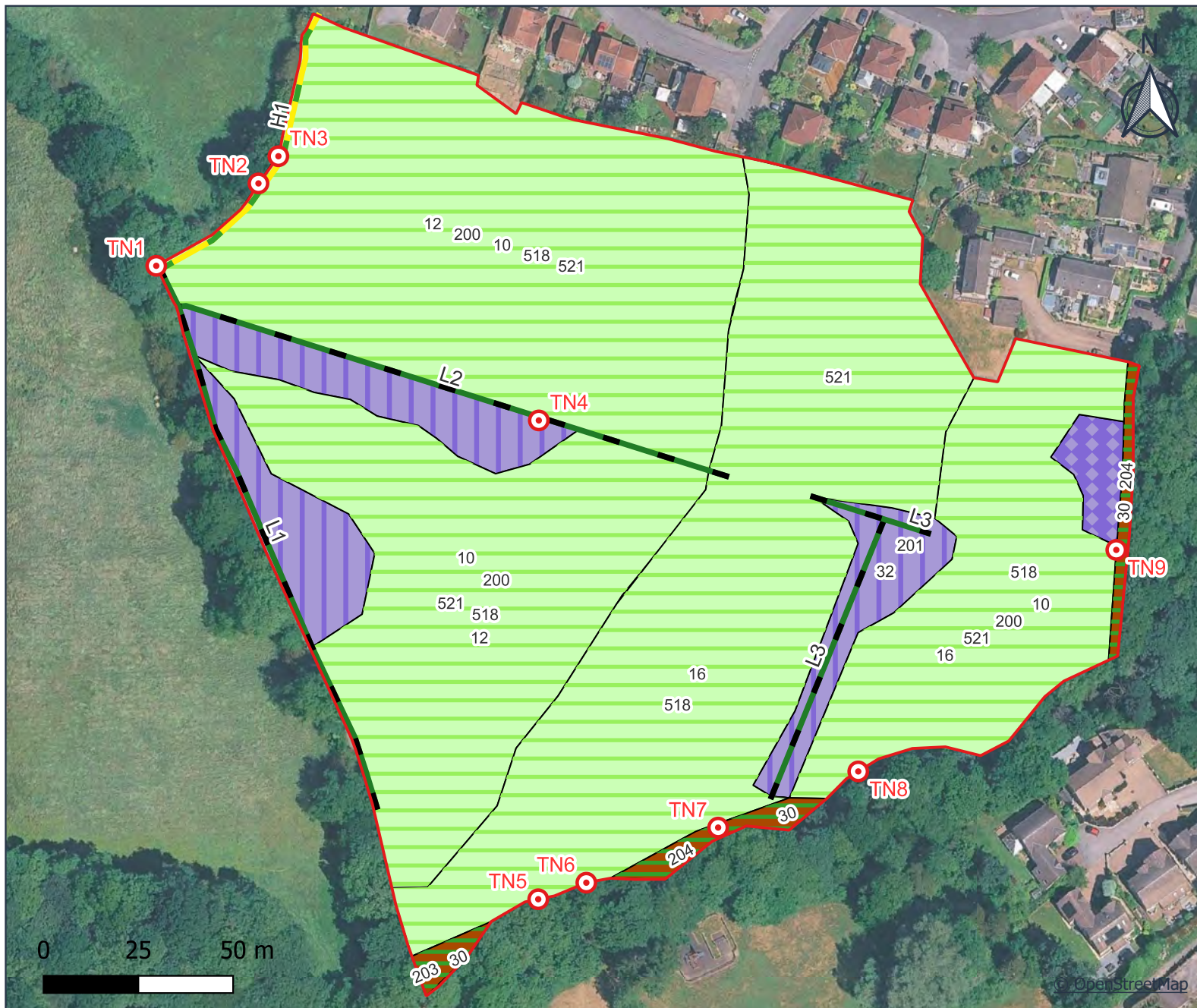
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Figure 1: UK Habitat Classification Map



Legend

- Site boundary
- Target Notes
- h2a5- species-rich native hedgerow [11 - Hedgerow with trees]
- w1g - other broadleaved woodland [34 - Ecologically valuable line of trees]
- g3c - other neutral grassland
- w1f7 - other lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- h3a6 - other blackthorn scrub
- h3d - bramble scrub

Secondary codes:

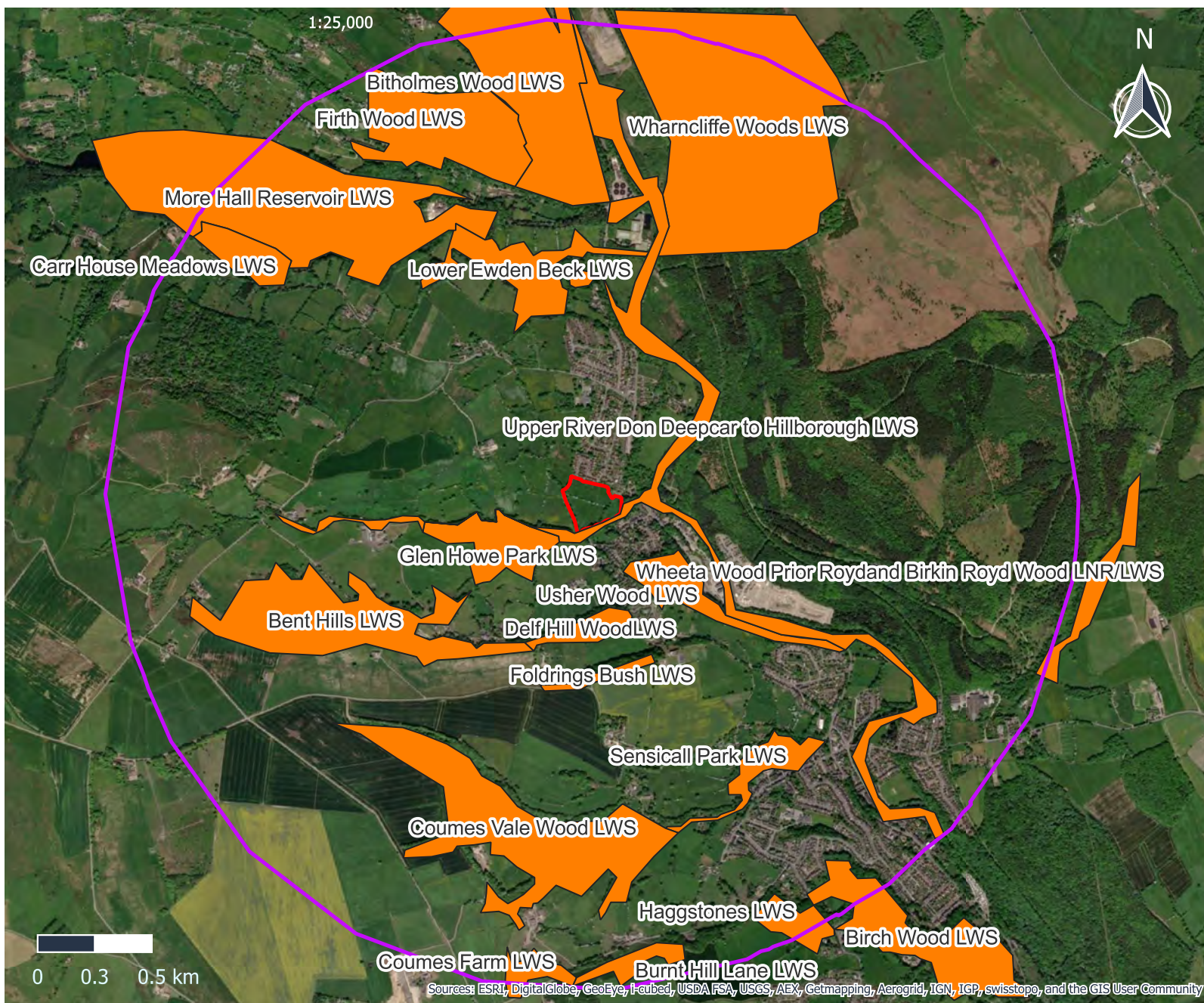
10: Scattered scrub
 12: Scattered bracken
 16: Tall forbs
 30: Semi-natural woodland
 200: Tree
 201: Young trees
 203: Mature tree
 204: Veteran tree
 518: Neglected
 521: Unmanaged

Revision	Date	Drawn by	Checked by
A	29.07.2025	JS	ST

Drg. Ref.:
25518.001

Scale 1:1,512
(A4):

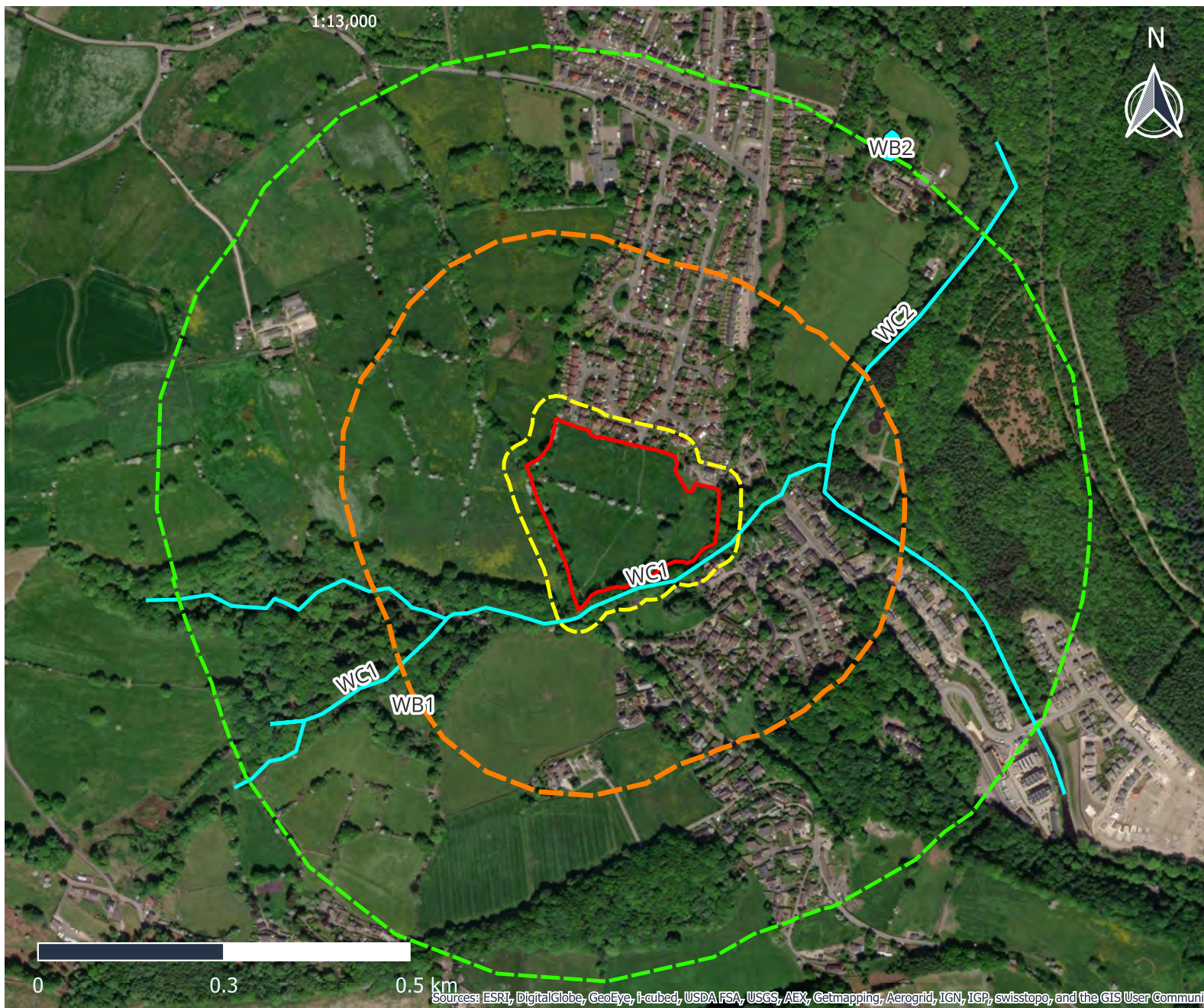
Figure 2: Designated Sites Map



Revision	Date	Drawn by	Checked by
A	07/08/2025	AO	JS
B	10/09/2025	AO	JS

Drg. Ref.: 25518-PEA-F2 Scale (A4): 1:25,000

Figure 3: Waterbody Location Map



Legend

- Site boundary
- 30 m buffer
- 250 m buffer
- 500 m buffer
- Waterbodies
- Watercourses

Revision	Date	Drawn by	Checked by
A	07/08/2025	AO	JS

Drg. Ref.: 25518-PEA-F3 Scale (A4): 1:13,000

Appendix 1: Target Notes

Table A1: Target Notes

Target Note (TN)	Description
TN1	Oak tree located on west boundary of the Site with PRF in the form of a tear-out wound on north aspect of secondary limb categorised as FAR for roosting bats.
TN2	Oak tree located on north boundary with numerous snapped limbs, with all PRFs categorised as FAR for roosting bats.
TN3	Ash tree located on north boundary with PRF in the form of a tear-out wound on the main stem, categorised as FAR for roosting bats.
TN4	Ash tree located within centre of the Site with ivy-clad stem categorised as FAR for roosting bats.
TN5	Ash tree located on south boundary of the Site with PRF in the form of a tear-out wound on the north west aspect of the main stem categorised as FAR for roosting bats.
TN6	Oak tree located on south boundary of the Site with PRF in the form of a tear-out wound on the north aspect of the main stem categorised as FAR for roosting bats.
TN7	Oak tree located on south boundary of the Site with PRF in the form of a tear-out wound on the north west aspect of the main stem categorised as FAR for roosting bats.
TN8	Oak monolith tree located adjacent to south boundary of the Site which may have large cavity leading down main trunk, which was categorised as FAR for roosting bats.
TN9	Oak tree located on south boundary of the Site with peeling bark and multiple tear out wounds on northern aspect, all categorised as FAR for roosting bats.

Appendix 2: Site Photographs



Sheffield City Council





Appendix 3: Non-Statutory Designated Sites

Table A4: Non-Statutory Designated Sites within 2 km of the Site

Designated Site	Citation Summary	Approximate Distance and Direction from the Site
Glen Howe Park LWS	Area of POS comprising a mixture of habitats including ornamental gardens, plantation woodland, semi-natural woodland and semi-improved neutral grassland, plus two streams and a small pond.	Immediately adjacent to the west and south
Usher Wood LWS	Deciduous woodland on north/north east facing slope, sometimes steep, with rock exposures. Some residential development within wood. A field to the east of site retains some diversity, especially near small, seasonal watercourse.	0.19 km south east
Delf Hill Wood LWS	Somewhat stunted oak <i>Quercus spp.</i> woodland on a steep, quarried slope. The field layer includes species of ancient woodland such as bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> , wood sorrel <i>Oxalis acetosella</i> , honeysuckle <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> and dog violet <i>Viola riviniana</i> .	0.35 km south

Designated Site	Citation Summary	Approximate Distance and Direction from the Site
Foldrings Bush LWS	A mature beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> wood with frequent oak, and patches of bluebell. The trees have cavities and dead branches, there is also lying dead wood. To the west of the site there is heathland with scattered rowan <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> .	0.60 km south
Lower Ewden Beck LWS	Stretch of river with red deer and dipper recorded.	0.67 km north
Upper Don River - Deepcar to Hillsborough LWS	For much of the stretch of the river it flows southwards and has steep banks, three large woodlands: Wharncliffe, Bitholmes and Great Hollins/Beeley Woods, follow its banks in some areas, in others the river is bound by improved farmland or developed land. The river corridor tends to display a rich ground flora. The water itself is now of high quality, as indicated by the presence of the dipper <i>Cinclus cinclus</i> and kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i> which occur regularly.	0.89 km east
Bent Hills LWS	Heathland areas are dominated by western gorse <i>Ulex gallii</i> and bilberry <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> . The woodland is oak-dominated, with patches of Ancient Woodland Indicator (AWI) species such as bluebell, wood sorrel and great wood-rush <i>Luzula sylvatica</i> .	0.53 km east

Designated Site	Citation Summary	Approximate Distance and Direction from the Site
Wharncliffe Woods LWS	Wharncliffe Woods lie on a west-facing scarp slope, with a crest of notable crags. The ancient woodlands were once noted for their fine oak trees, but small-scale coal and ganister mining, followed by extensive conifer plantings reduced the oak dominance. Frequent fires also encouraged the establishment of heathland.	1.03 km north east
Coumes Vale Wood LWS	Includes several AWI species including bluebell and common cow-wheat <i>Melampyrum pratense</i> .	1.07 km south west
Sensicall Park LWS	Sensicall Park is primarily a woodland site in the Coumes Brook valley close to the centre of Oughtibridge. The woodland is dominated by sessile oak <i>Quercus petraea</i> . There is a well-developed understorey and the ground flora includes AWI species. The dam pond on the site is rather silted and shallow but supports a number of willow species <i>Salix spp.</i>	1.15 km south east
More Hall Reservoir LWS	The LWS includes the reservoir, with outlet channels, pools associated with former water treatment works and natural meanders of outlet stream. Also included are coniferous plantations with some ancient oak wood elements, especially along watercourses.	1.20 km north west

Designated Site	Citation Summary	Approximate Distance and Direction from the Site
Bitholmes Wood LWS	Ancient woodland supporting rich woodland ground flora with twelve AWI species recorded, and containing a watercourse and a number of wet flushes.	1.23 km north
Firth Wood LWS	Retains characteristics of upland oak woodland and lowland mixed deciduous woodland (HPI under the NERC Act 2006).	1.30 km north
Carr House Meadows LWS	An important LWS designated for plants and bird assemblage, including southern marsh orchid <i>Dactylorhiza praetermissa</i> and yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i> .	1.49 km north west
Birch Wood LWS	No citation provided.	1.80 km south
Haggstones LWS	No citation provided.	1.80 km south
Burnt Hill Lane LWS	No citation provided.	1.85 km south
Coumes Farm LWS	No citation provided.	1.85 km south
Wheata Wood, Prior Royd & Birkin Royd Woods	As described in Section 3.	2.0 km east

Appendix 4: Bird Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Red
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Red
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Red
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Red
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Red
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Schedule 1, Amber
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	Amber
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Amber
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	Amber
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Amber

Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	Amber
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Green
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Green
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Green
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	Green
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Green
Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Green
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Green
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Green
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Green
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Green
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Green

Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Green
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Green
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Green
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Green
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Green
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	Green
Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	Green
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Green
Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	Green