

Land north of Woodpecker House, Sawley

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

June 2024



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Knight Sky Ecology was commissioned to undertake a preliminary ecological appraisal of land located to the north of Woodpecker House, Sawley in relation to the proposed construction of two holiday lets at the site. A summary of the main findings along with the conclusions and recommendations drawn from the appraisal are listed below.

Ecological Feature	Results	Conclusions and Recommendations
International / national sites	No sites with nature conservation interest are located within a 2km radius.	No further consultation or mitigation is advised in respect of internationally / nationally designated sites.
Locally designated sites / Lancashire Ecological Network	No BHS are located within or adjacent to the site. Two BHS (River Ribble and Brownthwaites and Hartsails Wood) are located within 300m. The site is not within the Lancashire Ecological Network.	Stand-off distances considered sufficient to avoid any impacts to BHS. No further consultation or mitigation is advised in respect of locally designated sites.
Priority Habitat	There is a species rich hedgerow on the east boundary. No other priority habitats are located within the site.	The hedgerow is to be retained along with a sizeable habitat margin from the hedgerow. No further assessment or mitigation required.
Site Habitats	The main site habitat comprised a neutral grassland dominated by tall forbs with some small trees.	A biodiversity net gain assessment is to be submitted separately to show how legal requirements for net gain are to be met.
Amphibians & Reptiles	No ponds within the site or 250m radius. The desk study did not encounter any records of amphibians or reptiles.	Reptiles and amphibians are not considered to represent a constraint to the development. No further survey or mitigation advised.
Nesting Birds	The site habitats (trees, hedgerow and dense vegetation) provide suitable nesting opportunities.	It is recommended to undertake any vegetation clearance outside of the nesting bird season (March to August). Two bird boxes recommended.
Bats	No structures or trees with the potential to support bats roosts were identified and the site is not expected to support significant concentrations of bats.	Habitats of value to bats (e.g., hedgerow) are to be retained. Good practice lighting recommendations for the proposals are advised. Two bat boxes recommended.
Other protected / notable species	Hedgehog may be present on the site. No other protected / notable species likely to be encountered or impacted by the proposed development.	The proposal will feature the retention of habitat pathways for hedgehog and other mammals.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Instruction

Knight Sky Ecology was commissioned to undertake a preliminary ecological appraisal of land located to the north of Woodpecker House, Sawley ("the site"). The appraisal was completed to provide supporting information for the proposed construction of two holiday lets at the site.

1.2 Development Proposal & Site Description

The proposed development would be sited within a triangular shaped parcel of land to the direct north of Woodpecker House at grid reference SD 77886 46779. The site is on the northern edge of Sawley, 125m east of the River Ribble, 410m north of Sawley Abbey and 310m south of Sawley Hall. The wider area is predominantly farmland with occasional woodlands, farms and dwellings. Figure 1.1 provides an image of the site location.

Figure 1.1. Site location (approximate)



1.3 Legislation and Policy

Many UK wildlife species and habitats are protected by law and these important ecological features form a key consideration for defining the scope of assessment within a preliminary ecological appraisal. The key legislation of potential relevance to the site includes:

- Environment Act 2021
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006
- Protection of Badgers Act 1992

A summary of the legislation pertinent to the findings within this report is also provided in Appendix A. In addition to the above, biodiversity protection and enhancement is underpinned by national and local planning policies. Therefore, consideration has also been given in this report to the biodiversity aspects of the National Planning Policy Framework (2023) and Ribble Valley Council's Core Strategy (2008-2028) and any subsequent modifications.

1.4 Purpose and Scope of this Report

The framework of this report and its main objectives are to:

- Establish a baseline of ecological information for the site;
- Identify the likely ecological constraints associated with the proposal;
- Identify any mitigation measures likely to be required, following the 'Mitigation Hierarchy';
- Identify any additional surveys that may be required to inform an Ecological Impact Assessment; and,
- Identify opportunities for ecological enhancement.

The report is based upon information obtained from a desk study and a site survey completed on 22nd May 2024. Standard guidelines for preliminary ecological appraisal were followed (CIEEM, 2017) unless otherwise stated.

The scope of the preliminary ecological appraisal detailed within this report has accounted for the size, location and nature of the existing site proposed for development and the potential environmental impacts associated with the project. This proportionate approach is in line with BS 42020:2013 (Biodiversity — Code of practice for planning and development (British Standards Institution, 2013)) and the relevant guidance (CIEEM, 2017).

2 METHODS

2.1 Desk Study

Lancashire Environmental Records Network

Lancashire Environmental Records Network (LERN) was commissioned to undertake an ecological records search within a 2km radius of the centre of the site. LERN conducted a search for the following information:

- Internationally / nationally designated sites (e.g., Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)).
- Locally designated sites (e.g., Biological Heritage Sites (BHS)).
- Ancient trees.
- Habitats of principal importance (as listed within Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006). Such habitats are referred to as 'priority habitats' within this report.
- Protected / notable species records (e.g., Lancashire Key Species including bat records supplied by South Lancashire Bat Group (SLBG)).

On-Line Resources

The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) mapping tool (Available from: <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/>) was used to search for ecological information contained within the following datasets:

- SSSI Impact Risk Zones - to assess planning applications for likely impacts on international, European and nationally designated sites.
- Granted European Protected Species (EPS) mitigation licenses for bats and great crested newts¹ within a 1km radius.
- Survey licence returns for great crested newts within a 1km radius.
- Ancient woodland areas.

Basic initial information about the site and surrounding area was also obtained from aerial imagery (Google Earth – latest imagery dated 07/09/2021) and Ordnance Survey maps in order to provide further contextualised information to the site survey findings. A search for waterbodies with the potential to support great crested newts within a 250m radius of the site was also undertaken using the MAGIC mapping tool along with Google Earth and Ordnance Survey maps.

2.2 Field Survey

A site walkover was undertaken on 22nd May 2024 by Ryan Knight MCIEEM. Ryan has extensive experience in survey and site assessment for habitats and protected species and holds a Level 2 Natural England Class Licence for bats (ref. 2015-12611-CLS-CLS) and a Level 1 licence for great crested newts (ref. 2015-16727-CLS-CLS). The aim of the site visit was to gather sufficient baseline information of the habitats within the site and to identify any habitats or features of potential ecological significance.

All habitats within the site were described and mapped using UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Version 2 definitions (UKHab Ltd, 2023). Dominant and notable plant species were recorded, and relative abundance was expressed using the DAFOR scale: dominant, abundant, frequent, occasional and rare. Botanical taxonomic nomenclature follows the New Flora of the British Isles, Fourth Edition (Stace, 2019).

¹ English common names for species of fauna are used throughout this report unless otherwise stated.

In addition, the site visit included a search for incidental evidence of protected / notable species and an assessment of the sites potential to support protected / notable species (e.g., badger).

2.3 Survey and Report Comments

No limitations to the site survey were encountered.

This report will remain valid for a period of 24 months from the date of issue. An ecologist should be contacted for advice on the revalidation requirements of the report if planning permission is not obtained or works do not commence within this time period.

3 BASELINE ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

3.1 Desk Study

3.1.1 Designated Sites

Internationally / Nationally Designated Sites

There are no internationally / nationally designated sites for nature conservation within a 2km radius of the site. In addition, the proposed development type does not trigger the need for an assessment of potential impacts with regards to any SSSI located in the wider area (Natural England, 2023).

Biological Heritage Sites

Table 3.1 provides a list of the 12 BHS located within 2km of the site centroid. The locations are also shown on the LERN data map (Appendix B). Of most relevance due to the distance, are the River Ribble BHS (125m west-south-west) and Brownthwaites and Hartsails Wood BHS (295m north). The River Ribble supports a diverse range of birds, mammals, invertebrates and riparian habitats. Brownthwaites and Hartsails Wood BHS comprises semi-natural woodland which is identified within Natural England's Inventory of Ancient Woodland.

Table 3.1. Locally designated site information

BHS name	Site reference	Reason for designation ²	Distance and direction from the site
Springs Wood	74NE02	Woodland and Scrub (Wd1)	1.9km north
Swanside Beck and Smithies Brook Valley	74NE03	Woodland and Scrub (Wd2) Grassland (Gr3) Rivers and Streams (Ri1) Habitat Mosaics (Hm3) Fish (Fi1) Other Invertebrates (In1)	1.4km south-east
Fairy Hills	74NE04	Grassland (Gr1) Flowering Plants and Ferns (Ff4b)	1.9km south-east
Railway Banks	63NE05	Artificial Habitats (Ar2)	1.7km south-east
Brownthwaites and Hartsails Wood	74NE06	Woodland and Scrub (Wd1) Flowering Plants and Ferns (Ff4)?	295m north
Skirden Beck South	74NE07	Birds (Bi2b)	955m north
Rainsber Wood	74NE08	Woodland and Scrub (Wd1)	1.3km north-east

² Habitat codes and designation criteria can be found at Lancashire County Heritage Sites Scheme Biological Heritage Sites Guidelines for Site Selection (last updated 2023). Lancashire County Planning Department. 1998. Available from <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/943412/bhs-guidelines-for-site-selection-april-2023.pdf>

BHS name	Site reference	Reason for designation ²	Distance and direction from the site
Ings Beck Valley	74NE10	Woodland and Scrub (Wd2) Grassland (Gr3) Rivers and Streams (Ri1) Habitat Mosaics (Hm3) Flowering Plants and Ferns (Ff4a) Fish (Fi1) Other Invertebrates (In1)	1.95km south-east
Grove Wood and Low Wood	74NE11	Woodland and Scrub (Wd1) Bryophytes (Br3)	1.8km north-east
Cold Park and Steep Woods	74NE12	Woodland and Scrub (Wd1)	2km north-east
Swanside Wood	74NE13	Birds (Bi2b)	1.8km east
River Ribble from London Road Bridge Preston, in West, to County Boundary, in East	LSRRI	Rivers and Streams (Ri1) Flowering Plants and Ferns (Ff4)? Flowering Plants and Ferns (Ff1) Bryophytes (Br3) Mammals (Ma1a) Birds (Bi2) Molluscs (Mo1)? Other Invertebrates (In1)	125m south-west

Lancashire Ecological Network

The site is not within an area allocated within Lancashire Ecological Network.

Priority Habitats

The LERN data Figure in Appendix B provides a map of the priority listed habitats within 2km of the site. The habitats identified within the search area are:

- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
- Deciduous woodland
- Good quality semi-improved grassland
- Lowland calcareous grassland
- No main habitat but additional habitats pres.
- Traditional orchard

The nearest priority habitats to the site are coastal and floodplain grazing marsh (80m west) and an area of deciduous woodland (130m south-east).

Ancient Woodland & Ancient Trees

The nearest ancient woodlands to the site are Brownthwaites and Hartsails Wood located 295m north (also a BHS as above).

Invasive Non-native Species (INNS)

LERN hold no records of INNS within the site or adjacent land. The nearest record was of Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* located on the River Ribble to the west.

3.2 Field Survey

3.2.1 Habitats

Habitat Description and Habitat Classifications of Site

Photos of the site are provided in Appendix C and a UKHab Classification map of the site is provided in Appendix D (Figure 1 – Baseline).

g3c – Other neutral grassland (Secondary Code – 16 Tall forbs)

The site appears to have remained unmanaged for several years and as a result, it supports a mosaic of dense stands of tall herbs. The site also appears to be poorly draining. Coverage of grasses was low across much of the site and limited to rough meadow grass *Poa trivialis*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, cocks-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, and meadow-foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*. A species list gathered during the survey is provided in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2. Forb species list.

Species (Common name)	Abundance
Great willowherb	Dominant
Common nettle	Abundant
Creeping thistle	Frequent
Hogweed	Frequent
Field horsetail	Frequent
Cleavers	Frequent
Bramble	Frequent
Cow parsley	Frequent – roadside only
Wood dock	Occasional to frequent
Lesser celandine	Occasional to frequent
Common sorrel	Occasional
Cuckoo flower	Occasional
Meadowsweet	Rare
Herb-Robert	Rare
Field forget-me-not	Rare
Pignut	Rare

h2a5 – Species rich native hedgerow

A species rich hedgerow runs along the entire length of the east boundary and separates the site from a pasture field. The hedgerow appeared unmanaged and comprised hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* with a mix of wych elm *Ulmus glabra*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, cherry *Prunus avium*, elder *Sambucus nigra* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior*. There was no distinct hedgerow understorey.

Individual Trees

Trees within the site included a single small goat willow *Salix caprea*, two hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and a sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*. Two conifer trees (possibly Norway spruce *Picea abies*) had been removed from the site relatively recently.

Invasive Non-native Species

No INNS were identified on the site.

Surrounding Habitats

An access road and dwellings bound the site to the west; pasture fields are to the north and east and, the property of Woodpecker House is to the south. Further west are the lawns and grasslands associated with Sawley Hall along with the River Ribble. The wider area is a predominately farmland with occasional woodlands.

3.3 Protected / Notable Species

Table 3.3 provides an overview of the most relevant ecological records as provided by LERN along with the field survey findings for each ecological feature. The LERN data map provides indicative locations of the species records (please note, the species records comprise a mix of 4 to 10 figure grid references and therefore, many are not site specific).

Table 3.3. LERN protected / notable species records and field survey findings

Ecological Feature	Data Origin	Records Overview and Evaluation of Presence / Absence
Plants, lichens, mosses and liverworts	Desk Study	98 records provided. None associated with the site or immediately adjacent land.
	Field Survey	No notable plants were identified during the site visit. The site is dominated by common tall forbs and unlikely to support notable plants.
Amphibians	Desk Study	No records of amphibians were provided. There were no great crested newt licence returns within 1km of the site on the MAGIC database.
	Field Survey	No ponds with the potential to support great crested newts within 250m of the site were identified. The site presents a moderately suitable habitat for amphibians.
Reptiles	Desk Study	No records held by LERN.
	Field Survey	There are no known distributions of reptiles in the locality. The presence of reptiles within the site (primarily common lizard, slow worm and grass snake) is deemed highly unlikely overall.
Birds	Desk Study	183 records for 57 species. The records included several notable and rare species (e.g., Kingfisher, Cuckoo, Yellow Wagtail, Spotted Flycatcher, Reed-Bunting, Curlew, Tree Sparrow, Lapwing).
	Field Survey	The site visit coincided with the nesting bird season. Birds recorded via audible or visual means during the site visit were limited to willow warbler, chaffinch and wren. The habitat features which were of potential for use by nesting birds were the hedgerow on the east boundary and the trees within the site. The dense vegetation within the site could also possibly support nest sites. The site is unlikely to hold any significant value for nesting and wintering bird or support notable concentrations of birds.
Badger	Desk Study	Two field records provided by LERN.

Ecological Feature	Data Origin	Records Overview and Evaluation of Presence / Absence
	Field Survey	No evidence of the badger activity (e.g., paths, latrines, setts) was recorded within the site. The land to the immediate north and east present suitable habitats for foraging and there are woodlands in the locality that are suitable for sett locations.
Bats	Desk Study	A total of 10 records dating between 2006 and 2017. The records contained a mix of common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, pipistrelle species, noctule bat, Natterer's bat and Daubenton's bat. Three records were of roosts. The records provided from LERN were limited to 4 figure grid references only (1km) and not site specific.
	Field Survey	No trees or structures with potential roost features were present in the site or immediately adjacent. The proposed development is a densely vegetated land parcel bound by a hedgerow. The site measures 0.16 hectares and is expected to be used by bats as part of a much larger foraging territory. Bat activity levels are expected to be moderate to high in the locality and a range of species is likely to be present.
Other notable mammals	Desk Study	The records from LERN included records of brown hare, water vole (dated 1969), polecat, hedgehog, water shrew and otter.
	Field Survey	The habitats within the site are unlikely to support any notable mammal species in terms of providing refuge or breeding sites although hedgehog is expected to be present in the area.
Notable invertebrates	Desk Study	7 records of butterfly (5), and true fly (2) were provided.
	Field Survey	The land within the site contains a common habitat type and is not expected to support notable invertebrate species.

4 EVALUATION AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.1 Internationally / Nationally Designated Sites

There are no sites designated for their nature conservation interests within 2km of the development proposals and there is not considered to be any potential for adverse impacts to occur on any such sites within the wider area. Therefore, no further consultation or mitigation is advised in respect of internationally / nationally designated sites.

4.2 Locally Designated Sites

A total of 12 BHS are located within 2km of the site centroid. Of most relevance are the River Ribble BHS (125m south-west) and Brownthwaites and Hartsails Wood BHS (295m north). There are no known hydrological connections or distinct terrestrial habitat connections between the site and the River Ribble and there is not considered to be any potential pathways for impacts to occur on the River Ribble. Similarly, with respect to Brownthwaites and Hartsails Wood BHS, the intervening distance is considered sufficient to avoid any potential impacts to this woodland. Overall, no BHS are considered to represent a potential ecological constraint to the proposal.

4.3 Priority Habitats

The hedgerow on the east boundary is a priority habitat listed in Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006. It is understood that the hedgerow is to be retained and remain unaffected by the proposals.

There are no other priority habitats within the site and there is not considered to be any potential for adverse impacts to occur on any such habitats within the wider area. Therefore, priority habitats are not considered to be a potential ecological constraint to the development proposal.

4.4 Habitats

The site habitat comprises neutral grassland dominated by tall forbs / ruderal vegetation. In the absence of mitigation, the loss of such habitat represents a potential constraint to the development as without mitigation, the development plans will result in a loss in biodiversity value.

Further consideration of this is detailed in Section 5.

4.5 Protected and Notable Species

Breeding birds

The site contains habitats (i.e., trees, a hedgerow and dense vegetation) that are suitable to support nesting birds. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is illegal to intentionally take, damage or destroy a wild bird's nest while it is being used or built and it is illegal to intentionally take or destroy eggs. Therefore, breeding birds are considered to be a potential constraint to the proposal. However, standard practices to mitigate this constraint are provided in Section 5.

Bats

No trees or structures with potential roost features were present in the site. The site itself is expected to support moderate to high levels of bat activity which use the site as part of much larger foraging territories. The hedgerow and a large part of the existing habitat are to be retained.

The development type and scale are not associated with impacts that would significantly affect bat activity levels. However, as lighting levels for the development are not known, as a precaution, good practice mitigation measures with respect to bats and lighting are provided in Section 5.

Hedgehog

Hedgehog (priority listed species) are likely to use the site as part of a wider foraging territory. No typical refuge or hibernation features for hedgehog were present within the site. Foraging routes will be maintained via the retention of an existing habitat margin within the site. No further mitigation for hedgehog is advised.

Other Notable Species

The following protected and notable species are not considered to represent a potential constraint to the development proposal:

- Amphibians
- Reptiles
- Other notable mammals (e.g., brown hare, badger, otter)
- All notable invertebrates

Based on the data obtained for this preliminary ecological appraisal, the above features are likely to be absent from the site and / or the construction and operation of the proposal will not significantly affect the distribution or abundance of any such features or results in actions that may be in breach of the relevant legislation. No further assessment or mitigation actions are advised for the above listed features.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Habitats

Biodiversity Net Gain

In England, biodiversity net gain is required under a statutory framework introduced by Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This legislation was inserted into the 1990 Act by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021, and was amended by the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.

Under the statutory framework for biodiversity net gain, subject to some exceptions, every planning permission is subject to a condition that the biodiversity gain objective is met (“the biodiversity gain condition”). This objective is for development to deliver at least a 10% increase in biodiversity value relative to the pre-development biodiversity value of the on-site habitat. This increase can be achieved through on-site biodiversity gains, registered off-site biodiversity gains or through statutory biodiversity credits.

The development site will be subject to the biodiversity net gain condition. A statutory biodiversity metric tool along with pre- and post-habitat plans of the site are to be submitted separately.

5.2 Birds

It is advised to conduct vegetation clearance outside of the breeding bird season of March to August (inclusive). If it is necessary to conduct site clearance within this period, it should be preceded by a nesting bird check conducted by a suitably qualified ecologist. Active nests found at any time must remain unaffected until the nest is no longer in use (i.e., all chicks have fledged).

5.3 Bats

Lighting for the proposed development should follow current best practice guidelines (*Guidance Note 8: Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night* – Bat Conservation Trust & Institution of Lighting Professionals, 2023). The following mitigation measures are advised in respect of the use of external lighting within the site:

- Excessively strong lighting and light spill should be avoided (e.g., high powered security lights). Avoid light spill on the adjacent hedgerow and habitat margin.
- Any external lighting should have movement sensors (PIR lighting) which should be on short timers. Such lights should only cover the required areas for security and safety purposes.
- Use luminaires with an upward light ratio of 0% and with good optical control.
- Luminaires should always be mounted on the horizontal, i.e., no upward tilt.
- Column heights should be carefully considered to minimise light spill.

5.4 Further Ecological Information

A preliminary ecological appraisal is not usually sufficient to support a planning application as a standalone document and the majority of planning applications should be supported by an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) following standard guidance (CIEEM, 2018). However, the potential impacts of the development relate to habitat loss which is to be dealt with via the BNG condition and this data is to be submitted separately. In addition, no further surveys are required to inform the plans and standard, good practice working measures can be employed to mitigate any impacts to wildlife at the site (e.g., breeding birds). Such measures can be secured via conditions. Therefore, an EclA is not recommended.

5.5 Ecological Enhancements

In addition to habitats, the scheme presents a very good opportunity to increase roosting provision for bats and nesting opportunities for birds via the installation of bat and bird boxes at the site. At least two bat boxes and two bird boxes are advised. The details of these enhancements including box models, box locations and siting advice can be submitted within a bat / bird box scheme.

6 CONCLUSIONS

Knight Sky Ecology was commissioned to undertake a preliminary ecological appraisal of land located to the north of Woodpecker House, Sawley. A summary of the main findings along with the conclusions and recommendations drawn from the appraisal are listed in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1. Summary of results, conclusions and recommendations

Ecological Feature	Results	Conclusions and Recommendations
International / national sites	No sites with nature conservation interest are located within a 2km radius.	No further consultation or mitigation is advised in respect of internationally / nationally designated sites.
Locally designated sites / Lancashire Ecological Network	No BHS are located within or adjacent to the site. Two BHS (River Ribble and Brownthwaites and Hartsails Wood) are located within 300m. The site is not within the Lancashire Ecological Network.	Stand-off distances considered sufficient to avoid any impacts to BHS. No further consultation or mitigation is advised in respect of locally designated sites.
Priority Habitat	There is a species rich hedgerow on the east boundary. No other priority habitats are located within the site.	The hedgerow is to be retained along with a sizeable habitat margin from the hedgerow. No further assessment or mitigation required.
Site Habitats	The main site habitat comprised a neutral grassland dominated by tall forbs with some small trees.	A biodiversity net gain assessment is to be submitted separately to show how legal requirements for net gain are to be met.
Amphibians & Reptiles	No ponds within the site or 250m radius. The desk study did not encounter any records of amphibians or reptiles.	Reptiles and amphibians are not considered to represent a constraint to the development. No further survey or mitigation advised.
Nesting Birds	The site habitats (trees, hedgerow and dense vegetation) provide suitable nesting opportunities.	It is recommended to undertake any vegetation clearance outside of the nesting bird season (March to August). Two bird boxes recommended.
Bats	No structures or trees with the potential to support bats roosts were identified and the site is not expected to support significant concentrations of bats.	Habitats of value to bats (e.g., hedgerow) are to be retained. Good practice lighting recommendations for the proposals are advised. Two bat boxes recommended.
Other protected / notable species	Hedgehog may be present on the site. No other protected / notable species likely to be encountered or impacted by the proposed development.	The proposal will feature the retention of habitat pathways for hedgehog and other mammals.

7 REFERENCES

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

CIEEM (2018). *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

Natural England (2023). Natural England's Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest. User Guidance. Version: v4.1. Issue Date: 7 March 2023.

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APPENDIX A. LEGISLATION

The Environment Act 2021

An Act to make provision about targets, plans and policies for improving the natural environment; for statements and reports about environmental protection; for the Office for Environmental Protection; about waste and resource efficiency; about air quality; for the recall of products that fail to meet environmental standards; about water; about nature and biodiversity; for conservation covenants; about the regulation of chemicals; and for connected purposes.

Specific to biodiversity, the Act involves:

- Strengthened biodiversity duty.
- Mandatory biodiversity net gain to ensure developments deliver at least 10% increase in biodiversity (to be calculated using Biodiversity Metric and approval of a net gain plan and habitat needs to be secured for at least 30 years via obligations / conservation covenant).
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies to support a Nature Recovery Network.
- Duty upon Local Authorities to consult on street tree felling.
- Strengthen woodland protection enforcement measures.
- Conservation Covenants.
- Protected Site Strategies and Species Conservation Strategies to support the design and delivery of strategic approaches to deliver better outcomes for nature.

Legislation relating to European Protected Species (e.g. bats, otter, great crested newt)

European Protected Species and their resting places (e.g. bat roosts, otter holts) are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000, and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

The Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended) and WCA 1981 (as amended) are pieces of domestic legislation that transpose the land and marine aspects of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) and certain elements of the Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EC) (known as the Nature Directives). Species of European (International) conservation importance are listed on Annexes II, IV and V of the Habitats Directive and Annex I of the Birds Directive. The Habitats Regulations 2017 were amended in 2018 and again on 1st January 2021 when the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) EU Exit) Regulations 2019 were adopted following the United Kingdom officially leaving the European Union. The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of 'European Sites', the protection of 'European Protected Species' (EPS), and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites. EPS are listed on Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) it is an offence to:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill any wild animal listed as a European Protected Species;
- Deliberately disturb wild animals of any such species in such a way as to be likely:
 - 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;
 - to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.
- Deliberately take or destroy the eggs of such an animal; or,

- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal.

In addition, under this legislation there are offences relating to possession, control sale and exchange of an EPS.

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) it is an offence to:

- Intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy any structure or place which any wild animal specified in Schedule 5 uses for shelter or protection;
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any such animal while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection; or
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place which any such animal uses for shelter or protection.

In addition, under this legislation there are offences relating to sale, possession and control of wild animals listed in Schedule 5.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of the living organisms and types of habitats which in the Secretary of State's opinion are of principal importance for the purpose of conserving or enhancing biodiversity. There are 56 habitats and 943 species of principal importance, often referred to as priority habitats and priority species respectively, which were initially identified as requiring conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and which continue to be regarded as priorities under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. The Section 41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their general biodiversity objective under Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006

Legislation relating to nesting birds

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is the principal mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in Great Britain. All bird species are protected under elements of Section 1 of the Act and it is an offence, with certain exceptions, to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- Intentionally takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird included in Schedule ZA1 (for specific birds that reuse their nests);
- Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built; and
- Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.

Further protection is given for certain species listed in Schedule 1 (Part 1) of the Act. It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest; or, is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or, disturb dependent young of such a bird.

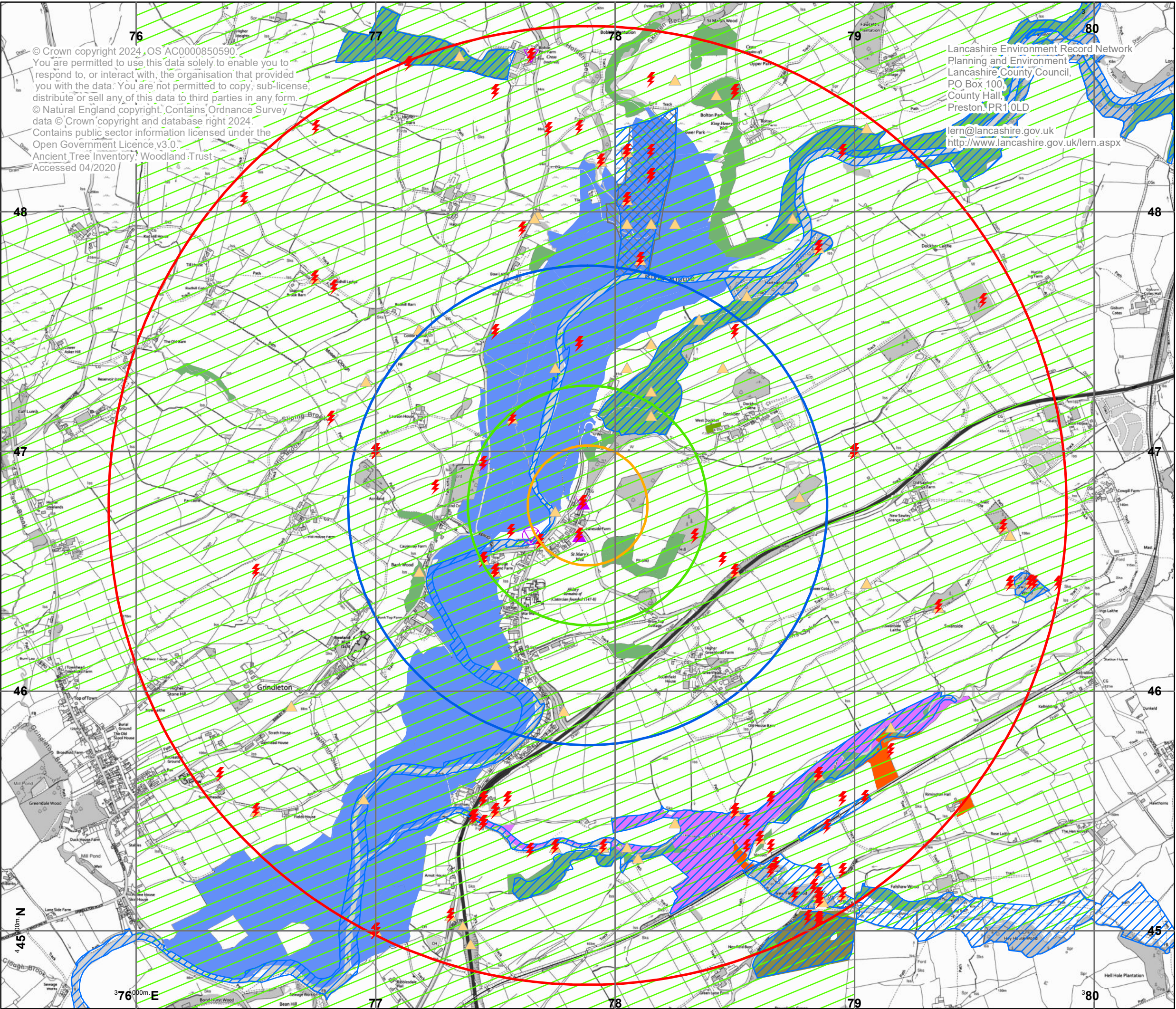
Legislation relating to badgers

Both badgers and their setts are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Offences under the Act include:

- wilfully taking, injuring or killing a badger;
- cruelty to a badger;
- intentional or reckless interference with a badger sett;
- sale or possession of a badger; and
- marking or ringing of a badger.



APPENDIX B. LERN DATA MAP



Project:
Land north of Woodpecker House

Client:
Knight Sky Ecology

Grid Ref: 377885 446775

Lancashire Environment Record Network
Planning and Environment
Lancashire County Council,
PO Box 100,
County Hall,
Preston, PR1 0LD
lern@lancashire.gov.uk
<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/lern.aspx>

250 m Buffer
500 m Buffer
1 km Buffer
2 km Buffer

Lancashire Key Species
Bat Roost or Possible Roost
Other Bat Record
SLBG Other Bat Record
Lancashire INNS

Biological Heritage Sites
Local Geodiversity Sites
FC/BTO Wader Zonal Map
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
Deciduous woodland
Good quality semi-improved grassland
Lowland calcareous grassland
No main habitat but additional habitats pres.
Traditional orchard

**N.B. THIS IS AN INTERACTIVE PDF
LAYERS CAN BE TURNED ON OR OFF
TO AID CLARITY.**

N
0 1,000
1:15,000
Metres

Boundaries of statutory designations (Natura 2000, SSSI etc) are included for information only. <ITA> Definitive, information for these designations should be obtained from Natural England.

Lancashire Key Species records are plotted at the centre of the area to which they relate (the precision of each record is given in the accompanying attribute data and spreadsheet).

APPENDIX C. SITE PHOTOS

Photo 1.

View south
across the site
from the adjacent
lane.



Photo 2.

View north across
northern part of
site.



Photo 3.

View south from
within site.



Photo 4.

Further view of
site from lane.



Photo 5.

View north from
south-east
corner.



Photo 6.

View west.



APPENDIX D. HABITAT PLAN

Figure 1. UK Habitat Classification Map (Baseline)

