



Ecological Impact Assessment

**Hensingham ALRFC
Cleator Moor Road
Whitehaven**

Hensingham ARLFC c/o Stobbarts Ltd.

FE-333-001-400-R-01

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1 Executive Summary

- FALCO Ecology Ltd. was commissioned by Mr Andy West of Day Cummings Ltd. on behalf of Hensingham ARLFC co Stobbarts Ltd. (hereon referred to as the 'Client') to undertake an Ecological Walkover at Hensingham ARLFC (hereon referred to as the 'Site').
- The purpose of this report is to provide a pre-development record of the habitats and their suitability to support protected and notable species.
- It is proposed to undertake construction of a new changing room facility which has a footprint of 357m².
- The immediate surrounding habitats (urban & farmland) provided suboptimal habitats for breeding, resting and foraging protected and notable species found in Cumbria.
- The walkover survey was undertaken by Adrian George of FALCO Ecology Ltd. on the 31st March 2026.
- Consultation data received by the Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre included an array of protected and notable species. None of which were returned within or adjacent to the redline boundary.
- The habitats within the redline boundary consisted of other neutral grassland which was classified as in poor condition.
- No protected or notable species were recorded within the redline boundary during the survey. Herring gulls were recorded nesting on the rooftop of the adjacent industrial building and foraging on the adjacent rugby pitch. Additionally, oystercatcher was recorded foraging on the adjacent rugby pitch.
- The value of the habitats within the redline boundary to protected and notable species was **negligible**.
- The impact of the proposed development, thus the permanent loss of 357m² of other neutral grassland in poor condition, on protected and notable species will be **negligible**.
- The uplift in condition of the other neutral grassland from poor to moderate will provide additional flowering flora which will provide a **minor positive** impact, at a site level, for protected and notable species.



2 Introduction

2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 FALCO Ecology Ltd. was commissioned by Mr Andy West of Day Cummings Ltd. on behalf of Hensingham ARLFC co Stobbarts Ltd. (hereon referred to as the 'Client') to undertake an Ecological Walkover at Hensingham ARLFC (hereon referred to as the 'Site').
- 2.1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide a record of the potential presence or likely absence of protected species within the Site and adjacent areas from the surveys done to date. An evaluation of predicted impacts, recommendations regarding further ecological surveys, enhancement and conservation of existing features of ecological importance is provided as part of this report. Confirmation of assessments and impacts will be confirmed on completion of the ecological surveys which are to be completed in late 2025.
- 2.1.3 Notwithstanding this, ecological considerations have been factored into the design, scale and location of the development proposals (detailed below) from the outset. A good understanding of the ecological function of the Site was gained from the initial walkover survey in conjunction with the existing survey data which has been factored into the development proposal design; however, non-ecological constraints have been balanced to create a development design that meets these constraints and minimises ecological impacts as far as possible.

2.2 Surveyed Land Description and Location

- 2.2.1 The Site was an area of land on the northwest boundary of the Hensingham Rugby League Club. The address of the surveyed land was Cleator Moor Road, Hensingham, CA28 8TX. The central Ordnance Survey grid reference for the Site was NX 99271 17266 and was 129m above sea level. The What3Words code is [///wiggly.crunching.covertly](https://www.what3words.com/#!/wiggly.crunching.covertly). The surveyed land is shown in Plate 1 (page 3).
- 2.2.2 The Site was located on the urban fringe of Whitehaven and the surrounding habitats included mostly commercial/industrial units, a school and pasture farmland. The surrounding area of the surveyed land with 2km buffers are shown in Plate 2 (page 3).
- 2.2.3 The surveyed land was within the administrative area of Copeland Borough Council.

2.3 Development Proposals

- 2.3.1 It is proposed to undertake the construction of a new changing room facility. The Development will require the permanent loss of 357m² of habitat. The existing and proposed elevation plans are shown in Appendix 2.



Plate 1: Redline boundary.

© Google Earth. Imagery Date: 25/10/2025.



Plate 2: Surrounding habitats.

© Google Earth. Imagery Date: 25/10/2025.



2.4 Ecological Appraisal and Reporting Objectives

2.4.1 The ecological investigations undertaken by FALCO Ecology included the following objectives:

- Desktop Study to obtain existing information on statutory and non-statutory sites of nature conservation interest;
- An Extended Phase1 involving a walkover of the Site to record habitat types and dominant vegetation, including any invasive species, and a reconnaissance survey for evidence of protected fauna or habitats capable of supporting such species;
- Recommendations for further ecological surveys;
- Impacts of the development on ecological receptors; and
- An assessment of the potential ecological constraints to the works at the Site.

2.5 Legislation

2.5.1 UK Legislation (specifically related to England) relating to wildlife are fully documented in Appendix 4.



3 Methodology

3.1 Desktop Study

Data Search

3.1.1 A desktop study from following web resources was used:

- The Government's Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside or 'MAGIC' website, which provides details of nature conservation sites designated for their ecological interest including Natura 2000 sites, priority habitats, and registered European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) Licenses;
- Google Earth Pro was utilised to assess the habitats surrounding the Site for their suitability to support species of ecological importance and protected species and the wider habitat features such as woodlands, urban environments and types of agricultural habitats;
- Ordnance Survey Maps which provided watercourse and waterbody locations;
- Cumberland Bat Group website.

Consultation Data

3.1.2 Consultation data for protected and notable species was obtained by the Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre on the 20th April 2026. Ecological records were obtained within a 2km search area.

3.2 Ecological Appraisal

3.2.1 The ecological surveys were undertaken by Adrian George BSc (Hons), a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist from FALCO Ecology, details of experience and qualification provided below. The site survey was undertaken on the 31st March 2026. Photos taken of the Site are shown in Appendix 1.

3.2.2 For all fauna species recorded during the survey, common and scientific (*italics*) names are used in the first instance and common names thereafter.

S41 Habitats

3.2.3 The vegetation and habitat types within the site boundary were recorded during the habitat survey and followed the Phase 1 habitat survey methodology outlined in the 2016 revised edition of the 'Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey' by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC 2016a). The habitat map was updated to represent those habitats described within the UKHabs classification.

3.2.4 The DAFOR scale was used to assign each flora species based on the prevalence. The DAFOR categories are:

- **D - Dominant:** Species covering a vast majority of the area (e.g., >50% cover).
- **A - Abundant:** Species found in high numbers or covering a significant area (e.g., 30%-50%).
- **F - Frequent:** Species present throughout the area but not in high numbers (e.g., 15%-30%).
- **O - Occasional:** Species found sporadically (e.g., 5%-15%).
- **R - Rare:** Species found in very low numbers or with limited coverage (e.g., <5%).



3.2.5 A Phase 1 habitat survey is not designed to provide a full and comprehensive list of the flora within the Site. However, species were recorded where identified. Furthermore, flora identified as localised or rare within the Flora of Northumberland were recorded.

3.2.6 Habitats within the redline boundary are shown in Figure 2, Appendix 3.

Protected and Notable Species

3.2.7 The Site was inspected for evidence of and its potential to support protected or notable species, especially those listed under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), including those given extra protection under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, Section 41 (S41) and Countryside & Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000, listed on the UK and Local BAPs and birds included on Red or Amber on the Birds of Conservation Concern list.

Terrestrial Invertebrates

3.2.8 An assessment of the habitats within the Site was undertaken which may support terrestrial invertebrates.

3.2.9 Observations of terrestrial invertebrates, particularly butterflies, were recorded during the process of undertaken other ecological surveys. No standalone butterfly surveys were undertaken.

Aquatic Invertebrates

3.2.10 An assessment of the habitats that could support aquatic invertebrates was undertaken during an ecological walkover survey.

Herptiles

Amphibians

3.2.11 An assessment of ponds, watercourses and terrestrial habitats was undertaken which may support great crested newts *Triturus cristatus*. Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) following ARG (2010) are undertaken on ponds within 500m of the Site.

Reptiles

3.2.12 Presence of suitable resting, foraging and hibernacula habitats, including mosaic habitats and brash/log piles were recorded where present.

Birds

3.2.13 All birds observed and heard during the survey were recorded along with their activity i.e. singing/carrying food etc. All bird species detailed within this report follow the sequence and taxonomy recommended by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU) (2019). Bird names used differ from those recommended by the BOU in that they follow the British (English) vernacular names in common usage by birders and ornithologists in the UK.



Terrestrial Mammals

Badger

3.2.14 The Site and a 30m buffer (where access was available), as recommended by English Nature's Badgers and Development (2002), was investigated for evidence of badger *Meles meles* activity, which included setts, latrines, snuffle holes and runs. Evidence of badger were searched for during multiple ecological surveys.

Bats

3.2.15 An assessment was undertaken during the survey on the suitability of the Site and adjacent area to support roosting and foraging bats. The survey followed the guidance for assessing PRFs as set out within the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) Guidelines (Collins 2023) shown in Table 1, below.

Table 1: Guidelines for assessing potential roost features.

Suitability	Description
Negligible	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats.
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individuals bats opportunistically. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/or suitable surrounding habitats to be used on a regular basis or by large numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity or hibernation). A tree of sufficient size and age to contain PRFs but with none seen from the ground or features seen with only very limited roosting potential.
Moderate	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only – the assessments in this table are made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).
High	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously used by large numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat.
Confirmed	A bat or bats observed within the building/tree.

3.2.16 All UK bats have been found to be roosting in buildings; however, some bats prefer buildings more than others. Furthermore, many species prefer unique aspects of a roost feature within a building. Bats that utilise buildings for roosting can be separated into four categories and are described in Table 2 (BCT 2015).

Table 2: Roost features in buildings that various bats prefer.

Roost Type	Species
Crevice dwelling bats (These are often hidden from view)	Common pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> , soprano pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i> , Nathusius' pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i> , Brandt's bat <i>Myotis brandtii</i> , whiskered bat <i>Myotis mystacinus</i> and noctule <i>Nyctalus noctule</i> .



Roost Type	Species
Roof-void dwelling bats (maybe seen on roof timbers)	Serotine <i>Eptesicus serotinus</i> , Leisler's bat <i>Nyctalus leisleri</i> , Daubenton's bat <i>Myotis Daubentonii</i>
Bats that need flight space in certain types of roost	Natterer's bat <i>Myotis nattereri</i> and brown long-eared bat <i>Plecotus auritus</i>
Bats that need flight space and flying access into the roost	Greater Horseshoe <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i> and Lesser Horseshoe <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>

3.2.17 The various terminologies of bat roost types, used within this report, as illustrated within the BCT Guidelines (Collins 2023) and replicated from the Natural England European Protected Species Licence application form are shown in Table 3, below.

Table 3: Bat roost types.

Roost Type	Natural England definition
Day roost	A place where individual bats, or small groups of males, rest or shelter in the day but are rarely found by night in the summer.
Night roost	A place where bats rest or shelter in the night but are rarely found in the day. May be used by a single individual on occasion or it could be used regularly by the whole colony.
Feeding roost	A place where individual bats or a few individuals rest or feed during the night but are rarely present by day.
Transitional/occasional roost	Used by a few individuals or occasionally small groups for generally short periods of time on waking from hibernation or in the period prior to hibernation.
Maternity roost	Where female bats give birth and raise their young to independence.
Satellite roost	An alternative roost found in close proximity to the main nursery colony used by a few individual breeding females to small groups of breeding females throughout the breeding season.

Otter and water vole

3.2.18 Watercourses and terrestrial habitats within or adjacent to the Site were assessed for suitability to support foraging, resting and breeding otter *Lutra lutra* and water vole *Arvicola amphibius*.

Other Notable Species

3.2.19 Signs of the presence of other notable species was recorded during the survey and included brown hare *Lepus europaeus*, red squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris* and European hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*.

Invasive Non-native Species

3.2.20 The Site and the adjacent area were searched for evidence of invasive non-native species (INNS), such as Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*, Indian (Himalayan) Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*, Giant Hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*,



Horizontal Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster horizontalis* and Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*.

3.3 Surveyor's Experience

Adrian George

- 3.3.1 Adrian is an experienced ecologist who has undertaken bat surveys on a range of developments including residential properties, small to large scale wind farms, solar farms, power lines and water pipelines. Bat surveys have been undertaken throughout England, Wales and Scotland. Adrian holds a Class 2 Natural England (2026-87322-CL18-BAT) and a NatureScot bat licence (116134). Adrian also holds a Natural England great crested newt licence (2025-83384-SCI-CL08) and barn owl licence (2026-87310-CL29-OWL). Adrian is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management (CIEEM) and a member of the Northumberland Bat Group.

3.4 Limitations

- 3.4.1 DEFRA (2025) provides a digital database of the issued European Protected Species Mitigation licences within England; however, no digital online records are available for Low Impact Class licenses. Therefore, it is plausible that further impacts on local bat roosts, either breeding or resting locations, have been approved by Natural England within the local area.
- 3.4.2 No limitations were experienced during the survey.
- 3.4.3 The details within this report will remain valid for a period of 12 months. Beyond this period, it is recommended that a new review of the ecological conditions of the Site is undertaken.



4 Results

4.1 Desktop Study

Desk Search

Statutory Designated Sites

- 4.1.1 The Site was not situated within or was adjacent to a statutory designated site. Additionally, no statutory designated sites were present within the 2km search area.
- 4.1.2 The nearest statutory designated site was St. Bees Head Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which was ~2.7km west of the Site.

Priority Habitats

- 4.1.3 No UK priority (S41) were present within or adjacent to the Site.
- 4.1.4 UK priority habitats present within the search area included ancient & deciduous woodland, grassland and purple moor grass. The nearest being deciduous woodland 400m from the surveyed land.
- 4.1.5 UK priority habitats within the search area are shown in Figure 1, Appendix 3.
- 4.1.6 It is considered that the immediate surrounding habitats (buildings and pasture farmland) provided foraging opportunities for a limited range of bat species found in Cumbria, principally pipistrelle bats.

EPSM Licenses

- 4.1.7 A data search on DEFRA's MAGIC maps (2026) returned no granted EPSM licences within the search area.
- 4.1.8 It is not known how many Low Impact Class Licenses have been issued within the local area.

Consultation Data

- 4.1.9 The biological records returned from the ecological data search from Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre are summarised in Table 4, below. A list of sensitive species will be provided in a separate Annex 1 for use by the County Ecologist.

Table 4: Protected & notable species within the search area.

Taxa	Species	Count	Conservation Status/UK Protection
Beetle	Various species	74 (46 pre 2016)	-
Butterfly	Various species	216 (211 pre 2016)	-
Dragonfly	Various species	72 (66 pre 2016)	-
Moth	Various species	176 (86 pre 2016)	-
True Bug	Various species	26 (21 pre 2016)	-
True Fly	Various species	7 pre 2016	-



Amphibian	Common Toad	17 (11 pre 2016)	WACA ¹ Sch5
	Common Frog	26 (23 pre 2016)	WAACA Sch5
	Palmate Newt	8-22 (1 pre 2016)	WACA Sch5
	Smooth Newt	1 pre 2016	WACA Sch5
Reptile	Slow-worm	49 (48 pre 2016)	WACA-Sch5
	Grass snake	1 pre 2016	WACA-Sch5
	Common lizard	69 (57 pre 2016)	WACA-Sch5
	Adder	6 (1 pre 2016)	WACA-Sch5
Birds	Sparrowhawk	42 (30 pre 2016)	Amber ²
	Goshawk	2 pre 2016	WACA-Sch1
	Sensitive species H	15 pre 2016	Red, WACA-Sch1
	Sensitive species C	2	Red, WACA-Sch1
	Teal	190 (53 pre 2016)	Amber
	Mallard	429 (300 pre 2016)	Amber
	Greylag goose	262 (55 pre 2016)	Amber, WACA-Sch1
	Pink-footed goose	3143 (1710 pre 2016)	Amber
	Pochard	6 (4 pre 2016)	Red
	Scaup	1 pre 2016	Red, WACA-Sch1
	Sensitive species D	11 (8 pre 2016)	Red, WACA-Sch1
	Long-tailed duck	2 pre 2016	Red, WACA-Sch1
	Whooper swan	17	Amber, WACA-Sch1
	Wigeon	97 (21 pre 2016)	Amber
	Red-breasted merganser	3 pre 2016	Amber
	Eider	1 pre 2016	Amber
	Shoveler	5 (1 pre 2016)	Amber
	Garganey	2	Amber, WACA-Sch1
	Swift	445 (413 pre 2016)	Red
	Razorbill	3 pre 2016	Amber
	Black guillemot	44 pre 2016	Amber
	Puffin	1 pre 2016	Red
	Common guillemot	9 pre 2016	Amber
	Ringed plover	7 pre 2016	Red
	Oystercatcher	153 (148 pre 2016)	Amber
	Lapwing	410 (194 pre 2016)	Red
	Black-headed gull	514 (404 pre 2016)	Amber

¹ WACA = Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

² Amber/Red = Birds of conservation concern status.



	Sensitive species R	2 pre 2016	Amber, WACA-Sch1
	Herring gull	2209 (2118 pre 2016)	Red
	Common gull	208 (133 pre 2016)	Amber
	Lesser black-backed gull	342 (41 pre 2016)	Amber
	Great black-backed gull	78 (76 pre 2016)	Amber
	Kittiwake	1 pre 2016	Red
	Sandwich tern	4 pre 2016	Amber
	Common sandpiper	3 pre 2016	Amber
	Purple sandpiper	84 (83 pre 2016)	Red, WACA-Sch1
	Snipe	88 (16 pre 2016)	Amber
	Curlew	63 (61 pre 2016)	Red
	Woodcock	21 (14 pre 2016)	Red
	Greenshank	1 pre 2016	Amber, WACA-Sch1
	Green sandpiper	1 pre 2016	Amber, WACA-Sch1
	Redshank	1610 pre 2016	Amber
	Woodpigeon	429 (387 pre 2016)	Amber
	Cuckoo	9 (8 pre 2016)	Red
	Sensitive species I	2 pre 2016	Red, WACA-Sch1
	Kestrel	85 (69 pre 2016)	Amber
	Grey partridge	25 (21 pre 2016)	Red
	Moorhen	158 (89 pre 2016)	Amber
	Sedge warbler	187 (182 pre 2016)	Amber
	Skylark	252 (248 pre 2016)	Red
	Dipper	9 (6 pre 2016)	Red
	Rook	1196 (1158 pre 2016)	Amber
	Yellowhammer	23 (22 pre 2016)	Red
	Reed bunting	97 (94 pre 2016)	Amber
	Common redpoll	36 (35 pre 2016)	Amber
	Greenfinch	290 (284 pre 2016)	Red
	Linnet	94 (93 pre 2016)	Red
	Bullfinch	78 (22 pre 2016)	Amber
	House martin	71 (2 pre 2016)	Red
	Grasshopper warbler	105 (14 pre 2016)	Red
	Meadow pipit	355 (351 pre 2016)	Amber
	Grey wagtail	29 (12 pre 2016)	Amber
	Pied flycatcher	1 pre 2016	Amber
	Spotted flycatcher	18 pre 2016	Red
	Wheatear	10 pre 2016	Amber



	Redstart	3 pre 2016	Amber
	Whinchat	1 pre 2016	Red
	House sparrow	1570 (1471 pre 2016)	Red
	Tree sparrow	31 (3 pre 2016)	Red
	Yellow-browed warbler	1	Amber
	Wood warbler	1 pre 2016	Red
	Willow warbler	678 (669 pre 2016)	Amber
	Dunnock	387 (356 pre 2016)	Amber
	Starling	2431 (1249 pre 2016)	Red
	Whitethroat	124 (116 pre 2016)	Amber
	Wren	416 (388 pre 2016)	Amber
	Redwing	177 (42 pre 2016)	Amber, WACA-Sch1
	Song thrush	204 (182 pre 2016)	Amber
	Sensitive species W	1066 (723 pre 2016)	Red, WACA-Sch1
	Ring ouzel	1 pre 2016	Red
	Mistle thrush	22 (18 pre 2016)	Red
	Shag	4 pre 2016	Red
	Gannet	13 pre 2016	Amber
	Fulmar	56 pre 2016	Amber
	Sensitive species U	6 (5 pre 2016)	Amber
	Tawny owl	42 (26 pre 2016)	Amber
Marine Mammal	Common porpoise	2 pre 2016	
	Grey seal	1 pre 2016	
Terrestrial Mammal	Badger	2 (1 pre 2016)	
	Bat	3 (2 pre 2016)	WACA-Sch5
	Pipistrelle	5 (4 pre 2016)	WACA-Sch5
	Common pipistrelle	98 pre 2016	WACA-Sch5
	Soprano pipistrelle	3 (pre 2016)	WACA-Sch5
	Otter	17 (14 pre 2016)	WACA-Sch5
	Water shrew	2 (1 pre 2016)	
	Common shrew	19 (18 pre 2016)	
	Pygmy shrew	4 pre 2016	
	Brown hare	6 pre 2016	
	Red squirrel	235 (229 pre 2016)	WACA-Sch5



4.2 Ecological Surveys

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

- 4.2.1 The habitats within the redline boundary during the survey consisted other neutral grassland (poor condition). Images of the habitats within and adjacent to the Site taken during survey are shown in Appendix 1. The habitat map is shown in Figure 2, Appendix 3.
- 4.2.2 Floral species recorded within the redline boundary, including common name, scientific name and DAFOR scale categories are shown in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Floral species recorded within the redline boundary.

Species	Scientific Name	DAFOR scale
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	F
Broad-leaved Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	F
White Dead-nettle	<i>Lamium album</i>	O
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	O
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale app.</i>	F
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	F
Ground Elder	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	O
Oxeye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	O
Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	O
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	O
Field Wood-rush	<i>Luzula campestris</i>	O
Rush sp.	<i>Juncus sp.</i>	R
Meadow Foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	O
Sweet Vernal-grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	O
Daisy	<i>Bellis pereninis</i>	O
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	O
Rough Hawkbit	<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	O
Mouse-ear Chickweed	<i>Cerastrium fontanum</i>	O
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	F
Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	F
Field Horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	R
Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	F
Perennial Rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	F
Meadow grass sp.	<i>Poa sp.</i>	F

Protected & Notable Plants (incl. Fungi)

- 4.2.3 No protected or notable floral species were returned within or adjacent to the Site.
- 4.2.4 It is considered that the suitability of the Site to support protected and notable plants is negligible and not considered further in this report.



Terrestrial Invertebrates

- 4.2.5 No terrestrial invertebrates were recorded during the survey. The grassland habitat had few flowering species which would support terrestrial invertebrates and therefore terrestrial invertebrates are not considered further within this report.

Aquatic Invertebrates

- 4.2.6 No aquatic invertebrates, dragonflies or damselflies were recorded during the survey. Additionally, no aquatic habitats were present within or adjacent to the redline boundary. Therefore, aquatic invertebrates are not considered further within this report.

Herptiles

Amphibians

- 4.2.7 No waterbodies were shown to be present within 500m of the redline boundary on the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map (Streetmap 2026).
- 4.2.8 No suitable aquatic habitats (ponds/watercourses) were present within or adjacent to the redline boundary. Additionally, no suitable terrestrial habitats (log piles) were present within the redline boundary.
- 4.2.9 It is considered that amphibians are absent from the within or adjacent to the redline boundary and therefore are not considered further within this report.

Reptiles

- 4.2.10 No suitable terrestrial habitats (log piles) for reptiles were present within the redline boundary. Additionally, the surrounding habitats (industrial units, school and playing fields and farmland) was of negligible suitability for most reptile species found in Cumbria. No reptiles were recorded during the survey.
- 4.2.11 It is considered that reptiles are absent from the within or adjacent to the redline boundary and therefore are not considered further within this report.

Birds

- 4.2.12 The habitats within the redline boundary consisted of grassland which only provided a very low value foraging habitat for birds. The short sward grassland of the adjacent rugby pitch provided foraging habitat for gulls (herring gull and lesser black-backed gull) and waders (oystercatcher).
- 4.2.13 Herring gulls were recorded nesting on the rooftop of the adjacent industrial buildings (Photo ref. 4 – Appendix 1).
- 4.2.14 The value of the Site to birds was negligible.

Terrestrial Mammals

Badger

- 4.2.15 No evidence of the presence of badger (setts, runs, latrines or snuffle holes) was recorded within or adjacent to the redline boundary. The Hensingham ARLFC site was surrounded by a fenceline which would likely keep any potential badger out of the Site. The Site had negligible suitability to support breeding, resting or foraging badger and therefore are not considered further in this report.



Bats

- 4.2.16 No Potential Roost Features were recorded within the redline boundary. It is plausible that pipistrelle bats may forage briefly within the Site; however, the habitats within the Site will not significantly important to sustain an individual or population. The grassland habitat within the redline boundary had negligible value to support roosting or foraging bats. Therefore, bats are not considered further within this report.

Otter & Water vole

- 4.2.17 No signs or evidence of presence of otter and water vole were recorded within the Site.
- 4.2.18 No suitable habitat for otter water vole is present within or adjacent to the Site and therefore water vole is not considered further within this report.

Other Notable Species

- 4.2.19 The grassland habitat within the Site had negligible suitability for supporting other notable species (brown hare, red squirrel, and shrews).
- 4.2.20 A mammal track was recorded under the northwest boundary fenceline. This is likely to be from rabbits.
- 4.2.21 Other notable species are not considered further within this report.

Invasive Non-native Species

- 4.2.22 No INNS were recorded within or adjacent to the redline boundary.



5 Assessment

5.1 Assessment of Value

- 5.1.1 The Site consisted of other neutral grassland in poor condition with few flowering flora and thus the habitats within the Site provided negligible value to ecological receptors.

5.2 Assessment of Impact

- 5.2.1 The permanent loss of 357m² of other neutral grassland in poor condition will have a negligible impact on the ecological receptors.
- 5.2.2 There will be negligible impact on an individuals ability to survive or reproduce and thus no populations will be impacted.



6 Recommendations

6.1 Biodiversity Enhancement

- 6.1.1 The latest National Planning Policy Framework which includes biodiversity enhancement into proposed developments.
- 6.1.2 Due to the isolated location of the Development and lack of surrounding vegetation. It is not recommended that an integrated or free-hanging bat or bird box is erected onto the Development. Any such feature will put an occupant of the box at a high level of predation.
- 6.1.3 The uplift in condition of the other neutral grassland from poor to moderate will provide additional flowering flora which will provide a **minor positive** impact, at a site level, for protected and notable species.



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Appendix 1 – Site Photos



Ref.	Description	Photo
1	View over Site looking northeast	
2	View over Site looking southwest	
3	Mammal track under northwest boundary fenceline.	



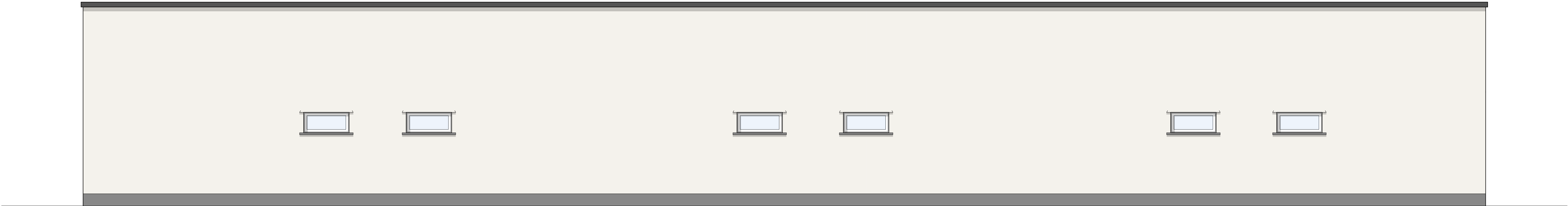
Ref.	Description	Photo
4	Nesting herring gulls on adjacent industrial building.	



Appendix 2 – Proposed Elevation Plans



AS PROPOSED SOUTH EAST ELEVATION
1:50



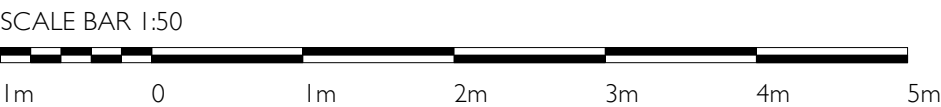
AS PROPOSED NORTH WEST ELEVATION
1:50



AS PROPOSED SOUTH WEST ELEVATION
1:50



AS PROPOSED NORTH EAST ELEVATION
1:50



NOTE:
All dimensions to be checked on site.
All dimensions in millimetres unless stated otherwise.

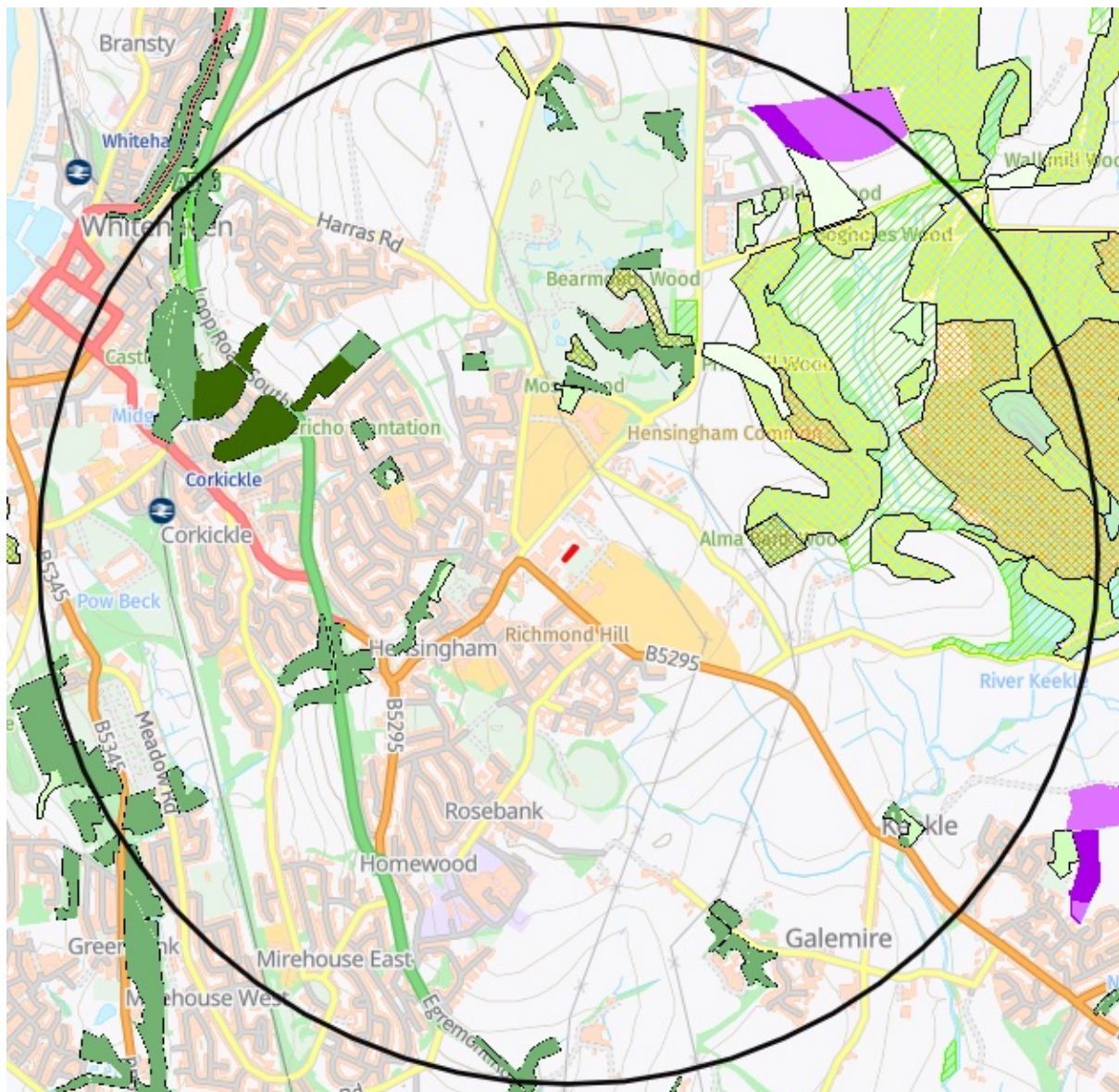
Rev.	Date:	Comments:	By:
A	05.02.26	Alterations following clients comments	TH
Client:			
HENSINGHAM ARLFC C/O STOBBARTS LTD.			
			
DAY CUMMINS LIMITED Architects & Surveyors Lakeland Business Park Cockermouth Cumbria CA13 0QT Tel: 01900 820700 Fax: 01900 820701 email: dc@day-cummins.co.uk www.day-cummins.co.uk			
Project: NEW CHANGING ROOMS, HENSINGHAM ARLFC, CLEATOR MOOR ROAD, WHITEHAVEN			
Drawing Title: AS PROPOSED ELEVATIONS			
Drawn:	TH	Checked:	AW
Scale:	1:50	Date:	05.02.26
		Paper Size:	A1
ALL DIMENSIONS TO BE CHECKED ON SITE FIGURED DIMENSIONS TO BE TAKEN IN PREFERENCE TO SCALED DIMENSIONS THIS DRAWING IS COPYRIGHT © DAY CUMMINS LIMITED. SOLICITANCE: AC0000805454			
Project No:	6210	Drawing No:	02
		Rev:	A



Appendix 3 – Figures



Figure 1: Priority habitats within the search area.



Habitats

Grassland

Priority Habitat Inventory - Good quality semi-improved grassland (Non Priority) (England)



Priority Habitat Inventory - Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture (England)



Woodland

Ancient Woodland (England)

Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland

Ancient Replanted Woodland

Ancient Wood Pasture

Priority Habitat Inventory - Deciduous Woodland (England)





LEGEND

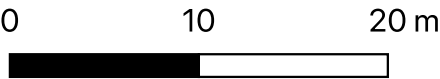
Baseline Habitats

 Other neutral grassland

 Redline boundary

Google Satellite

DO NOT scale from drawing,.For illustration purposes only.



REV.	Details	DRA	CHD	APP	DATE
RO	Final	AJG	AJG	AJG	13.05.26
R1					

Client	Hensingham ARLFC c/o Stobbarts Ltd.
Project	Hensingham ARLFC
Title	Baseline Habitat Map
Figure Number	1
Scale	1:500 @A3
Document Reference	FE-333-001-500-D-01



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Appendix 4 – Environmental Legislation & Conventions



Introduction

The UK has ratified a number of Conventions and implemented legislation pertaining to the protection of habitats, plants, herptiles, birds and mammals, either independently or as member state of the European Union. These are defined and summarised below.

Bern Convention (1982)

The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Bern Convention) was adopted in Bern, Switzerland in 1979, and was ratified in 1982. Its aims are to protect wild plants and animals and their habitats listed in Appendices I and II of the Convention, and regulate the exploitation of species listed in Appendix III. The regulation imposes legal obligations on participating countries to protect more than 1000 animals.

To meet its obligations imposed by the Convention, the European Community adopted the EC Birds Directive (1979) and the EC Habitats Directive (1992 – see below). Since the Lisbon Treaty, in force since 1st December 2009, European legislation has been adopted by the European Union.

The UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework

The UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework was published in July 2012 and supersedes the Biodiversity Action Plan which lists and prioritises habitats and species and sets national targets to be achieved. The UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework includes all the species formally listed under the old UKBAP. The Environmental Departments of all four governments in the UK work together through the Four Countries Biodiversity Group.

The former UKBAP identified 391 'Priority' Species Action Plans (SAPs), 45 'Priority' Habitat Action Plans and 162 Local Biodiversity Action Plans. Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP) identify habitat and species conservation priorities at a local level (typically at the County level), and are usually drawn up by a consortium of local Government organisations and conservation charities.

Bonn Convention

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals or 'Bonn Convention' was adopted in Bonn, Germany in 1979 and came into force in 1985. Participating states agree to work together to preserve migratory species and their habitats by providing strict protection to species listed in Appendix I of the Convention. It also establishes agreements for the conservation and management of migratory species listed in Appendix II.

In the UK, the requirements of the convention are implemented via the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW).

The UK has currently ratified four legally binding Agreements under the Convention, one of which is the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS).

National Planning Policy Framework (2021)

Following the publication of the first revision of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012, Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9): Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (2005) has been withdrawn. However, ODPM 06/2005: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and their impact within the Planning System (the guidance document that accompanied PPS9) has not been withdrawn and, where more detailed guidance is required than is given within the NPPF, local planning authorities will



continue to rely on ODPM 06/2005. The NPPF has been revised and was published in July 2021.

The natural environment is covered within the NPPF 2021 in Chapter 15, paragraphs 174-188.

The purpose of the NPPF is to conserve and enhance the natural environment including:

- *minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.*

To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

- *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*
- *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.*

This guidance requires local planning authorities (planning policies and planning decisions) to take account of the conservation of protected species when determining planning applications and makes the presence of a protected species a material consideration when assessing a development proposal that, if carried out, would be likely to result in harm to the species or its habitat. Furthermore, the NPPF 2021 still includes the requirement for developments to *improve biodiversity* including ecological *net gain*. In the case of European Protected Species such as bats, planning policy emphasises that strict statutory provisions apply (including the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012), to which a planning authority must have due regard.

Where developments requiring planning permission are likely to impact upon protected species it is necessary that protected species surveys are undertaken and submitted to meet the requirements of paragraph 98 of ODPM Circular 06/2005 which states that:

'The presence of a protected species is a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a development proposal that, if carried out, would be likely to result in harm to the species or its habitat.'

Potential Special Protected Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, listed or proposed Ramsar site should be given the same protection as habitats sites.

Species of Principal Importance in England

Section 41 (S41) of this Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list (in consultation with Natural England) of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal (e.g. planning) functions. The S41 list includes 65 habitats of principal importance and 1,150 species of principal importance.



The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 came into force on 30th November 2017. The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 consolidate the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 with subsequent amendments. The 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. They also transpose elements of the EU Wild Birds Directive in England and Wales.

Regulations place a duty on the Secretary of State to propose a list of sites which are important for either habitats or species (listed in Annexes I or II of the Habitats Directive respectively) to the European Commission. These sites, if ratified by the European Commission, are then designated as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within six years. The 2012 amendments include that public bodies help preserve, maintain and re-establish habitats for wild birds.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

This is the principal mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in the UK. This legislation is the chief means by which the 'Bern Convention' and the Birds Directive are implemented in the UK. Since it was first introduced, the Act has been amended several times.

The Act makes it an offence to (with exception to species listed in Schedule 2) intentionally: kill, injure, or take any wild bird, take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use, or take or destroy an egg of any wild bird.

In addition, the Act makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to: intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take any wild animal listed on Schedule 5, interfere with places used for shelter or protection, or intentionally disturbing animals occupying such places.

The Act also prohibits certain methods of killing, injuring, or taking wild animals. Finally, the Act also makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to: intentionally pick, uproot or destroy any wild plant listed in Schedule 8, or any seed or spore attached to any such wild plant, unless an authorised person, intentionally uproot any wild plant not included in Schedule 8, sell, offer or expose for sale, or possess (for the purposes of trade), any live or dead wild plant included in Schedule 8, or any part of, or anything derived from, such a plant.

Following all amendments to the Act, Schedule 5 'Animals which are Protected' contains a total of 154 species of animal, including several mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates. Schedule 8 'Plants which are Protected' of the Act, contains 185 species, including higher plants, bryophytes and fungi and lichens. A comprehensive and up-to-date list of these species can be obtained from the JNCC website.

Part 14 of the Act makes unlawful to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild any plant which is listed in Part II of Schedule 9.