

WOLD ECOLOGY LTD

2 Redwood Gardens, Driffield,
East Riding of Yorkshire. YO25 6XA
01377 200242



Chris Toohie M Sc. MCIEEM

www.woldecology.co.uk

Pigotts Auto Parts, Strensall, North Yorkshire

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

October 2023

	Staff Member	Position
Habitat Survey and Preliminary Ecological Appraisal :	Daniel Lombard BSc MCIEEM	Ecologist
Report prepared by :	Daniel Lombard BSc MCIEEM	Ecologist

Disclaimer:

This report and its content are copyright © 2023 Wold Ecology Ltd. All rights reserved.

You may not distribute or commercially exploit the content of this report until a non-draft version of this document has been issued and payment in full has been received by Wold Ecology Ltd.

Any unauthorised redistribution or reproduction of part or all the contents of this report will constitute an infringement of copyright.

This report was prepared by Wold Ecology Limited solely for use by Jim Pigott. This report is not addressed to and may not be relied upon by any person or entity other than Jim Pigott for any purpose without the prior written permission of Wold Ecology Ltd. Wold Ecology Ltd, its directors, employees and associates accept no responsibility or liability for reliance upon or use of this report (whether or not permitted) other than by Jim Pigott for the purposes for which it was originally commissioned and prepared.

In producing this report, Wold Ecology Ltd has relied upon information provided by others. The completeness or accuracy of this information is not guaranteed by Wold Ecology Ltd.

DOCUMENT CHECKING

Issue No.	Date .	Status .	Verified by.
1	24/11/2023	Draft for internal review.	CHRIS TOOHE MSc
2	07/12/2023	Submission of non-draft version for client.	Chris Toohie MSc MCIEEM


This report contains sensitive information concerning protected species and caution should be exercised when copying and distributing to third parties.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
2.0	INTRODUCTION	4
3.0	COMPANY PROFILE	7
4.0	HABITAT SURVEY METHODOLOGY	9
5.0	LIMITATION OF FIELD SURVEY	12
6.0	DESK TOP STUDY	13
7.0	PHASE 1 FIELD SURVEY RESULTS	25
8.0	SPECIES APPRAISAL	30
9.0	HABITATS APPRAISAL	44
10.0	BIBLIOGRAPHY	48
11.0	APPENDICES	50

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 In October 2023, Wold Ecology was commissioned by Jim Pigott to undertake an extended phase 1 habitat survey and a preliminary ecological appraisal at Pigotts Auto Parts, (national grid reference SE 63073 62047) in Strensall, North Yorkshire.
- 1.2 In order to accomplish the brief, a desk top study, external consultation, a habitat classification field survey and preliminary ecological appraisal was undertaken by Wold Ecology staff.
- 1.3 The habitats within the Application Site comprise bare ground for storing vehicles interspersed with several buildings and bounded by scattered trees and hedgerows located in a rural landscape.
- 1.4 The proposed development involves site clearance and the erection of a small number of residential dwellings including services and infrastructure.
- 1.5 The field survey and ecological appraisal targeted the following species and habitats relevant to the Application Site and the development proposal. The field surveys and preliminary ecological appraisal results are summarised below:

		Application Site Status
Proceed with caution, timing constraints	Birds	The site is suitable for nesting birds with various designations. Any trees, hedges and buildings to be removed should be cleared outside of the bird nesting season (i.e. clearance should be undertaken between mid-September and early February inclusive) or be carefully checked by an ecologist to confirm no active nests are present - prior to removal during the summer period. If nesting birds are found during the watching brief, works will need to stop until the young have fledged.
Advisory note	Invasive non-native species	Himalayan balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> was recorded within the adjacent ditch. It is recommended that a specialist contractor is employed to remove or control the species.
No ecological constraints.	Bats	No further surveys recommended.
		
	Great crested newt	
	Reptiles	
Impact Assessment No further assessments	Habitats	There are no Statutory or non-statutory sites located within or adjacent to the Application Site. No Biodiversity Action Plan habitats are located within or adjacent to the Application Site.
	EcIA	No further surveys beyond the desk study and field survey are necessary to allow an assessment of ecological effects and to design appropriate mitigation. There is sufficient information available about the design of the project to allow a full assessment of ecological effects, and no significant ecological effects are predicted.

- 1.6 This report is valid until **April 2025**. After this time, additional surveys need to be undertaken to confirm that the status of the site for protected species, site habitat composition and conclusions within this report have not changed.
- 1.7 Species list within this report may be forwarded to the local biodiversity records centre to be included on their national database. No personal information will be sent. Please contact Wold Ecology Ltd if you do not wish the species accounts and grid references to be shared.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 In October 2021, Wold Ecology was commissioned by Jim Pigott to undertake an extended phase 1 habitat survey and a preliminary ecological appraisal at Pigotts Auto Parts, (national grid reference SE 63073 62047) in Strensall, North Yorkshire.

2.2 An ecological assessment is a requirement of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), as part of the planning application process. This is specified in the following government policy:

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment.

2.3 **Paragraph 174** of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states: “Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- (a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);
- (b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services –including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;
- (c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;
- (d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;
- (e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and
- (f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

2.4 Habitats and Biodiversity of the NPPF also states :

Paragraph 179 - To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

- (a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation and
- (b) Promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

Paragraph 180 - When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

- (a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts),

- adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
- (b) development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
 - (c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and
 - (d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.

Paragraph 181 - The following should be given the same protection as habitats sites:

- (a) potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;
- (b) listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and
- (c) sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

- 2.5 The Habitats Directive requires Member States to implement two main types of measures. The first relates to the conservation of habitat types and of habitats of species (Articles 3–11 of the Habitats Directive) and involves the designation of protected sites as part of the EU network called Natura 2000.
- 2.6 The second type of measures concerns the protection of species (Articles 12–16) and applies across their entire natural range within Member States, both inside and outside Natura 2000 sites. Article 12 requires the protection of the animal species listed in Annex IV(a) of the Directive. It addresses direct threats to the species by prohibiting their deliberate capture, killing or disturbance, deliberate destruction or taking of their eggs, or the deterioration or destruction of their breeding sites or resting places. Annex IV(a) encompasses a wide variety of animal species, from large, wide-ranging species, like wolves and bears, to species with very small home ranges, such as butterflies, beetles or amphibians.
- 2.7 In addition, an ecological assessment is also required so that the local authority comply with the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 and to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity in the exercise of their functions (Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006).
- 2.8 Planning authorities must determine whether the proposed development meets the requirements of Article 16 of the EC Habitats Directive before planning permission is granted (where there is a reasonable likelihood of European Protected Species being present). Therefore, during its consideration of a planning application, where the presence of a European protected species is a material consideration, the

planning authority must satisfy itself that the proposed development meets three tests as set out in the Directive as detailed below.

2.9 The LPA would have to consider whether Natural England was likely to grant a European protected species licence for the development; and in so doing the LPA would have to consider the three derogation tests:

a) 'Preserving public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment'.

In addition, the LPA must be satisfied that:

(b) 'That there is no satisfactory alternative'

(c) 'That the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range'.

3.0 COMPANY PROFILE

- 3.1 Wold Ecology Ltd was established in 2006 and are experienced in providing a bespoke service for environmental management and ecological assessments. Wold Ecology Ltd employs several experienced and qualified staff/associates to undertake specialist ecological contracts.
- 3.2 Wold Ecology Ltd provides a wide range of specialised advice aimed at integrating business with nature. We specialise in ecological surveys, land management planning and site assessments which include:
- European Protected Species Surveys and Natural England Licenses.
 - Ecological Impact Assessments and Preliminary Ecological Appraisals.
 - Biodiversity Net Gain and Condition Assessments.
 - Ecological Construction Method Statements and Ecological Enhancements Plans.
 - Ecological Clerk of Works.
- 3.3 Surveyor Profile –Daniel Lombard B Sc., MCIEEM.
- 3.3.1 Job title: Senior Field Ecologist.
- 3.3.2 Expertise.
- Phase 1 habitat field surveys and biodiversity assessments including BREEAM assessments.
 - Bat surveys, bat ecology, bats and wind turbine assessments, bat sound analysis and monitoring.
 - Great crested newt and reptile surveys.
 - Mammal surveys including water vole, otter, and badger.
 - Ornithological surveys including bird ringing (ringing officer at Filey Bird Observatory).
 - Invertebrates studies, principally Lepidoptera, Odonata, Coleoptera and Diptera plus habitat management/creation for these groups.
 - Management planning, pond, and wetland management.
- 3.3.3 Qualifications.
- B Sc. Environmental Science.
 - Great Crested Newt License –2015-17182-CLS-CLS
 - Bat License –2015-11490-CLS-CLS
 - Bird Ringing A Licence –A/6298
- 3.3.4 Professional Membership.
- Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.
- 3.4 A detailed surveyor profile is included in Appendix 5.
- 3.5 Daniel Lombard meets the criteria for a suitably qualified ecologist by:
- Holding a Bachelor of Science degree (hons) in Environmental Science;
 - Being employed as a practising ecologist since 2007, with over 10 years' relevant experience and;

Being a full member of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (this makes him subject to peer review and bound by a professional code of conduct).

3.6 Chris Toohie M Sc. MCIEEM has read and reviewed the report and confirms that it:

Represents sound industry practice

Reports and recommends correctly, truthfully, and objectively

Is appropriate, given the local site conditions and scope of works proposed

Avoids invalid, biased, and exaggerated statements

4.0 HABITAT SURVEY METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 In order to fulfil the brief, the following has been undertaken:
A desktop study and consultation.
Field survey including accessible adjacent land up to 1km.
The scope of the ecology survey is proportionate to the scale of the likely ecological effects and in this case, 2km from the Application Site.
Phase 1 survey.
Preliminary ecological appraisal.
- 4.2 This report describes the findings of the field survey and desktop study whilst identifying the requirement for further ecological surveys to ensure that a comprehensive study is undertaken.
- 4.3 Where Ecological Impact Assessments (EcIA) is not part of an Environmental Impact Assessment, the views of the competent authority, standing advice and use of a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal can assist with the scoping of a potential EcIA.
- 4.4 Consultation with local planning ecologists confirmed that EcIA's are only usually required when developments are likely to have significant ecological impact effects and that developments of this size are unlikely to require a specific EcIA. Wold Ecology Ltd have undertaken over 450 Preliminary Ecological Appraisals between 2015 and 2023 for similar sites and schemes; this report format and content within has been accepted by planning ecologists during this time period without the request for an additional EcIA. This report format, which is also commonly used by ecological consultants, is widely accepted in support of planning applications.
- 4.5 Where further ecological surveys have been recommended, the impact assessment will be included within those specific reports.
- 4.6 Whilst an EcIA on its own is not a statutory requirement, the following principles which underpin EcIA are considered within this assessment:
Avoidance - Seek options that avoid harm to ecological features (for example, by locating on an alternative site).
Mitigation - Adverse effects should be avoided or minimised through mitigation measures, either through the design of the project or subsequent measures that can be guaranteed –for example, through a condition or planning obligation.
Compensation - Where there are significant residual adverse ecological effects despite the mitigation proposed, these should be offset by appropriate compensatory measures.
Enhancements - Seek to provide net benefits for biodiversity over and above requirements for avoidance, mitigation or compensation.
Determine the importance of ecological features affected, through survey and/or research;
Assess impacts potentially affecting important features.

- 4.7 A field survey was undertaken at the Application Site on 14th October 2021 and 31st October 2023. During the site visit, the whole of the Application Site and accessible neighbouring land was examined in detail.

Survey	Date	Wind Speed	Wind Direction	Temperature		Rainfall	Cloud Cover
				Start	Finish		
Field	14/ 10/ 2021	5mph	SW	15°C	15°C	None	10%
Field	31/ 10/ 2023	12mph	SW	12°C	12°C	None	70%

- 4.8 The habitats within the Application Site were mapped (see Appendix 2) according to the techniques described in the publication *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey* (JNCC 2010). The CIEEM ‘Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal - Second Edition’ (December 2017) state that this is an appropriate habitat classification system.
- 4.9 Target notes (if applicable) provide descriptions of the main habitats found on the site, including information about species composition, habitat structure, evidence of management, habitats too small to map and transitional or mosaic habitats.
- 4.10 Sufficient detail on the composition of the vegetation was obtained from the field survey, which enabled it to be successfully characterised and assessed.
- 4.11 During the site visit, notes were made of features of potential value to other groups such as birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, or invertebrates, paying particular attention to species protected by law:

Species/Group	Indicative habitat	Field signs (in addition to sightings)
Bats	Roosts - Trees, buildings, bridges, caves etc. Foraging and commuting areas - e.g. Parkland, waterbodies, wetlands, woodland, hedgerows and linear features.	Potential roost sites. Droppings, urine splashes, staining and feeding remains.
Otter	Rivers, streams, canals, ponds, lakes, ditches, drains and coastal areas.	Holts (or dens), prints, spraints, slide marks into watercourses and feeding signs.
Water Vole	Rivers, streams, canals, ponds, lakes, ditches, drains and marshes.	Burrow entrances, prints, distinctive latrine areas and feeding signs.
Birds	Habitat mosaic. Natura 2000 sites/SPA/SAC/Ramsar.	Nests, droppings below nest sites (especially in buildings of trees); tree holes.
Reptiles	Habitat mosaic.	Sloughed skins.
Great Crested Newt	Ponds within 250m of suitable habitat within the site boundary. Habitat Suitability Index (HSI assessment).	Egg wraps and animals (depending on time of year).

- 4.12 The field survey and ecology report reflect relevant guidance from the following CIEEM documents:
- Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal - Second Edition, December 2017.
 - Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in The UK And Ireland - Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine (September 2018).

5.0 LIMITATION OF FIELD SURVEY

- 5.1 Whilst the majority of the Application Site was examined at the macro scale, many species will have been overlooked at the micro level because it is not the purpose of a phase 1 survey to classify all taxa occurring in the Application Site. In addition, whilst the actual timing of the survey was adequate to classify the habitat types, there is undoubtedly a strong seasonal element to the presence of species within the site and species occurring outside of the survey period will have been overlooked.
- 5.2 This report will serve to indicate the possible value of the site in nature conservation terms based upon the initial field survey and desk top data gathered. As with any survey of this kind, it cannot be a definitive description of the site and its associated habitats and species.
- 5.3 Access was only granted within the Application Site and land owned by the client; in some instances neighbouring land was studied from vantage points and public land, maps within the public domain and aerial photography, it is possible that habitats important to the ecology of the Application Site may not have been recorded fully.
- 5.4 It is not always possible to identify every pond within 250m of an Application Site and whilst every effort was made to access all ponds, Wold Ecology Ltd do not guarantee that every pond within 250m have been included within this assessment.
- 5.5 Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) are species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), for which it is an offence to cause or allow it to grow in the wild. It is not always possible to conclude absence from a preliminary survey alone due to factors including:
Season.
Accessibility.
Recent ground clearance.
3rd party attempts to hide evidence or undisclosed treatment programmes.
- 5.6 However, a phase 1 survey and preliminary ecological appraisal of this nature, supported by a thorough desk top survey, is sufficient to make a number of informed assumptions about the ecology of the site.

6.0 DESK TOP STUDY

6.1 General description

6.1.1 The Application Site is located 1km north of Strensall village, in a rural location. The Application Site is approximately 0.5ha and is immediately surrounded by arable/grazed pasture. Habitats within the Application Site comprise bare ground for storing vehicles interspersed with several buildings and bounded by scattered trees and hedgerows.

6.1.2 Habitats within 2km of the Application Site is primarily low-lying agricultural land dominated by arable production with some grazed pasture; suburban habitats in association with Strensall village and Strensall Common are also present. Woodland cover within 2km is limited and occurs as small shelterbelts and plantations adjacent to farms and small holdings. Whilst the Application Site is not connected to any ecologically valuable habitat, connectivity within 2km is provided by hedgerows, hedgerows with trees and ditches that drain the predominant arable land and link the site with the wider countryside. In addition, the River Foss (700m southeast) and associated riparian woodlands provide habitat connectivity to the wider countryside.

6.1.3 A summary of the surrounding habitat is (radius of < 2km from the site):

- Buildings –farm buildings and residential properties

- Hedgerow

- Mature trees and woodland

- High Rowans Wood

- Duncombe Wood

- Ellis Wood

- Birch Wood

- Illingworth's Wood

- Arable

- Mature private gardens

- Ponds and watercourses

- River Foss

- Grazed pasture

- Strensall Common

6.2 Desktop Study.

6.2.1 Natural England, the North & East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYEDC), www.magic.gov.uk, social media, local authority planning portal and Wold Ecology employees, field surveyors and network of associate ecologists were consulted in order to obtain any ecological information that they hold of relevance to the Application Site and surrounding area.

6.2.2 The desk top study identifies land parcels of nature conservation value within 2 km of the Application Site. Relevant extracts from associated documentation are highlighted below. The following data resources were searched:

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

- Special Protection Areas (SPA)

- National Parks

National Reserves
 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
 Ramsar sites
 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
 Local Nature Reserves (LNR)
 Local wildlife sites (LWS) or equivalent
 Natural England Habitat Inventories
 Natural Character Area documentation
 European protected species records
 UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species records
 Local Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species records
 Notable species records

6.2.3 International Designated Sites

6.2.3.1 The following International Designated Sites lie within 2 km of the Application Site (see figure 1):

Map Ref	Site Name	Distance (m)
1.	Strensall Common SAC	1623

6.2.3.2 Strensall Common SAC is described by Natural England as:

Strensall Common is an example of acidic lowland heath represented predominantly by *Erica tetralix* – *Sphagnum compactum* wet heath, although its extent has been reduced by drainage. It is a noted locality for marsh gentian *Gentiana pneumonanthe*, narrow buckler-fern *Dryopteris carthusiana* and the dark-bordered beauty moth *Epione vespertaria* as it is associated with creeping willow *Salix repens* on the wet heath.

There is also a complex mosaic of wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* and dry heath elements. The *Calluna vulgaris* – *Deschampsia flexuosa* dry heath is noted for petty whin *Genista anglica* and bird’s-foot *Ornithopus perpusillus*.

Qualifying habitats: The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:

- o European dry heaths.
- o Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* (wet heathland with cross-leaved heath).

6.2.3.3 The International Designated Site is located 1.8km south east of the Application Site.

6.2.4 Nationally Designated Sites

6.2.4.1 The following National Designated Sites lie within 2 km of the Application Site (see figure 2):

Map Ref	Site Name	Distance (m)
1.	Strensall Common Site of Special Scientific Interes	1624

6.2.4.2 Strensall Common is described by Natural England as:

Strensall Common is a northern example of acidic lowland heath and is one of only two extensive areas of open heathland remaining in the Vale of York, the other being Skipwith Common.

The complex mosaic of sands and clays give rise to an equally diverse vegetation comprising wet and dry heath, woodland and wetland. The dry heath, dominated by heather *Calluna vulgaris*, is noted for petty whin *Gentiana anglica* and bird's foot *Ornithopus perpusillus*, whilst extensive areas of purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* characterise the wet heath. The Common also has significant populations of the very local marsh gentian *Gentiana pneumonanthe*, other species of note including narrow buckler-fern *Dryopteris carthusiana* and long-leaved sundew *Drosera intermedia*. Drainage has reduced the extent of the wetland vegetation which includes permanent pools with great reedmace *Typha latifolia*, fen dominated by common reed *Phragmites australis* and extensive areas of soft rush *Juncus effusus*, species associated with the wetlands include marsh cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris*, bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata* and uncommon species such as marsh St. John's wort *Hypericum elodes*.

Frequent heathland fires have restricted the development of birch *Betula sp.* woodland which is less extensive than at Skipwith. Elsewhere on the heath oak *Quercus robur* occurs and Scot's pine *Pinus sylvestris* has been planted.

The entomological interest of the site is considerable with several rare moths Lepidoptera and bugs Hemiptera present.

6.2.4.3 The Nationally Designated Site is located 1.8km southeast of the Application Site and disturbance to habitats and to species on Strensall Common SAC/SSSI as a result of development should be addressed in a Habitats Regulation Assessment.

6.2.4.4 Potential Impacts –Strensall Common SAC/SSSI

6.2.4.4.1 The potential impacts to Strensall Common include:

Air Quality –Changes in the composition of air quality as a result of the project development or an increase in number of trips near the vicinity of a designated site that could damage vegetation and harm species living in these habitats.

Water Quality –Changes in the quality of water composition in the watershed as a result of development in or near to the designated site, and increased pollution that could alter the water quality entering the water network and could damage vegetation and habitats/species at these sites.

Hydrology –Changes in the hydrological cycle affected by heat, surface run off, loss of permeable surfaces etc. and can result in drought or flooding of designated sites that could damage vegetation or harm species living in these habitats.

Water Supply –Changes in the levels of demand for water supply as a result of new development, for example housing and employment sites, may increase levels of water abstraction, potentially affecting designated sites which are hydrologically connected to the source of water supply.

Habitat/Species Disturbance –Disturbance both to habitats and to species travelling to the national site network through ecological isolation and fragmentation if development restricts migratory routes to designated sites and/or that impacts on food resources or breeding grounds.

Recreational/ Visitor Pressure –Disturbance to habitats and to species as a result of development, if it significantly increases the number of people and dogs visiting designated sites and the associated added pollution and contamination of sites because of a larger footfall.

Urban Edge Effects – Includes unauthorised access to designated sites, predation from cats, litter and fire, changes in lighting and noise.

Potential Pathways - There is also a need to establish a set of particular pathways where potential impacts may be able to find a path to a designated site. Where no pathways exist to the designated site, the potential impacts can be ruled out as they will not have a likely significant effect on the site.

Wind –an assessment of whether the potential impacts outlined above, specifically air quality can reach the national site network via the prevailing wind.

River Network –an assessment of whether potential impacts, specifically water quality, and hydrology are connected via the river network to the national site network.

Water Supply –an assessment of the connectivity of the water supply in the surrounding area i.e., reservoirs and the national site network.

Roads and Footpath network –distance to designated sites in relation to the road network and the feasibility of air, noise, and light pollution from increased traffic on the roads, due to a higher population or greater accessibility or numbers of people through and across the surrounding area.

Species movement –distance between the proposed development site and the national site network and the location of other important habitats within the impact zone such as functional land, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Country Parks, Biological Heritage Sites and Local Nature Reserves.

6.2.4.4.2 Impact Risk Zones for Piggotts Auto Parts

Planning Application	Description	Relevance to the Application Site
Infrastructure	Pipelines and underground cables, pylons and overhead cables. Any transport proposal including road, rail and by water (excluding routine maintenance). Airports, helipads and other aviation proposals.	No
Wind & Solar Energy Minerals, Oil & Gas	Planning applications for quarries, including new proposals, Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMP), extensions, variations to conditions etc. Oil & gas exploration/extraction.	No
Rural Non Residential Rural Residential Residential	Residential development of 100 units or more. Any residential development of 50 or more houses outside existing settlements/urban areas.	No
Air Pollution	Any industrial/agricultural development that could cause AIR POLLUTION (including industrial processes, livestock & poultry units with floorspace > 500m ² , slurry lagoons & digestate stores > 200m ² , manure stores > 250t).	No
Combustion	General combustion processes >20MW energy input. Incl: energy from waste incineration, other incineration, landfill gas generation plant, pyrolysis/gasification, anaerobic digestion, sewage treatment works, other incineration/ combustion.	No
Waste	Landfill. Including: inert landfill, non-hazardous landfill, hazardous landfill.	No
Composting	Any composting proposal with more than 500 tonnes maximum annual operational throughput. Including: open windrow composting, in-vessel composting, anaerobic digestion, other waste management.	No

Discharges	Any discharge of water or liquid waste of more than 20m ³ /day to ground (i.e. to seep away) or to surface water, such as a beck or stream.	No
Water Supply	Large infrastructure such as warehousing / industry where net additional gross internal floorspace is > 1,000m ² or any development needing its own water supply .	No

6.2.4.4.3 The Statutory Site is located over 1.5m from the Application Site and none of the Impact Risk Zone criteria are of relevance to the proposed development.

6.2.5 Locally Designated Sites

6.2.5.1 The following locally designated sites lie within 2 km of the Application Site (see figure 3):

6.2.5.1.1 North Yorkshire Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (m)
1.	Anchor Plain	1660

6.2.5.1.2 City of York Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (m)
1.	Brecks Lane Meadow	818
2.	Flaxton Road Meadows	1446
3.	Strensall Village Meadows	1322
4.	Strensall Golf Course	1819

6.2.5.1.3 Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT) Reserves

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (m)
1.	Strensall Common	1626

6.2.5.2 The Locally Designated Sites will not be impacted on due to the small-scale nature of the proposed development and the distance between the Application Site and the nearest YWT Reserve/SINC which is greater than 700 metres. Consequently, the impact to Locally Designated Sites is considered to be negligible.

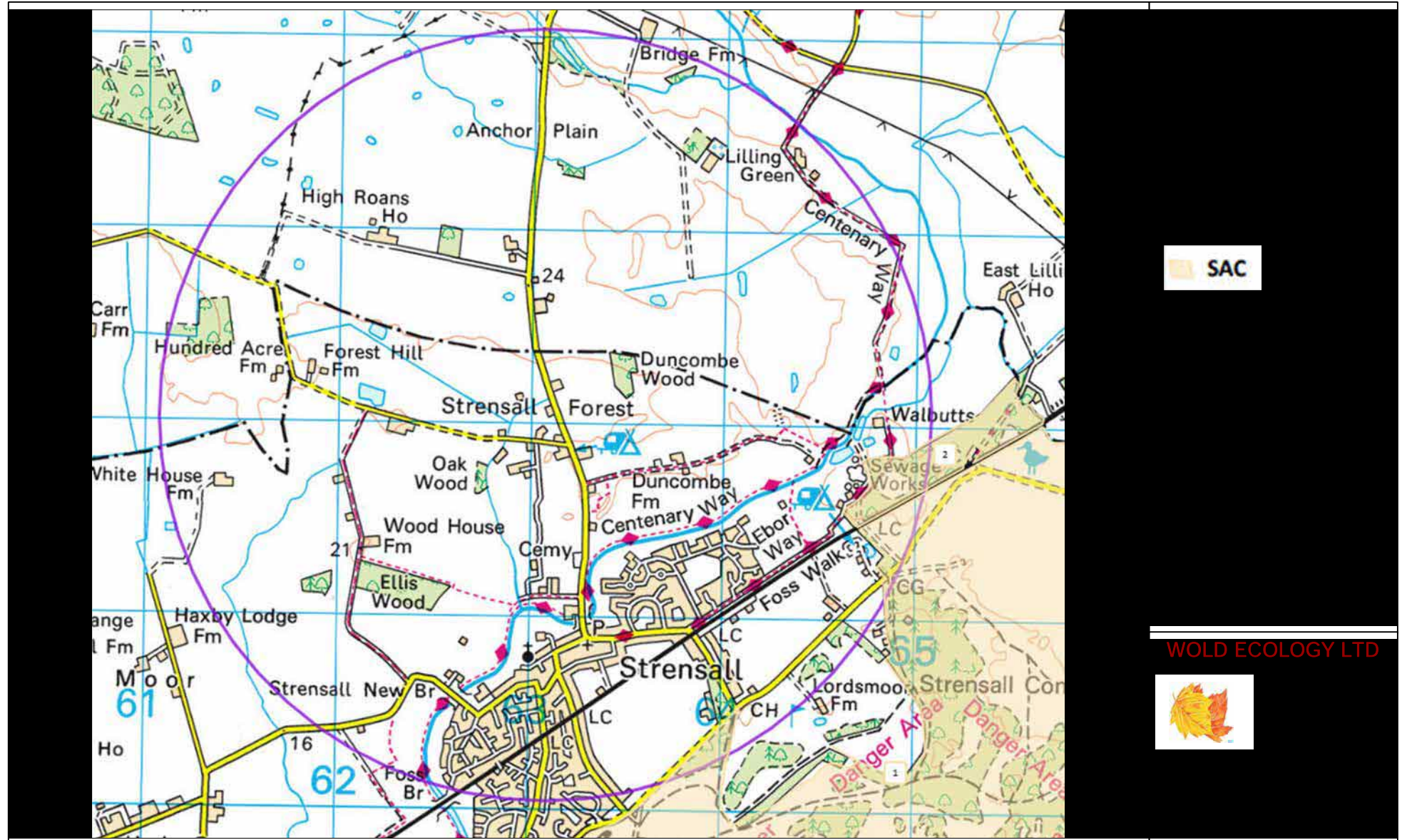
6.2.6 Natural England Habitat Inventories

6.2.6.1 All the Natural England Priority Habitat inventories were searched, including the woodland inventory and grassland inventory. The following areas of notable habitat from the Habitat Inventories list were found within 2 km of the Application Site (see Figure 4).

In Application Site	Site Name	Min Distance (m)
No	Deciduous woodland	374
No	Lowland Fens	1660
No	Lowland Heath	1736
No	Purple Moor grass and Rush pasture	1698

6.2.6.2 The Natural England Priority Habitats are greater than 350 metres from the Application Site.

Figure 1.



SAC

WOLD ECOLOGY LTD



Figure 2.

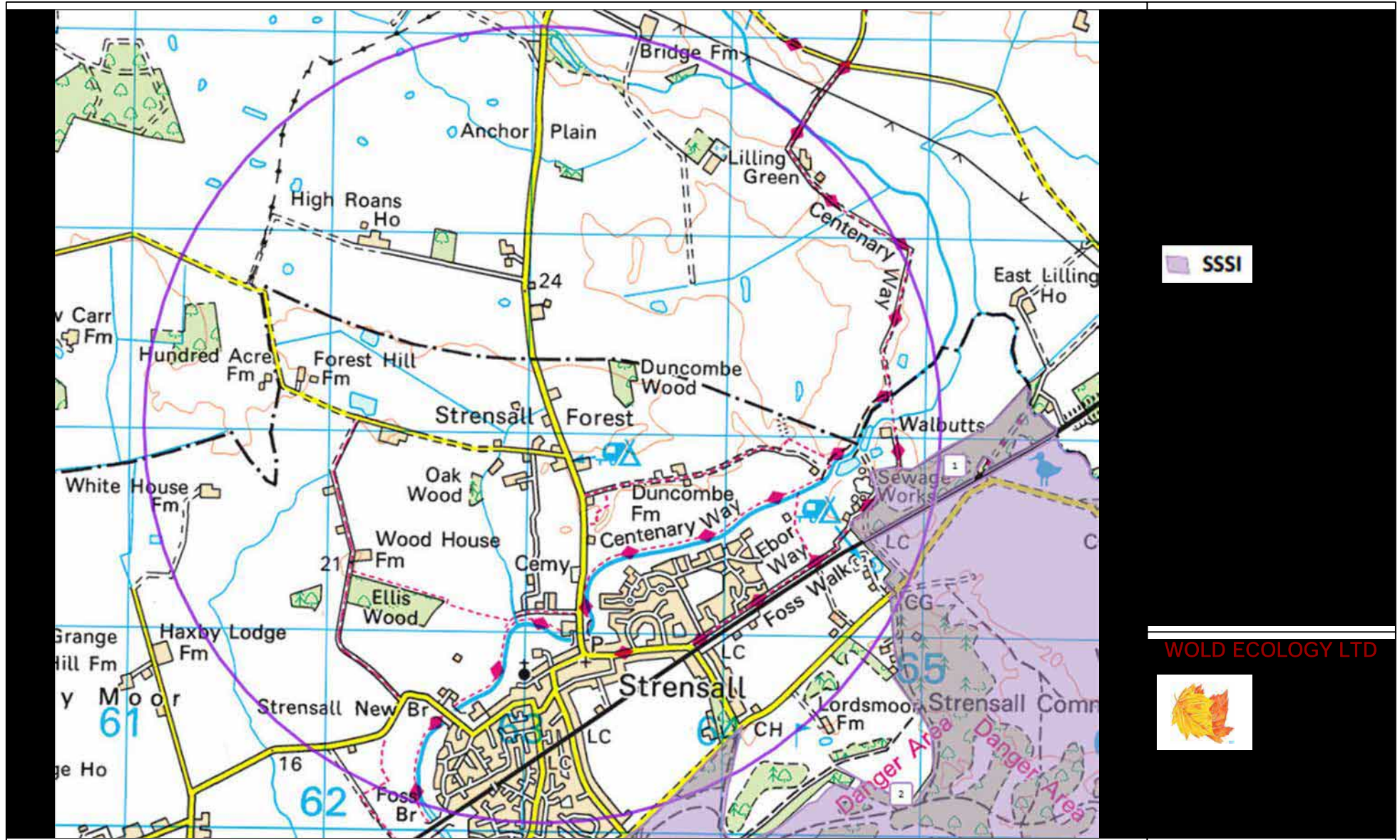


Figure 3.

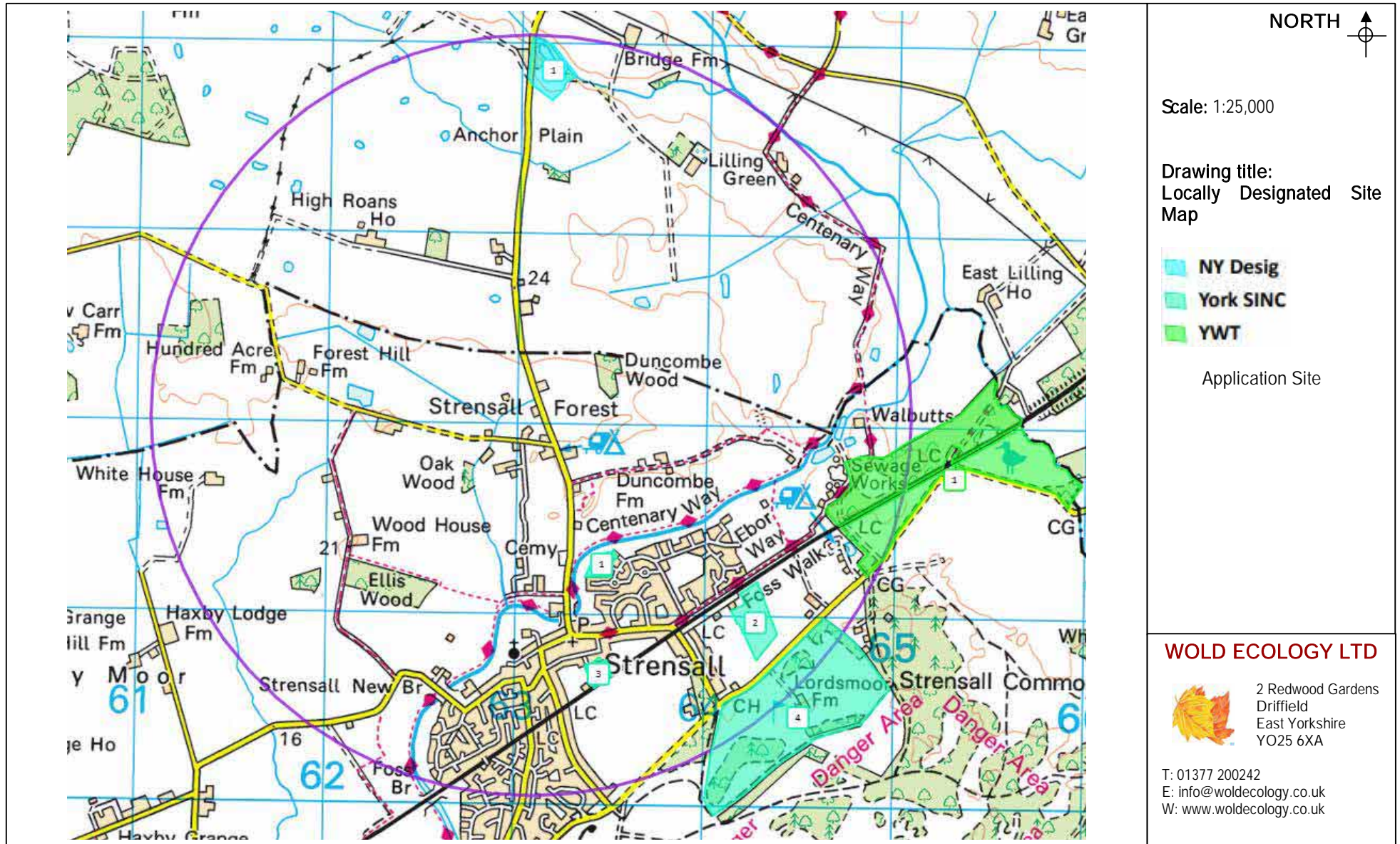
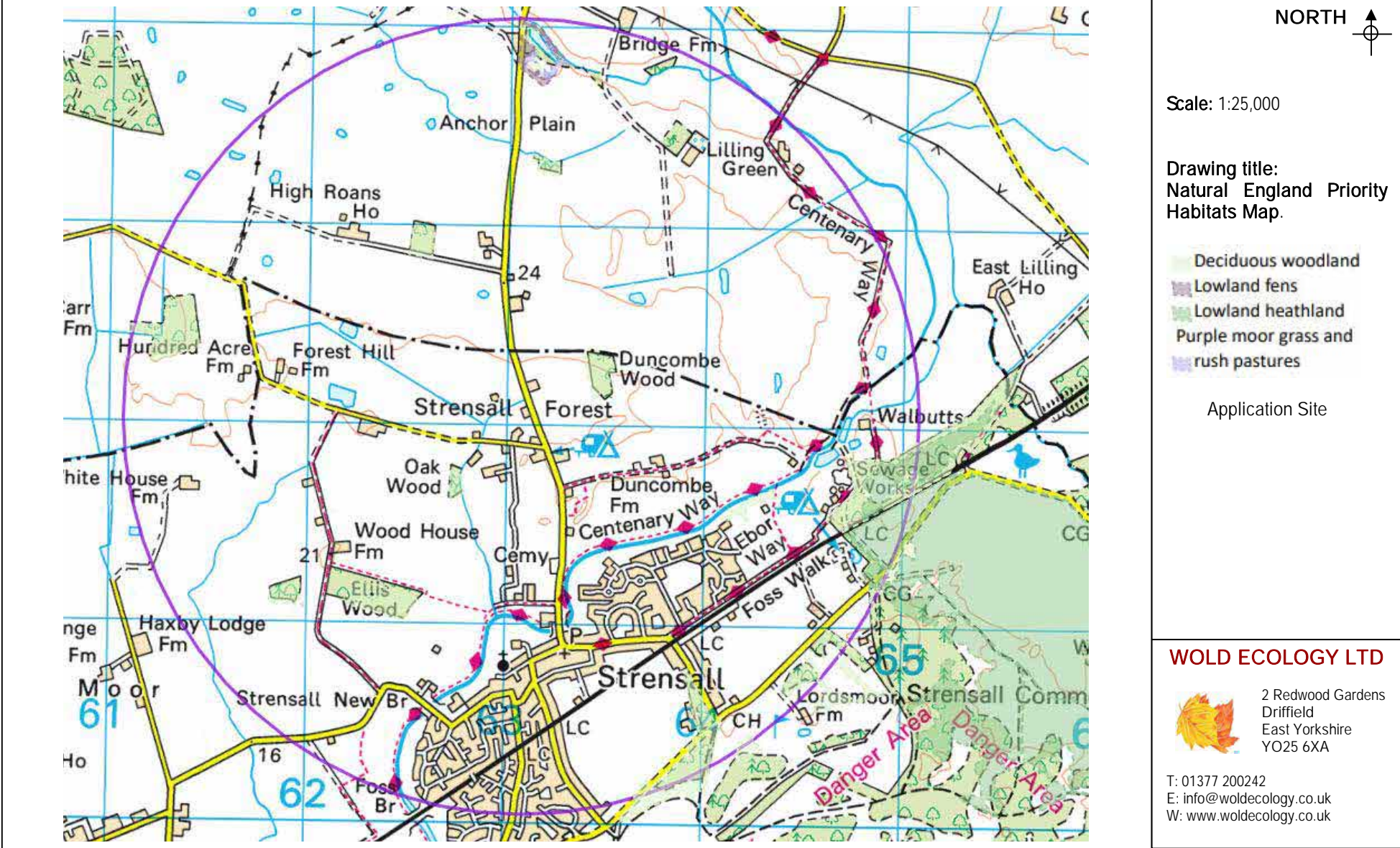






Figure 4.



NORTH 

Scale: 1:25,000

Drawing title:
Natural England Priority
Habitats Map.

-  Deciduous woodland
-  Lowland fens
-  Lowland heathland
-  Purple moor grass and
rush pastures

Application Site

WOLD ECOLOGY LTD



2 Redwood Gardens
Driffield
East Yorkshire
YO25 6XA

T: 01377 200242
E: info@woldecology.co.uk
W: www.woldecology.co.uk

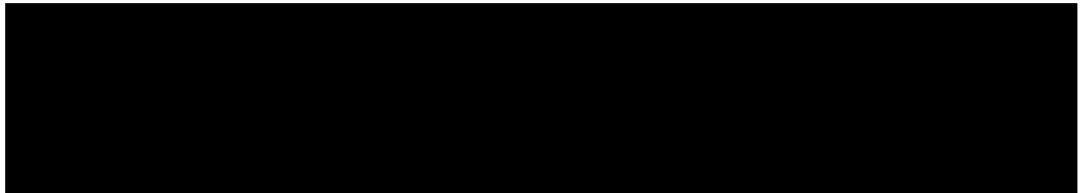
6.3 Natural Character Areas

- 6.3.1 National Character Areas (NCAs) divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, and cultural and economic activity. Their boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision-making framework for the natural environment. As part of its responsibilities in delivering the Natural Environment White Paper, Biodiversity 2020 and the European Landscape Convention, Natural England is revising its National Character Area profiles to make environmental evidence and information easily available to a wider audience.
- 6.3.2 NCA profiles are guidance documents which will help to achieve a more sustainable future for individuals and communities. The profiles include a description of the key ecosystem services provided in each character area and how these benefit people, wildlife, and the economy. They identify potential opportunities for positive environmental change and provide the best available information and evidence as a context for local decision making and action.
- 6.3.3 The Application Site lies within Natural Character Area 28 Vale of York and is summarised below:
- 6.3.3.1 The Vale of York is an area of relatively flat, low-lying land surrounded by higher land to the north, east and west. High-quality soils across most of the National Character Area (NCA) mean that arable cultivation is the predominant land use, although some pig and dairy farming takes place in the western parts of the NCA. A key feature of the NCA is the rivers that drain surrounding higher land and run southwards through the Vale on towards the Humber basin. Natural flood plain habitats and associated species are still found within the Lower Derwent Valley (designated as a Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation and Ramsar site) although, like other flood plains, this area is threatened due to water quality issues.
- 6.3.3.2 The City of York, a settlement that has been an important focus since Roman times, sits at the centre of this NCA. The prominent York Minster can be seen from lower-lying surrounding countryside and, together with the city walls, provides the setting for the historic city.
- 6.3.3.3 Food and water provision and the regulation of water flow and water quality are key ecosystem services provided by this NCA. Flooding affects a number of communities within the NCA, as they are within the lower stretches of the river flood plains. More than 7,000 properties are at risk of flooding in York, Bishopthorpe, Haxby and Strensall from the River Ouse catchment.
- 6.3.3.4 There are opportunities to restore wetland habitat within river corridors to alleviate fast water flows (for example working with land managers on the River Foss to slow rates of floods that are generated in York⁴) and aid climate adaptation mitigation. Restoration of river systems will also maintain and improve natural soil fertility for productive agriculture, improve the ecological networks and strengthen the ability of biodiversity to adapt to current –and future –pressures. A key challenge will be to establish sustainable land management practices that safeguard and strengthen the fertile soils needed for arable cultivation while also providing sustainable income for land managers.

6.3.4 There are no relevant Statements of Environmental Opportunities that are relevant to the Application Site.

6.4 European Protected Species records (relevant to the Application Site)

6.4.1



6.4.2 Bats

Currently, there is no pre-existing information on bats at the site.

There are records of brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*, noctule *Nyctalus noctula*, whiskered bat *Myotis mystacinus*, soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* and common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* within the surrounding 5km radius of the Application Site. (source –NEYEDC 2023 and Wold Ecology network pers comm). Wold Ecology bat records date from 2006 and include over 1000 bat activity surveys.

There are no known Natural England development licenses relating to bats within 1km of the Application Site (source –www.magic.gov.uk).

6.4.3 Great crested newts

Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* is recorded within the surrounding 2km radius with records at:

Location	Distance from site	Direction
Whitehouse Farm	1.7km	W
Strensall	1.3km	S
Strensall Common	1.8km	SE
source –NEYEDC 2023 and Wold Ecology network pers comm		

There are no records of great crested newt for ponds located within 500m of the Application Site (source - NEYEDC 2023).

There are no Natural England eDNA records within 2km of the Application Site (source - <https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/great-crested-newts-edna-pond-surveys-for-district-level-licensing-england>)

There are no great crested newt Natural England development licenses within 1km of the Application Site (source –www.magic.gov.uk).

6.4.4 Water vole

Water vole *Arvicola amphibious* is recorded within the 2km radius surrounding the Application Site (source –NEYEDC 2023 and Wold Ecology network pers comm).

6.4.5 Otter

Otter *Lutra lutra* is recorded within the 2km radius surrounding the Application Site (source –NEYEDC 2023 and Wold Ecology network pers comm).

6.4.6 Reptiles

Adder *Vipera berus* and common lizard *Zootoca vivipara* are recorded within the surrounding 2km radius with the closest records at Strensall Common, 1.8km south (source –NEYEDC 2023 and Wold Ecology network pers comm).

7.0 PHASE 1 FIELD SURVEY RESULTS

7.1 The following habitat types were recorded within the Application Site:

Phase 1 Habitat Classification	JNCC Reference Code
Scattered trees (Broad-leaved)	A3.1
Species poor hedge with trees	J2.3.2
Fence	J2.4
Buildings	J3.6
Bare ground	J4

7.2 Scattered Trees (Broad-leaved)

7.2.1 Scattered trees are numerous around the site's boundaries, either growing on their own or in association with a hedge (7.3). These trees primarily comprise deciduous species and the majority have been planted as a windbreak. They are all below 100 years of age and appear to be in relatively good health; no notable deadwood communities occur within these trees.

7.2.2 Species diversity is poor and includes Lawson cypress *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*, balsam poplar *Populus balsamifera*, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, goat willow *Salix caprea* and pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*.

7.2.3 Condition assessment

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	Yes
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Yes
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	Yes
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Yes
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes
Number of criteria passed		5
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)	Yes
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	
Note that 'Fairly Good and Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for this broad habitat type.		

7.2.4 The condition assessment is good.

7.3 In-tact species poor hedge with trees

Location	This hedge forms the eastern and southern boundaries of the Application Site, in conjunction with palisade fencing.		
Height	6m	Width	4m
Cross Section	Unmanaged and merging into canopy forming trees		
Gap –hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy less than 0.5 m for more than 90% of length.		
Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up less than 10% of total length No canopy gaps greater than 5m		
Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	Less than 1m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for more than 90% of its length. Adjacent land use (within 10m) comprises scrap yard and grassland.		
Species composition	Hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> is the most abundant species, with dog rose <i>Rosa canina</i> , ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> and blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> also present. More than 90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native and neophyte species. Basal species include hedge bindweed <i>Calystegia sepium</i> , stinging nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , rosebay willowherb <i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i> , Himalayan balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> , bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> , ribwort plantain <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> , false oat grass <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> , cocksfoot <i>Dactylus glomerata</i> , great willowherb <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> and creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> .		
Species rich (four woody species per 30m length)	The hedgerow is not species rich and there are no ancient woodland or hedgerow communities associated with these hedges.		
Management and current damage	No evidence of coppicing or laying. Uncut hedge. More than 90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities. There was no evidence to suggest that the hedgerows are old landscape features.		

7.3.1 Condition Assessment.

Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types				Hedge 1
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).	Y

A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	<p>The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees.</p> <p>Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height.</p> <p>Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).</p>	Y
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	<p>This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth.</p> <p>Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).</p>	Y
B2.	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m	<p>This is the horizontal 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small).</p> <p>Access points and gates contribute to the overall 'gappiness' but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).</p>	Y
C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	<p>>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least). 	<p>This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow.</p> <p>Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow.</p> <p>This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.</p>	Y
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	<p>The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.</p>	Y
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ³) and recently introduced species.	<p>Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives.</p> <p>For information on Archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website⁴, as well as the BSBI website⁵ where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora'⁶ contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website⁷.</p>	Y
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	<p>This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes.</p> <p>This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g., excessive hedgerow cutting).</p>	Y

E1.	Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient ⁹), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.	This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.	N
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	Y
Category		Category Requirements		Metric Score
Good		No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.		9
Moderate		No more than 4 failures in total; AND <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).		
Poor		Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).		
Score achieved:				9

7.3.2 The condition assessment is good.

7.4 Fence

7.4.1 Fencing occurs around the Application Site predominantly to restrict pedestrian access as security fencing. Fencing comprises steel palisade security fencing that has low ecological significance and does not appear to prevent large vertebrates dispersing into the Application Site.

7.4.1 There is no condition assessment for fencing.

7.5 Buildings

7.5.1 The following buildings are present within the Application Site:

- a. *Workshop* –is single storey and comprises brick walls and a pitched roof covered with corrugated steel. The roof is supported by rolled steel joists. The building is used as a car workshop.
- b. *Shelter* - is single storey and comprises a steel frame with a pitched corrugated steel roof, the building is completely open sided. The building is used for storage.
- c. *Portacabin*–is single storey and comprises a prefabricated timber frame and walls with a flat roof covered in a waterproof membrane.
- d. *Storage Shed*–is single storey and comprises breezeblock and timber walls and a shallow mono pitched roof covered with corrugated steel. The building

is currently unused and in poor condition.

- 7.5.1 There is no condition assessment for buildings.
- 7.6 Bare ground
- 7.6.1 Bare ground habitats dominate the Application Site and consist of storage, working and parking areas. They comprise compacted hard standing substrate and this area is used for storing cars and car parts which does not support any botanical communities due to regular disturbance.
- 7.6.2 There is no condition assessment for bare ground.
- 7.7 Invasive species
- 7.7.1 Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* has been identified within peripheral parts of the Application Site. This species is included on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Section 2).
- 7.8 The following species of fauna were recorded during the field survey:
- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Blackbird | <i>Turdus merula</i> |
| Wren | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> |
| Great tit | <i>Parus major</i> |
| Blue tit | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> |
| Long-tailed Tit | <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i> |
| Chaffinch | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> |
| Woodpigeon | <i>Columba palumbus</i> |
| Pied wagtail | <i>Motacilla alba</i> |
| Dunnock | <i>Prunella modularis</i> |
| Magpie | <i>Pica pica</i> |

8.0 SPECIES APPRAISAL

8.1 The habitats within and surrounding the Application Site are potentially important, and the development area may impact upon mobile species. Consequently, the field survey and preliminary ecological appraisal targeted the following species relevant to the Application Site and proposed development:

Bats
Great crested newt
[REDACTED]
Reptiles
Birds
Hedgehog

8.2 Bats

8.2.1 Legislation

8.2.1.1 All bats and their roosts are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) and are further protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

8.2.1.2 The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, provision 41 states an offence is committed if a person:

- (a) Deliberately captures, injures, or kills any wild animal of a European protected species (i.e. bats),
- (b) Deliberately disturbs wild animals of any such species,
- (c) Deliberately takes or destroys the eggs of such an animal, or
- (d) Damages or destroys a breeding site or resting place of such an animal.

8.2.1.3 Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) states:

It is an offence for anyone without a licence to kill, injure, disturb, catch, handle, possess or exchange a bat intentionally. It is also illegal for anyone without a licence to intentionally damage or obstruct access to any place that a bat uses for shelter or protection.

8.2.1.4 Bat roosts are protected throughout the year, whether or not bats are occupying a roost site.

8.2.2 Field Survey Methodology

8.2.2.1 The daytime assessment identified whether the trees and buildings had any signs of occupancy and/or bat usage. This took the form of a methodical external search for actual roosting bats and their sign. Specifically, the visual survey involved the following:

8.2.2.2 Trees

- a. Assessment and evaluation of the trees and their potential to support bats;
- b. Tree hazard assessment including tree characteristics, health, site conditions, and defects in relation to a trees potential to support bats. Features that might indicate the presence of bats are as follows:

Trees that contained a cavity or space of at least 10mm

Woodpecker holes, rot holes, cavities, loose bark and ivy, examples of known roost sites

Tree diameter at chest height of > 20cm (less indicates that bats are less likely to be present)

Trees < 80 years of age are less likely to be attractive to bats

Droppings, scratch marks and staining on beams, cavities and under bark.

- b. Assessment of crevices and cracks to assess their importance for roosting bats.

8.2.2.3 Buildings

Assessment for droppings on walls and windowsills

Scratch marks, staining and potential entrance and exit holes

The presence of dense spider webs at a potential roost can often indicate absence of bats

Assessment of crevices and cracks in the buildings to assess their importance for roosting bats

8.2.3 Field Survey Results

- 8.2.3.1 Following the visual inspection, an assessment was made of the buildings and trees suitability to support roosting bats.

- 8.2.3.2 **Workshops** - no roosting opportunities were present within the fabric of the building due to the following:

The corrugated steel roof and boarding were tightfitting.

The eaves are tight fitting and there are no gaps in the external mortar suitable for roosting bats.

The UPVC doors and timber window frames were tight fitting.

There are no gaps in the roof structure to support roosting bats.

There were no obvious access points into the roof void.

No evidence of bats was observed.

The building has been assessed as having a NEGLIGIBLE SUITABILITY to support bats.

- 8.2.3.3 **Shelter** - no roosting opportunities were present within the fabric of the building due to the following:

The steel frame is tight fitting.

There are no gaps in the roof structure to support roosting bats.

No evidence of bats was observed.

The building has been assessed as having a NEGLIGIBLE SUITABILITY to support bats.

- 8.2.3.4 **Portakabin** - no roosting opportunities were present within the fabric of the building due to the following:

The timber structure is tightfitting.

The eaves are tight fitting and there are no gaps in the external structure suitable for roosting bats.

The single skin structure ensures that there are no gaps within a wall cavity.

The doors and windows were tight fitting.

There are no gaps in the roof structure to support roosting bats.
There was no open doors/window access into the building.
No evidence of bats was observed.
The building has been assessed as having a NEGLIGIBLE SUITABILITY to support bats.

8.2.3.5 **Storage Shed** - no roosting opportunities were present within the fabric of the building due to the following:

The corrugated steel roof was either tightfitting or too damaged and exposed for roosting bats

The eaves are tight fitting and there are no gaps in the external mortar suitable for roosting bats.

There are no gaps in the roof structure to support roosting bats.

No evidence of bats was observed.

The building has been assessed as having a NEGLIGIBLE SUITABILITY to support bats.

8.2.3.6 No potential roost sites exist within the studied buildings and trees on site, predominantly due to a lack of suitable roosting cavities within the trees, in addition to their immature age and form and the poor suitability of buildings. The impact to roosting bats within the Application Site is considered to be **neutral**.

8.2.4 **Wold Ecology does not recommend any further activity surveys for bats.**

8.2.5 Biodiversity Gains and Recommendations

8.2.5.1 Specially designed bat boxes can be located on site. Schwegler Bat Boxes are recommended and well tested boxes. The following bat boxes provide additional roost habitats and are available from Wold Ecology:

The **2FN** bat box has two entrances - one at the front and one at the rear against the tree. Bats often creep into the rear entrance but leave by the front. It has a domed roof to allow the bats to form roosting clusters for warmth and this bat box is also designed to be effective against small predators and excludes draughts and light. Due to the opening on the bottom, this bat box does not require cleaning.

The **1FQ** is an attractive box designed specifically to be fitted on the external wall of a house, barn, or other building. Equally appealing to bats as a roost or a nursery, it features a special porous coating to help maintain the ideal temperature inside along with a rough sawn front panel to enable the bats to land securely.

Bat Tube (**1FR** and **2FR**) system. The tube is designed to meet behavioural requirements of the types of bats that roost in buildings i.e. pipistrelle spp. This design can be installed flush to external walls and beneath a rendered surface.

8.2.5.2 The majority of these boxes are self-cleaning as they are designed so that the droppings fall out of the entrance. This reduces the possibility of smell during the summer months. For more information on designs and installation of bat boxes see: www.schwegler-natur.de and www.bct.org.uk.

- 8.2.5.3 Wold Ecology recommends that at least 2 bat boxes are sited on perimeter trees or new buildings on site. Bat boxes should be erected on south, east or west elevations; 3-5 metres above ground level or close to roof lines.
- 8.2.5.4 Lighting has a detrimental effect on bat activity; many bats will actually avoid areas that are well lit. Lighting can cause habitat fragmentation by preventing bats from commuting between roosts and foraging grounds (A.J Mitchell-Jones 2004).
- 8.2.5.5 It is recommended that a lighting consultant is employed to design a lighting plan based on the following principles:
- Luminaire and light spill accessories - Lighting should be directed to where it is needed, and light spillage avoided. This can be achieved by the design of the luminaire and by using accessories such as hoods, cowls, louvres and shields to direct the light to the intended area only.
 - If applicable, the height of lighting columns in general should be as short as is possible as light at a low level reduces the ecological impact. However, there are cases where a taller column will enable light to be directed downwards at a more acute angle and thereby reduce horizontal spill. For pedestrian lighting, this can take the form of low level lighting that is as directional as possible and below 1 lux at ground level.
 - Aim for lighting column of 5m or less, hooded and cowled to prevent light spill, for main lighting columns.
 - All luminaires should lack UV elements when manufactured. Metal halide, fluorescent sources should not be used.
 - LED luminaires should be used where possible due to their sharp cut-off, lower intensity, good colour rendition and dimming capability.
 - A warm white spectrum (ideally <2700Kelvin) should be adopted to reduce blue light component.
 - Luminaires should feature peak wavelengths higher than 550nm to avoid the component of light most disturbing to bats (Stone, 2012).
 - Internal luminaires can be recessed where installed in proximity to windows to reduce glare and light spill.
 - The use of specialist bollard or low-level downward directional luminaires to retain darkness above can be considered.
 - Only luminaires with an upward light ratio of 0% and with good optical control should be used.
 - Luminaires should always be mounted on the horizontal, i.e. no upward tilt.
 - Any external security lighting should be set on motion-sensors and short (1min) timers.
 - As a last resort, accessories such as baffles, hoods or louvres can be used to reduce light spill and direct it only to where it is needed.
 - Light spill can be successfully screened through soft landscaping and the installation of walls, fences and bunding
- 8.2.5.6 At this site, new lighting design will ensure lights will **not** be mounted where they will shine directly on to bat boxes or the surrounding trees/hedgerows/ditches habitat. A light intrusion lux level besides trees/hedgerows/ditch along the site boundaries will be 1 lux or below.

8.3 Great crested newt.

8.3.1 Legislation

8.3.1.1 The great crested newt is protected under European and British legislation. Under European legislation it is protected under EC Directive (92/43/EEC) 'The Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora', being listed under Annexes IIa and IVa. This is implemented in Britain under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) and is further protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. This prohibits the intentional killing of newts, the deliberate taking or destruction of eggs, damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place, intentional/reckless damage to or obstruction of a place used for shelter or protection, possession of a great crested newt and any form of trade of great crested newts.

8.3.1.2 Under British legislation, the great crested newt is given full protection under section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This Act transposes into UK law the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (commonly referred to as the 'Bern Convention'). This prohibits the intentional killing, injuring or taking, possession or disturbance of great crested newts whilst occupying a place used for shelter or protection and the destruction of these places. Protection is given to all stages of life (e.g. adults, sub-adults, larvae, and ovae).

8.3.1.3 In combination the above legislation prohibits the following:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take a great crested newt;
- Possess or control any live or dead specimen or anything derived from a great crested newt;
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection by a great crested newt;
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a great crested newt while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for that purpose;
- Deliberately capture or kill a great crested newt;
- Deliberately disturb a great crested newt;
- Deliberately take or destroy eggs of a great crested newt;
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a great crested newt.

8.3.1.4 The great crested newt is therefore described as 'fully protected'.

8.3.2 Field Survey Methodology

8.3.2.1 A habitat assessment was completed on the proposed development area and surrounding land (250 metres radius) accessible at the time of the survey. The assessment combined Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines (English Nature 2001) and Evaluating the Suitability of Habitat for the Great Crested Newt (R. S. Oldham, J. Keeble, M. J. S. Swan and M. Jeffcote, undated) methodology.

8.3.2.2 The entire Application Site was assessed for its potential to support great crested newts, whilst conducting the field survey. In addition, aerial photographs, maps and physical searches of the surrounding landscape identified how the Application Site is connected to ponds within the locality and potentially, great crested newt populations.

8.3.2.3 Amphibians can take refuge under logs, bark and stones whilst in terrestrial habitat. All available features within the Application Site were turned over to search for the presence of amphibians. This method is not an effective method of presence/absence; however, it can be used as a general indication of amphibians within an area. Despite the time of year amphibians are occasionally found outside of hibernacula in such situations, especially during mild damp weather such as that prior and during the field survey.

8.3.3 Field Survey Results

8.3.3.1 No records of great crested newt occur within 1km of the Application Site. The closest known populations are in excess of 1km and are fragmented by urban habitats and road networks.

8.3.3.2 No ponds or permanent water bodies suitable for breeding great crested newts were observed within the Application Site, the field survey and analysis of maps suggests that the nearest pond is located 215m southeast of the Application Site, in association with a Caravan Site. The wider habitat is largely well drained except for this pond which appears to be a manmade pond, containing both fish and ducks. Ornamental ponds are typically sub-optimum great crested newt habitat and have reduced potential for great crested newt; they are not considered to be of any significance to the species. Key attributes to the decreased probability of great crested newts being present within ornamental garden ponds are:

High density of stocked fish, which predate great crested newt larvae, eggs, and adults. The London Essex and Hertfordshire Amphibian and Reptile Trust state that 'Despite the natural protection of a poisonous secretion which makes the adults unpalatable to most predators, the larvae are highly vulnerable to fish predation. Entire colonies can be impacted upon by the introduction of fish'. It is unlikely that fishponds support great crested newts.

Decrease macrophyte growth due to fish disturbance and foraging and decreased water turbidity.

Increased water turbidity due to fish disturbance and associate high nitrate input.

Fish likely to predate large numbers of the invertebrates important for great crested newt reproduction and adult diet.

Poor vegetation structure, creating cold micro-climate and lack of sunlight penetration.

Usually small pond size, limiting the reproductive value for such water bodies, not allowing sufficient recruitment to support viable populations.

Isolated nature resulting in failure to form meta-populations and limits genetic diversity, further limiting breeding recruitment.

Often ornamental ponds have raised sides making it impossible for amphibians to access them.

Fishponds usually have pumps, filters, waterfalls and fountains which reduce the value to great crested newts. Free swimming larvae struggle to swim in moving water, also amphibians are prone to being killed by getting sucked into pump and filter systems.

8.3.4 Site Status Assessment

8.3.4.1 Whilst great crested newts are known to move considerable distances from their breeding ponds, the vast majority of great crested newt will remain much closer to their breeding ponds (NE 2001). The quality of terrestrial habitat near to a known breeding pond is an important factor in determining how far they will disperse. Where good quality terrestrial habitat is found close to the breeding ponds, great crested newts are unlikely to travel large distances, whereas poor quality habitat close to the ponds may force them to travel greater distance to find suitable terrestrial foraging habitat.

8.3.4.2 This analysis is to a large degree supported by the conclusions of English Nature (EN) Research Note 576 (2004), an assessment of the efficiency of capture techniques and the value of different habitats for the great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*, which notes that:

“The most comprehensive mitigation, in relation to avoiding disturbance, killing or injury is appropriate within 50m of a breeding pond. It will also almost always be necessary to actively capture newts 50-100m away. However, at distances greater than 100m, there should be careful consideration as to whether attempts to capture newts are necessary or the most effective option to avoid incidental mortality. At distances greater than 200-250m, capture operations will hardly ever be appropriate.”

And,

“The least favoured direction of terrestrial dispersal has been found to be towards the habitat least likely to provide favourable conditions: arable land and open areas.”

8.3.4.3 These recommendations are also broadly consistent with findings in the literature, since although a maximum routine migratory range has been estimated as approximately 250 m from a breeding pond (Franklin, 19935; Oldham and Nicholson, 19866; Jehle, 20007), Jehle (2000) determined a terrestrial zone of 63 m, within which 95% of summer refuges were located. In addition, following the breeding season, (Jehle and Arntzen, 2000) recorded 64% of newts within 20 m of the pond edge. More recent research (Kovar *et al* 20098) also found great crested newts at the farthest, 249m from the water.

8.3.4.4 Whilst it is not always possible to demonstrate site absence from a single site survey, with the evidence collected from a habitat survey and desk top study, the likelihood of the presence of great crested newts in the Application Site is decreased. Key attributes to the negligible probability of great crested newts being present are:

No records of great crested newt exist within 1km of the Application Site.

There is no current knowledge of great crested newts within the Application Site.

No suitable ponds exist within the Application Site.

No ponds were observed within 200m of the Application.

The pond associated with the caravan park (215m) is large (0.35ha) and managed for its amenity value. It is likely to be stocked with fish.

The Application Site primarily comprises bare ground buildings which inhibits dispersal by reducing areas of shelter, foraging grounds and leaving amphibians open to predation and desiccation. Consequently, Application Site is poor quality terrestrial habitat for amphibians.

The open exposed nature of the site with limited refugia results in a poor invertebrate habitat. Great crested newts predominantly prey on slugs, insects, spiders and earthworms. They tend to forage in woodland, scrub,

rough grassland and wetland areas largely due to the large diversity and abundance of invertebrates which these areas attract.

The surrounding arable landscape significantly hampers great crested newt dispersal into the area, without the aid of humans. Great crested newts tend not to occur within areas of arable land unless it is directly adjoined to a breeding pond, unlike in the Application Site. Arable land is open, well drained with limited refugia leading to a significant risk of predation. The use of pesticides, lack of vegetation diversity and lack of refuge leads to poor invertebrate habitat and therefore poor foraging habitat.

8.3.5 **Wold Ecology does not recommend any further surveys for great crested newts.**

8.4 **Birds**

8.4.1 Birds are afforded various levels of protection and levels of conservation status on a species by species basis. The most significant general legislation for British birds lies within Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation, it is an offence to, kill, injure or take any wild bird, take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built, take or destroy an egg of any wild bird.

8.4.2 Schedule 1 Birds

8.4.2.1 Schedule 1 birds are rare or scarce species afforded the same protection as above (8.4.1.1), but also have additional protection under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This further protection protects these species from being intentionally or recklessly disturbed whilst nesting, either at or close to the nest site.

8.4.3 Planning consent for a development does not provide a defence against prosecution under this act.

8.4.4 Field Survey Methodology

8.4.4.1 All bird species recorded by either sight, song or call were noted, in addition particular attention was given to key species of conservation concern and which habitat within the Application Site they were recorded using. All active (and disused) nests, territorial, breeding, and foraging birds were recorded in further detail to analyse how breeding birds use the Application Site.

8.4.4.2 The survey followed guidance and methods recommended within *Bird Monitoring Methods, a manual of techniques for key UK species* Gilbert et.al RSPB 1998, *Common Standards Monitoring Guidance for Birds* JNCC 2004 and *Survey Techniques Leaflet 8*.

8.4.4.3 Wold Ecology assessed the site for schedule 1 listed species recorded having bred or attempted to breed in Yorkshire (Wold Ecology, NEYEDC), which have the potential to breed within the Application Site and/or surrounding adjacent local area or breed elsewhere whilst using the Application Site to forage or roost.

- 8.4.5 Field Survey Results
 - 8.4.5.1 Schedule 1 Listed Birds
 - 8.4.5.1.1 Wold Ecology concludes that the Application Site is of low value to schedule 1 listed species. This is primarily due to the managed/disturbed nature of the Application Site, it is surrounded by high hedges and trees, lack of suitable or extensive habitats in the locality and adjacent habitats with no features to support nesting Schedule 1 listed species. None of the trees or buildings within the Application Site contain suitable nesting locations for Schedule 1 Listed Birds.
 - 8.4.5.2 None-schedule 1 birds - breeding birds
 - 8.4.5.2.1 Impacts related to breeding birds are essentially related to the temporary loss of habitat which is utilised by breeding species. Related to this is the risk that birds could be nesting within impacted habitats at the time that construction work is programmed to start. Of relevance to this project are small passerine species, particularly those associated with the trees and hedgerows.
 - 8.4.5.3 None-schedule 1 birds - wintering birds
 - 8.4.5.3.1 The Application Site is not considered to be valuable to wintering birds like wildfowl and waders. The Application Site is too enclosed, with high hedgerows and is subjected to regular disturbance, reducing the value of the habitat for these species groups, nor is it in close proximity to suitable aquatic habitats. The only impact typically of any relevance to wintering birds are those associated with the temporary loss of food sources. This is principally associated with the loss of sections of hedgerow and trees which provide a potential source of food to a range of wintering species. However, these habitats are abundant within the wider area and are not thought to be of significant importance to birds.
- 8.4.6 **Wold Ecology does not recommend any further surveys for birds.**
- 8.4.7 Biodiversity Gains and Recommendations
 - 8.4.7.1 It is concluded that the Application Site is a suitable habitat for woodland edge bird species with various designations. There is nesting potential for a range of birds such as thrushes, finches, wood pigeon *Columba palumbus*, magpie *Pica pica*, dunnock *Prunella modularis* and wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*. Several simple management prescriptions can improve the site for breeding bird species.
 - 8.4.7.2 Any trees, buildings and hedgerows to be removed should be cleared outside of the bird nesting season (i.e. clearance should be undertaken between mid-September and early February inclusive) or be carefully checked* by an ecologist to confirm no active nests are present - prior to removal during the summer period. If nesting birds are found during the watching brief, works will need to stop until the young have fledged. Since a number of nests are active, work will need to wait until fledging has occurred, then trees should be removed immediately to avoid other nests being created.
 - * Thick and overgrown hedgerows are often difficult to inspect fully and removal of a hedge during the spring/summer period is not recommended.

8.4.7.3 In order to increase nesting opportunities for birds, it is recommended that Schwegler bird boxes are erected throughout the site. Local Authority guidance recommends that 25% of houses within a development should contain a bird box.

8.4.7.4 Boxes should be placed so that the entrance does not face the prevailing wind, rain and strong sunlight. The sector from north to south east should be used, with south facing boxes positioned in more shaded areas. Boxes should be positioned away from the damp side of the tree trunk, usually told by algae, lichen and moss growth. Boxes should also be angled downwards to stop rain blowing into them.

8.4.7.5 Many species will use boxes at a wide variety of heights however to give the box protection in areas with a lot of human or mammalian predator activity they should be placed approximately 3-4 metres above ground level. A clear flight path should be available to and from the nest box.

8.5

8.5.1

8.5.1.1

8.5.1.2

8.5.2

8.5.2.1

8.5.2.2

8.5.3

8.5.3.1

8.5.3.2

8.6 Reptiles

8.6.1 Legislation

8.6.1.1 The legislation relating to the protection of the more common reptiles (adder *Vipera berus*, grass snake *Natrix helvetica*, common lizard *Zootoca vivipara* and slowworm *Anguis fragilis*) in Britain is contained mainly within the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000). Their inclusion on Schedule 5 gives 'partial protection' (i.e. only parts of section 9 apply). Under the Act it is an offence to;

Intentionally (or recklessly) kill or injure commoner reptile species.

8.6.1.2 The less common reptile species such as sand lizard *Lacerta agilis* and smooth snake *Coronella austriaca* have a higher level of protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). However, these species will not be present within the Application Site, owing to their restricted southerly British distribution and the lack of suitable habitat.

8.6.1.3 Since its original enactment, the Wildlife and Countryside Act has been subject to many changes (notably via Schedule 12 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) and is further protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. These have in particular affected penalties and enforcement. Offences under section 9 of the Act are now 'arrestable'. Enforcement is usually by the Police and less frequently by Natural England. However, section 25(2) of Wildlife and Countryside Act also states that a local authority may institute proceedings. Prosecutions can result in a level five fine (currently £5000) for each offence (and the Act is specific that killing/injuring of each individual animal can constitute a separate offence), the forfeiture of any equipment, etc., used to perpetrate that offence and (under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) up to six months imprisonment.

8.6.2 Field Survey Methodology

8.6.2.1 no direct observations or field signs of reptiles was recorded on site. A full walkover was undertaken to assess the sites potential to support reptiles.

8.6.3 Field Survey Results

8.6.3.1 The desktop study identified adder and common lizard as the only reptile species which is found within the wider 2km area. Reptiles are moderately localised in North Yorkshire.

8.6.3.2 The Application Site is considered to be unsuitable for reptiles for the following reasons:

The Application Site and adjacent habitats are heavily disturbed on a daily basis.

Reptiles thermoregulate in sheltered locations, predominantly in close proximity to cover such as rank or shrubby vegetation, large rocks, walls, and

tree stumps in which they can quickly escape. The Application Site primarily consists of open exposed habitat, with limited and largely insufficient thicker marginal vegetation, making reptiles prone to predation.

Compost heaps, rotten logs and decaying vegetation provide important breeding, foraging and thermoregulation habitat for slow worm and grass snake. None of which are present within the Application Site.

Reptiles use cracks, crevices, and small mammal burrows to access underground refugia and hibernacula. These habitat features are limited within the Application Site, reducing the value to reptiles.

The lack of the above features, with a sufficient depth to remain frost free reduces the potential for reptiles to hibernate within the Application Site.

Reptiles are typically not very wide-ranging species, instead staying in optimum habitat. Such optimum habitat does not occur within or around the Application Site reducing the likelihood of animals passing through the site.

This past management is likely to have resulted in the site being sub-optimum for a long-time period, reducing the likelihood of viable populations persisting.

The open nature of the Application Site leaves reptiles open to predation from key predators including crows, kestrels, hedgehogs, domestic cats, and foxes.

The site is small, surrounded by disturbed land and fragmented from optimum reptile habitat in the wider area.

The poor value of the site to amphibians (grass snake's chief food source) further limit the sites importance to grass snakes.

8.6.4 **Wold Ecology does not recommend any further surveys for reptiles.**

8.7 Hedgehog

8.7.1 Legislation

8.7.1.1 Although the Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* only receives partial protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), its numbers have declined dramatically over the past two decades, resulting in the suggested proposal of upgrade to a higher level of protected status. The British population has declined by 25% over the past 10 years. The reasons for the decline are thought to be complex but include the loss of hedgerows and permanent grasslands as well as agricultural intensification.

8.7.2 Field Survey Methodology

8.7.2.1 All features of potential value to hedgehogs are surveyed; including areas of thick vegetation, outbuildings, lawns, grassland, scrub, woodland, and hedge bases. Evidence of breeding nests, hibernation nests and loafing nests were searched for in areas of suitable cover.

8.7.2.2 Well-worn animal paths, pool edges and footpaths were inspected for hedgehog footprints. Open areas were inspected for hedgehog droppings, particularly amenity grassland. Additionally, the surrounding road system was surveyed for road casualties.

- 8.7.2.3 The following field signs will indicate the presence of hedgehogs:
 Nests within dense vegetation
 Hedgehog droppings and prints
 Road casualties.
- 8.7.3 Field Survey Results.
- 8.7.3.1 No active or unused hedgehog nests were found within the hedge base within the Application Site. Most of the Application Site is too open to support nesting behaviour, although the hedgerow bases offer suitable habitat.
- 8.7.4 Biodiversity Gains and Recommendations
- 8.7.4.1 Care must be taken whilst carrying out vegetation clearance, or strimming. A thorough check of the vegetation prior to removal will help ensure that no hedgehogs are injured or killed during development works. Sleeping hedgehogs frequently suffer severe injuries from strimmers.
- 8.7.4.2 Avoid setting fire to piles of vegetation unless they have been turned, checked or moved immediately prior to burning. Hedgehogs often get killed or injured in fires during vegetation removal and during early November.
- 8.7.4.3 Encouraging thick hedgerow bases and areas of rough grassland will offer good hedgehog habitat within the study area. Hedgehogs favour lawned grassland in close proximity to rough grassland for foraging where they can access soil invertebrates on evenings.
- 8.7.4.4 A number of hedgehog houses should be positioned around the site within hedge bases. These will provide important breeding and hibernation sites for hedgehogs within the local area. Boxes should be sited out of direct sunlight with the entrance facing away from prevailing winds, in or under thick vegetation. The boxes should be situated away from busy roads or areas of high disturbance.
- 8.7.4.5 Providing connectivity between habitats by leaving gaps below fences, gates and walls will allow hedgehogs access in and out of the site. Hedgehog holes must be created in all partition fences, allowing free movement between gardens. Perimeter boundary fencing will include a hedgehog hole every 20m.
- 8.8 Invasive species**
- 8.8.1 Legislation
- 8.8.1.1 As invasive plants listed under schedule 9 of the wildlife and countryside act have been identified on site, the site owner has a responsibility to prevent them spreading into the wild or causing a nuisance/damage.
- 8.8.1.2 You must not plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild any plant listed on schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- 8.8.1.3 Due to the presence of invasive plants within the Application Site, the owner must comply with specific legal responsibilities, including:
 Spraying invasive plants with herbicide.
 Cutting and burning invasive plants.

Burying invasive plant material on site.
Disposing of invasive plants and contaminated soil off site.

8.8.2 Field Survey Result

8.8.2.1 Himalayan balsam was recorded along the boundaries of Application Site.

8.8.2.2 Invasive non-native plants are species which have been brought into the UK which have the ability to spread causing damage to the environment, the economy and human health.

8.8.2.3 The site owner is not obliged to remove or treat invasive plants, but must not:
Allow invasive plants to spread onto adjacent land - the owner of that land could take legal action against you.
Plant or encourage the spread of invasive plants outside of your land - this can include moving contaminated soil from one place to another or incorrectly handling and transporting contaminated material and plant cuttings.

8.8.2.4 It is recommended that a specialist contractor (with appropriate experience and insurances) is employed to remove the Himalayan balsam off site.

9.0 HABITATS APPRAISAL

9.1 Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP) Habitats of Principal Importance for the Conservation of Biological Diversity

9.1.1 In 1995, 'Biodiversity: The UK Steering Group Report' was published, which aimed to conserve and enhance biological diversity within the UK, including action plans for 38 key habitats and for 402 of our most threatened species. These plans describe the status of each habitat and species, outline the threats they face, set targets and objectives for their management, and propose actions necessary to achieve recovery. The Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP) have recently been updated, new ones added, and others removed, so there are numerous habitats that have been listed as priorities for conservation action. A list of these UK BAP species and habitats can be found at <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5706>

9.1.2 In addition, there are approximately 150 Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP), normally at county level. These plans usually include actions to address the needs of the UK priority habitats and species in the local area, together with a range of other plans for habitats and species that are of local importance or interest.

9.1.3 In summary, none of the following UKBAP Habitats (which meet the UKBAP Habitat criterion) were recorded on site:

UK BAP broad habitat.	UK BAP priority habitat.	Habitat present within the Application Site.
Rivers and Streams	Rivers	N
Standing Open Waters and Canals	Oligotrophic and Dystrophic Lakes	N
	Ponds	N
	Mesotrophic Lakes	N
	Eutrophic Standing Waters	N
	Aquifer Fed Naturally Fluctuating Water Bodies	N
Arable and Horticultural	Arable Field Margins	N
Boundary and Linear Features	Hedge rows	N
Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland	Traditional Orchards	N
	Wood -Pasture and Parkland	N
	Upland Oakwood	N
	Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland	N
	Upland Mixed Ashwoods	N
	Wet Woodland	N
	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	N
Coniferous Woodland	Upland Birchwoods	N
Acid Grassland	Native Pine Woodlands	N
Calcareous Grassland	Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	N
	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	N
Neutral Grassland	Upland Calcareous Grassland	N
	Lowland Meadows	N
Improved Grassland	Upland Hay Meadows	N
	Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh	N
Dwarf Shrub Heath	Lowland Heathland	N
	Upland Heathland	N
Fen, Marsh and Swamp	Upland Flushes, Fens and Swamps	N

	Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures	N
	Lowland Fens	N
	Reedbeds	N
Bogs	Lowland Raised Bog	N
	Blanket Bog	N
Montane Habitats	Mountain Heaths and Willow Scrub	N
Inland Rock	Inland Rock Outcrop and Scree Habitats	N
	Calaminarian Grasslands	N
	Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land	N
	Limestone Pavements	N
Supralittoral Rock	Maritime Cliff and Slopes	N
Supralittoral Sediment	Coastal Vegetated Shingle	N
	Machair	N
	Coastal Sand Dunes	N
Marine Habitats		N

9.2 Hedgerows

9.2.1 Legislation

9.2.1.1 **Permission should be granted from the planning authority prior to removing a hedge and new hedgerows should be planted to compensate for the hedge removal –if applicable.**

9.2.2 UKBAP Habitat criterion

9.2.2.1 A hedgerow is defined as any boundary line of trees or shrubs over 20m long and less than 5m wide, and where any gaps between the trees or shrub species are less than 20m wide (Bickmore, 2002). Any bank, wall, ditch or tree within 2m of the centre of the hedgerow is considered to be part of the hedgerow habitat, as is the herbaceous vegetation within 2m of the centre of the hedgerow. All hedgerows consisting predominantly (i.e. 80% or more cover) of at least one woody UK native species are covered by this priority habitat, where each UK country can define the list of woody species native to their respective country. Climbers such as honeysuckle and bramble are recognised as integral to many hedgerows, however they require other woody plants to be present to form a distinct woody boundary feature, as such they are not included in the definition of woody species. The definition is limited to boundary lines of trees or shrubs and excludes banks or walls without woody shrubs on top of them.

9.2.2.2 Based on an analysis of Countryside Survey data, using the threshold of at least 80% cover of any UK native woody species, it is estimated that 84% of countryside hedgerows in GB would be included. Hedgerows are a primary habitat or at least 47 species of conservation concern in the UK, including 13 that are globally threatened or rapidly declining, more than for most other key habitats. They are especially important for butterflies and moths, farmland birds, bats and dormice (where locally present).

9.2.2.3 Since 1945 there has been a continual decline in both the quantity and quality of the UK's native hedgerows either through removal or poor management practices. The Environment Act 1995 introduced an enabling power to protect important

hedgerows in Britain. Land managers are required to consult local authorities before hedgerows can be removed. Article 10 of the EC Habitats Directive requires member states to encourage the management of linear features such as hedgerows in their planning and development policies and with a view to improving the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network. This is supported by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, which recognises the importance of these features for the migration, dispersal, and genetic exchange of wild species. NPPF further encourages the development of policies for the management of hedgerows.

- 9.2.2.4 UKBAP targets for hedgerows are:
- Maintain the net extent of hedgerows across the UK
 - Maintain the overall number of individual, isolated hedgerow trees and the net number of isolated veteran trees;
 - Ensure that hedgerows remain, on average, at least as rich in native woody species
 - Achieve favourable condition of 348,000 km (50%) by 2015
 - Reverse the unfavourable condition of over-managed hedgerows across the UK by reducing the proportion of land managers who trim most of their hedges annually
 - Halt further decline in the condition of herbaceous hedgerow flora in Great Britain by 2010 (and improve their condition by 2015)
 - Improve the condition of the hedgerow tree population by increasing numbers of young trees (1-4 years) in Great Britain to 80,000 by 2015 and
 - Achieve a net increase in the length of hedgerows of an average of 800 km per year in Great Britain to 2015.
- 9.2.2.5 The criteria for an important hedgerow are one or more of the following:
- Marks a pre-1850 parish or township boundary.
 - Incorporates an archaeological feature.
 - Is part of, or associated with, an archaeological site.
 - Marks the boundary of, or is associated with, a pre-1600 estate or manor.
 - Forms an integral part of a pre-parliamentary enclosure field system.
 - Contains certain categories of species of bird, animals or plants listed in the Wildlife and Countryside Act or Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) publications and includes:
 - (a) at least seven woody species, on average, in a 30m length.
 - (b) at least six woody species, on average, in a 30m length and has at least three associated features.
 - (c) at least six woody species, on average, in a 30m length including a black-poplar tree, or a large-leaved lime, or small-leaved lime, or wild service-tree.
 - (d) at least five woody species, on average in a 30m length and has at least four associated features.
- 9.2.2.6 Runs alongside a bridleway, footpath, road used as a public path, or a byway open to all traffic and includes at least four woody species, on average, in a 30m length and has at least two of the associated features listed at (i) or (v) below. The associated features are:
- (i) a bank or wall supporting the hedgerow.
 - (ii) less than 10% gaps.

- (iii) on average, at least one tree per 50m.
- (iv) at least three species from a list of 57 woodland plants.
- (v) a ditch.
- (vi) a number of connections with other hedgerows, ponds or woodland.
- (vii) a parallel hedge within 15m.

9.2.2.7 Based on the criteria above, Wold Ecology does not consider the hedgerows within and adjacent to the Application Site to be important UKBAP habitat

9.2.3 Biodiversity Gains and Recommendations

9.2.3.1 If applicable, hedges should be cleared outside of the bird nesting season (i.e. clearance should be undertaken between mid-September and early February inclusive) or be carefully checked* by an ecologist to confirm no active nests are present - prior to removal during the summer period. If nesting birds are found during the watching brief, works will need to stop until the young have fledged.

* Thick and overgrown hedgerows are often difficult to inspect fully and removal of a hedge during the spring/summer period is not recommended.

9.2.3.2 During the construction period, it is important that a root protection exclusion zone is in place adjacent to any hedgerow. This must be at least 5m from the centre of the hedge and must be kept free of plant and storage of building supplies.

9.2.3.3 The hedgerows bounding the site should be kept free of fertilisers, pesticides and development on land within 3m of the hedge centre. The long-term management of these hedges will add to their biodiversity value; the hedge should be cut only once every two or three calendar years and on alternate sides. Cutting the hedge in January will provide maximum quantities of food for birds over winter.

9.3 Trees

9.3.1 Any trees to be retained should be protected by barriers erected following guidelines given in BS5837:2012 "Trees in Relation to Construction". English Nature (2000) recommends that 'an exclusion zone of 15 times the diameter of the tree at breast height is created'. This will protect the roots from compaction and physical damage whilst protecting the tree from fertilizers and chemical applications. The latter can have a detrimental effect on the tree's relationship with lichens and mycorrhizal fungi. Root protection zones should be free of plant, storage of building sundries and excavation works should be limited where possible; this will help preserve the life of the trees.

9.4 Management planning

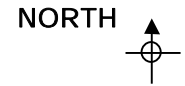
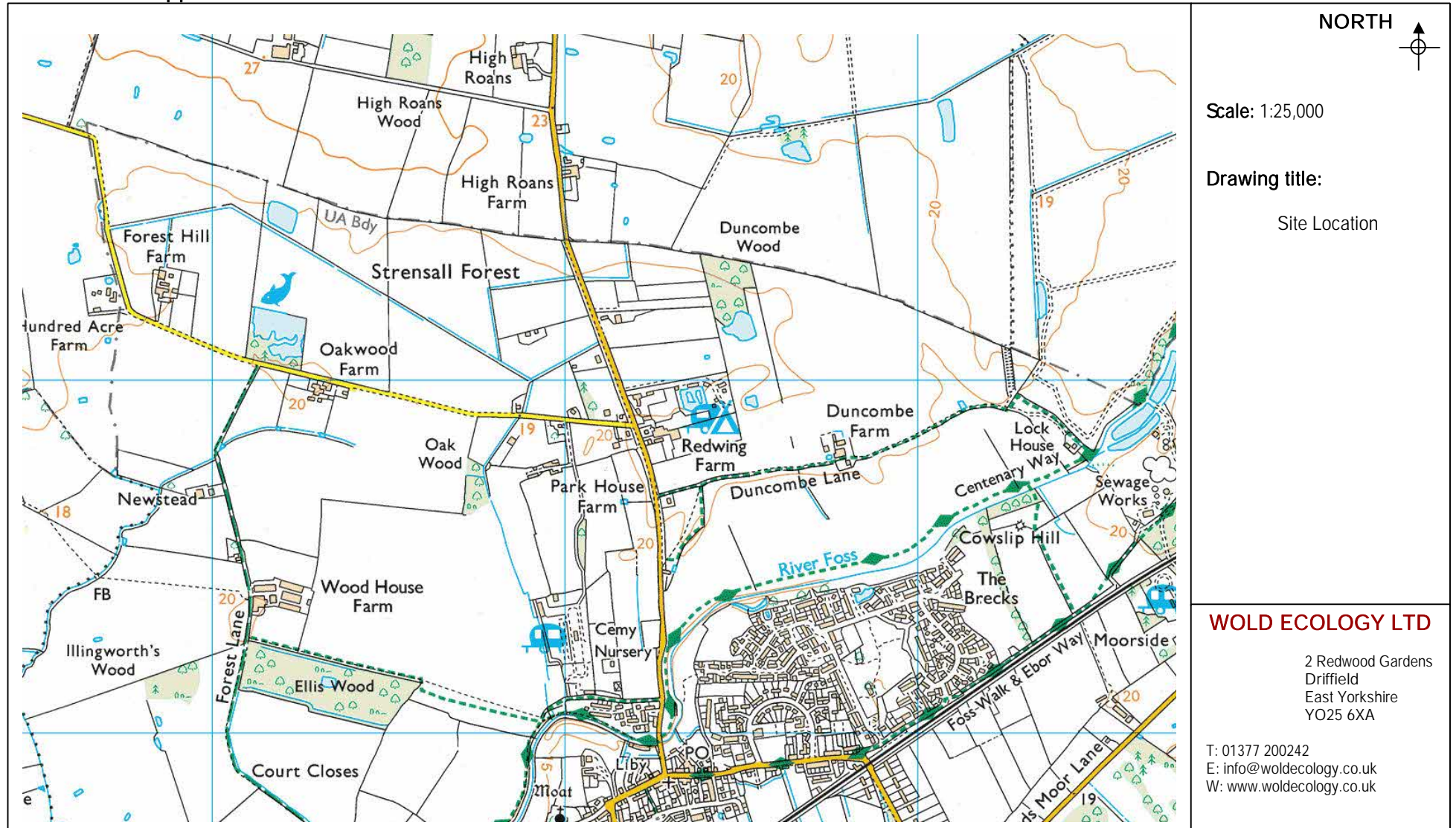
9.4.1 It is recommended that a detailed Ecological Construction Method Statement and an Ecological Enhancement Management Plan is produced in order to protect, maintain and enhance the sites ecological value.

- Andrews, H., *et al*, (2013). *Bat Tree Habitat Key*. AEcol, Bridgewater.
- Arntzen, J.W. & Teunis, S.F.M (1993). *A six-year study on the population dynamics of the crested newt (Triturus cristatus) following the colonisation of a newly created pond*. Herpetological Journal 3: 99-110.
- Baker, J., Beebee, T., Buckley, J., Gent, T. and Orchard, D. (2011). *A m^phibian Habitat Management Handbook*. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bournemouth.
- Beebee. T., & Griffiths. R., (2000), *Amphibians and Reptiles*, Harper Collins.
- Chinery, M., (2007), *Insects of Britain and Western Europe* A & C Black.
- Chinery, M., (2011), *Britain's Plant Galls*, Wild Guides.
- Cramp, S. and Simmons, K.E.L., (1980), *The Handbook of the Birds of Europe the Middle East and North Africa, The Birds of the Western Palaearctic*. (eds.), 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Oxford University Press.
- Dietz, C., Helversen, O.V., & Nill, D., (2009), *Bats of Britain, Europe & Northwest Africa*. A & C Black.
- Entwhistle, A.C., Harris, S., Hutson, A.M., Racey, P.A., Walsh, A., (2001). *Habitat Management for Bats - A guide for land managers, land owners and their advisors*. JNCC.
- Ferguson-Lees, J., Castell, R., & Leech, D., (2011) *A Field Guide to Monitoring Nests*, BTO.
- Gent, T., & Gibson, S., (2003), *Herpetofauna Workers' Manual*. Pelagic publishing.
- Gilbert G., Gibbons D.W. & Evans J. (1998) *Bird Monitoring Methods: A manual of techniques for key species*, RSPB, Sandy.
- Gregory R., D., Wilkinson N., I., Noble D., G., Robinson J., A., Brown A., F., Hughes J., Procter D., A, Gibbons D., W. and Galbraith C., A., (2002), *The population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man: an analysis of conservation concern 2002-2007*. British Birds 95: 410-450.
- Greenhalgh, M., & Ovenden, D., (2007), *Freshwater Life; Britain and Northern Europe* Harper Collins.
- Habitats Directive* (1994) European Commission.
- Harris, S., & Yalden, D.W., (2008), *Mammals of the British Isles, Handbook, 4th Edition*. The Mammal Society.
- Jehle, R., Thiesmeier, B., & Foster, J., (2011), *The Crested Newt a dwindling pond-dweller*, Laurenti-Verlag (Germany).
- JNCC, (2010), *Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey - a technique for environmental audit*.

- Johnson, O., & More, D., (2004), *Collins Tree Guide*, Harper Collins.
- Langton, T, Beckett, C, & Foster, J, (2001), *Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook*. Froglife.
- Lever, C., (2009), *The Naturalized Animals of Britain and Ireland*, New Holland Publishers (UK) Ltd.
- Macdonald, D., & Barrett, P., (1993), *Mammals: Britain and Europe*, Harper Collins.
- Mitchell-Jones A.J. (2004). *Bat Mitigation Guidelines*, English Nature, Peterborough.
- Mather, J., (1986). *The Birds of Yorkshire*. Christopher Helm Publishers Ltd.
- Natural Area Profile* English Nature, 1997.
- Protection of Badgers Act*. 1992.
- Roper, T.J., *Badger*, New Naturalist, Harper Collins.
- Streeter, D., Hart-Davies, C., Hardcastle, A., Cole, F., & Harper, L., (2009), *Collins Flower Guide*, Harper Collins.
- Svensson, L., (2009) *Collins Bird Guide: The most complete guide to the birds of Britain and Europe*, 2nd Ed., Harper Collins.
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act, HMSO*. Anon, 1981.
- Tranche 2 Action Plans: Terrestrial and Freshwater Habitats*. UK Biodiversity Group, 1998. Crown Copyright.
- Wembridge, D., (2012), *Urban Mammals a concise guide*, Whittet Books Ltd.
- Williams, J., (2010), *The Otter*, Merlin Unwin Books.
- http://www.english-nature.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/1003238.pdf. 1984
- <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=7>
- <http://www.natureonthemap.org.uk/identify.aspx>

11.0 APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1



Scale: 1:25,000

Drawing title:

Site Location

WOLD ECOLOGY LTD

2 Redwood Gardens
Driffield
East Yorkshire
YO25 6XA

T: 01377 200242
E: info@woldecology.co.uk
W: www.woldecology.co.uk



11.3 Appendix 3 –Summary of desktop study

Organisation.	Response Summary.	Date.
Natural England.	Local designations.	October 2023
Natural England.	UKBAP species and habitats within 2 km.	October 2023
North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre.	Species lists within 2 km.	October 2023
www.magic.gov.uk	European Protected species licenses within 2km.	October 2023
Wold Ecology network.	Species lists within 5 km of the Application Site.	2006 – to present day.

11.4 Appendix 4 - Protected Species Legislation

The following provides background to the current legislation in England - for full details reference should be made to the relevant legislation. A number of wild animals are classified as Protected Species as they are protected by various pieces of legislation. The most commonly encountered Protected Species of animal are listed in the table below. This table summarises which sections of legislation each species is protected by and the legislative text is provided on the following pages.

Legislation	Schedule 5 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (As amended) Part 1							EPS	PBA
	S1 (1)	S1 (4 & 5)	S9 (1)	S9 (2)	S9 (4)(a)	S9 (4)(b)	S9 (5)		
Adder <i>Vipera berus</i>			√*				√		
Common lizard <i>Zootoca vivipara</i>			√*				√		
Grass snake <i>Natrix helvetica</i>			√*				√		
Slow worm <i>Anguis fragilis</i>			√*				√		
Smooth snake <i>Coronella austriaca</i>			√	√	√	√	√	√	
Sand lizard <i>Lacerta agilis</i>			√	√	√	√	√	√	
Great Crested Newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>			√	√	√	√	√	√	
Natterjack Toad <i>Epidalea calamita</i>			√	√	√	√	√	√	
All UK bats <i>Chiroptera</i>			√	√	√	√	√	√	
Water vole <i>Arvicola amphibious</i>			√	√	√	√	√		
Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>			√	√	√	√	√	√	
Dormouse <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>			√	√	√	√	√	√	
Badger <i>Meles meles</i>									√
Red Squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>			√	√	√	√	√		
Pine Marten <i>Martes martes</i>			√	√	√	√	√		
Scottish Wildcat <i>Felis silvestris</i>			√	√	√	√	√	√	
White-clawed crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>			√				√		
All Nesting birds	√								
Specific Nesting birds i.e. Barn Owl, Black Redstart	√	√							

S = Section

() = Paragraph

EPS = European Protected Species i.e. listed under Regulation 40 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019

PBA = Protection of Badgers Act 1992

* = Only part of this section

Legislative Text

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

Since its original enactment, the Wildlife and Countryside Act has been subject to many changes (notably via Schedule 12 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000). These have in particular affected penalties and enforcement. Offences under section 9 of the Act are now 'arrestable'. Enforcement is usually by the Police and less frequently by Natural England. However, section 25(2) of Wildlife and Countryside Act also states that a local authority may institute proceedings. Prosecutions can result in a level five fine (currently £5000) for each offence (and the Act is specific that killing/injuring of each individual animal can constitute a separate offence), the forfeiture of any equipment, etc., used to perpetrate that offence and (under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) up to six months' imprisonment.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), transposes into domestic law the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Bern Convention). It is an offence under the various sections of Part 1 of the Act to -

- S.1 (1) intentionally kill, injure, or take any wild bird or their eggs or nests.
- S.1 (4) intentionally or recklessly kill, injure, or take any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 of the Act, or their eggs or nests (special penalties apply if convicted) (For a full list of Schedule 1 bird species see the full text of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 [as amended])
- S.1(5) (a) disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or
(b) disturb dependent young of such a bird
- S.9 (1) intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take any wild animal included in Schedule 5 (certain reptiles are only protected from killing and injuring);
- S.9 (2) be in possession or control of any live or dead wild animal included in Schedule 5 or any part or derivative;
- S.9 (4) (a) intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy, or obstruct access to, any structure or place used by a Schedule 5 animal for shelter or protection;
- S.9 (4) (b) disturb any such animal while it is occupying such a structure or place which it uses for that purpose
- S.9 (5) (a) sell, offer for sale, possess or transport any live or dead wild animal included in Schedule 5 for the purpose of sale or any part or derivative;
- S.9 (5) (b) advertise for buying or selling such things.

European Protected Species (EPS)

EPS and their breeding sites or resting places are protected under Regulation 41 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. These Regulations transpose Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EC Habitats Directive) into national law.

A person who—

- (a) deliberately captures, injures or kills any wild animal of a European protected species,
- (b) deliberately disturbs wild animals of any such species,
- (c) deliberately takes or destroys the eggs of such an animal, or

(d) damages or destroys a breeding site or resting place of such an animal, is guilty of an offence.

For the purposes of paragraph (b), disturbance of animals includes in particular any disturbance which is likely—

(a) to impair their ability—

(i) to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young, or

(ii) in the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or

(b) to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.

(However, please note that the existing offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, which cover obstruction of places used for shelter or protection (for example, a bat roost), disturbance and sale, still apply to EPS.)

These actions can be made lawful through the granting of licenses by the appropriate authorities, e.g. Natural England. Licenses may be granted for a number of purposes (such as science and education, conservation, preserving public health and safety), but only after the appropriate authority is satisfied that there are no satisfactory alternatives and that such actions will have no detrimental effect on the wild population of the species concerned.

Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (PBA)

The main legislation protecting badgers is the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. This Act consolidates all previous legislation including the Badgers Act 1973 (as amended) and the Badgers (Further Protection) Act 1991. Under the 1992 Act it is an offence to:

destroy a sett

interfere with a badger sett by damaging a sett or any part thereof

obstruct access to a sett

disturb a badger while occupying a sett

wilfully kill, injure, take or attempt to kill, injure or take a badger;

dig for a badger

possess a dead badger or any part of a badger

cruelly ill-treat a badger

use badger tongs in the course of killing, taking or attempting to kill a badger

sell or offer for sale or control any live badger

mark, tag or ring a badger

cause a dog to enter a sett

The 1992 Act defines a badger sett as: “any structure or place which displays signs indicating current use by a badger”. Since development operations may take place over a protracted period, Natural England recommends that licences be sought for developments that may affect seasonally-used setts as well as main setts. Natural England considers a good guide to be that if a sett has shown signs of occupation within the past twelve months it is considered active.

The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 allows for licences to be issued for a number of purposes, including development under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and to prevent serious damage to property. Licences to interfere with badger

setts or disturb badgers for development are issued by the Government's statutory nature conservation agencies, e.g. Natural England.

11.5 Appendix 5 - Staff Profiles

Field Surveyor Profile –Daniel Lombard B Sc. (Hons), MCIEEM.

Job title: Ecologist.

Career Summary.

Daniel has spent all his working life in the environmental sector. He is an experienced and competent field ecologist with proven skills in species identification across a range of biota and an in-depth appreciation of many aspects of biodiversity, ecology and biology.

Upon leaving University Daniel volunteered with a range of conservation organisations including The Wildlife Trust, North York Moors National Park, BTO and RSPB.

He briefly operated as a freelance ecologist before starting full time at Wold Ecology.

Daniel is currently involved in a number of local projects in which he has volunteered his time and resources. He is a member of Filey Bird Observatory and acts as the recorder for both Dragonflies and Butterflies within the group. He acts as an ecologist giving free advice to the Yorkshire branch of Butterfly Conservation including habitat management plans and field surveys. He also contributes to the BTO bird ringing scheme, helping in the scientific study birds.

Daniel also contributes to national invertebrate, bird, fungi and mammal recording schemes.

Project Experience in last 5 years.

Daniel has undertaken over 400 bat activity surveys since 2010 including dawn and dusk surveys at a range of sites across England.

Daniel specialises in reptile, amphibian, bird and mammal surveys and has undertaken a wide range of surveys for species including otter, water vole, badger, adder, grass snake, common lizard, slow worm and great crested newt. This includes writing and contributing towards mitigation strategies and habitat enhancements where appropriate. He has also contributed to white clawed crayfish surveys.

Daniel has undertaken a large number of Phase 1 ecology surveys and Preliminary Ecological Appraisals and EIA assessments.

Daniel has undertaken and helped supervise a seabird surveys on the North Yorkshire coastline at an internationally important seabird colony on the behalf of Natural England and the Environment Agency. This has involved leasing with a variety of conflicting stakeholders to mitigate against potential adverse impacts to the colony.

11.6 Appendix 6 – Identification of Legal and Planning Policy Issues in England

Scope of Assessment

The first step is to identify any biodiversity features found on the site that are subject to legal or policy controls, as follows:

Designated Sites

The location of the site is compared to the distribution of sites with a statutory or non-statutory nature conservation designation using information derived from the desk study. Consideration is given to designated sites that could be affected directly or indirectly by the proposed development.

Habitats outside Designated Sites

The habitats known to occur on the site are compared to those which receive some protection, in law or policy, outside of designated sites i.e. hedgerows, uncultivated land and semi-natural areas, habitats listed as Priorities in the UKBAP, habitats listed as Habitats of Principal Importance for the Conservation of Biodiversity by the Secretary of State and habitats listed as requiring action in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Ancient Woodland

The ancient woodland inventory is checked to determine whether any known ancient woodland occurs either on the site or nearby.

Protected Species

The species known to occur on the site as a result of the desk study and Phase 1 habitat survey are compared with those listed in nature conservation legislation i.e. the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended, and the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

In addition, the species known to occur on the site as a result of the desk study and Phase 1 habitat survey are compared with those listed in animal welfare legislation, i.e. the Badgers Act 1992 and the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996.

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species

The species known to occur on the site are compared with those listed as Priorities in the UKBAP, Species of Principal Importance for the Conservation of Biodiversity by the Secretary of State or requiring action in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Other Species of Conservation Concern

The species known to occur on the site are compared with other nature conservation listings, such as red data books.

Invasive Plant Species

The species of plant present on the site are compared with those listed by government agencies as invasive non-natives, with particular attention given to those listed in the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Review of Legislation and Policy

If any of the above are found to occur on or near the site and are likely to be affected by the development in any way, the relevant legislation and planning policy

(including national, regional, county and borough policies) are examined to determine whether the proposed development is compliant.

Ecological Enhancement

Planning policy generally requires new developments to be enhanced for biodiversity. The existing proposals are considered to determine whether biodiversity enhancements are offered and whether they are adequate to meet the policy requirements. Again, national, regional, county and borough policies are considered.

Identification of Potential Further Ecological Issues

Further ecological issues are those which cannot be resolved during the desk study, extended phase 1 habitat survey and preliminary ecological appraisal for any reason, including the following:

The development is near a designated site and consultation with the relevant regulator is required to determine whether further assessment is required;

Suitable habitat is present on or near the site for a protected species/species of conservation concern and specialist survey techniques are required for their detection;

Suitable habitat is present on or near the site for a protected species/species of conservation concern and the extended phase 1 habitat survey and preliminary ecological appraisal was not undertaken at a suitable time of year for their detection;

A protected species/species of conservation concern was found on or near the site but further information on population size or distribution is required to resolve any legal and planning policy issues (such as obtaining licences).

Discussion of issues raised by 3rd parties, e.g. reports of protected species from the site by local people, may also be discussed under this heading.

The desk study is used as a guide to the protected species/species of conservation in the local area, however, the list is not taken to be exhaustive and it is borne in mind that some species may no longer occur in the locality.

No attempt is made to evaluate the importance of the site for species not yet confirmed to be on or near the site, nor to discuss the implications for the development if the species were to be found on the site.