

**HABITAT REGULATIONS
ASSESSMENT SCREENING
REPORT**

**Calderbrook Alpacas
Todmorden Road
Littleborough
Lancashire
OL15 9AL**

**Client:
Joanne Schembri**

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**JCA Ref:
21680b/JF**

**Date of Report:
16/12/2024**



Quality Assurance

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Planning	16/01/24	James Foster	N/A	N/A	03/12/24	James Foster	04/12/24	Alex Donovan
							15/12/24	Adam West

This report has been prepared and provided in accordance with the *British Standard 42020: Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning and development 2018* and the *CIEEM's Code of Professional Conduct*.



Summary

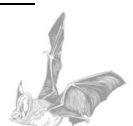
This Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Stage 1 screening was undertaken by James Foster (Assistant Ecologist, JCA Ltd) on behalf of **Joanne Schembri** who are the promoters of the proposed works at **Calderbrook Alpacas, Todmorden Road, Littleborough** ("the Scheme"). This report has been produced to determine whether the Scheme is predicted to have any likely significant effects on National Sites Network (NSN) Sites, formerly known as European Sites or Natura 2000 Sites (Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Sites of Community Importance (SCI)) or Wetlands of International Importance (known as Ramsar sites) with respect to the sites' structure, function and conservation objectives. This assessment also includes sites proposed for designation in the NSN but not yet designated.

The Scheme is located 2.9km northeast of Littleborough, Lancashire at grid reference SD 94729 18885. The scheme is the demolition of a temporary structure (small polytunnel) and an existing shed being used as stables and the construction of a larger replacement stable.

NSN and Ramsar sites were identified as potentially requiring assessment within 2km of the Scheme, or at greater distances where connecting pathways are present. The search was extended to 30km for NSN sites designated for bats. Using the criteria above, the following NSN Sites were identified which could be affected by the Scheme:

- South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- South Pennine Moors Phase 2 Special Protection Area (SPA)
- South Pennine Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Potential risks identified as arising from the Scheme were for recreational disturbance impacts, water quality and drainage to impact water quality within the designated sites and potential for noise and visual disturbance to designated bird species in the adjacent South Pennine Moors SPA. Likely Significant Effects arising from these factors could be screened out at Stage 1 HRA Screening without mitigation. Consequently, Stage 2 of the HRA process, the Appropriate Assessment, was not required.



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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 In October 2024, JCA Limited was instructed by **Joanne Schembri** to undertake ecological surveys and assessment in relation to the development proposal for the erection of a stable building following demolition of the existing stable building and outbuildings and excavation of land. The proposed development is located 2.9km northeast of Littleborough, Lancashire at grid reference SD 94729 18885.
- 1.1.2 Responsibility for determining whether a project will have a likely significant effect on a National Sites Network (NSN) site lies with the Competent Authority. In this case the Competent Authority Rochdale Borough Council in respect of their statutory duty.
- 1.1.3 This Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report has been prepared to assist the Competent Authority in determining the potential for likely significant effects of the Scheme on NSN sites. It has been prepared in order to comply with requirements under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 and covers Stage 1 of the HRA process.

1.2 Habitat Regulations Assessment

- 1.2.1 Under Regulation 61(1) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019:

‘a competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which:

- is likely to have a significant effect on an NSN site or an NSN offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and*
- is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site,*

must make an appropriate assessment of the implications for that site in view of that site’s conservation objectives.’



1.2.2 For the purpose of this assessment, NSN sites are taken to include sites designated under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and are sites that have been adopted by the European Commission and formally designated by the government of each country in whose territory the site lies. The NSN sites are:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) - Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). These sites are selected to conserve rare and vulnerable animals, plants and habitats (excluding birds) that are listed in Annexes I and II of the Directive (as amended).
- Special Protection Areas (SPA) - Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). Aim to safeguard bird species and populations that are listed in Annexes I and II of the Directive.

1.2.3 The requirement in England for an HRA also applies to the following sites:

- Possible Special Area of Conservation (pSAC) - These are sites undergoing public consultation prior to a decision on whether to formally submit it to the European Commission.
- Candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) - site which has been formally submitted to the European Commission following consultation, but not yet formally adopted by them.
- Sites of Community Importance (SCI) - sites that have been adopted by the European Commission but not yet formally designated by the government of each country. (Once a site has been adopted as a SCI, it must be designated as a SAC as soon as possible and within six years at the most).
- Potential Special Protection Area (pSPA) – sites that are treated as if formally classified. The Government has initiated public consultation on the scientific case for classification as a SPA.
- Ramsar Sites - Wetlands of International Importance designated under the Ramsar Convention.
- Proposed Ramsar Sites.

1.2.4 The purpose of the assessments is to:

- Describe the Scheme
- Describe avoidance/mitigation measures*
- Provide information on the ecological interests and features of the potentially affected NSN sites



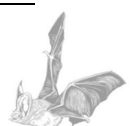
- Describe the likely nature and scale of the impacts on the NSN sites from the Scheme and any likely, in combination effects with other plans and/or projects
- Consider the results to allow a decision on the information in this statement to be made by the Competent Authority.

1.2.5 *A precedent has been set by a decision made by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) *People Over Wind and Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta* (C-323/17). The CJEU issued a judgement which ruled that Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive must be interpreted as meaning that mitigation measures (referred to in the judgment as measures which are intended to avoid or reduce effects) should be assessed within the framework of an Appropriate Assessment (AA) and that it is not permissible to take account of measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on a European site at the Screening stage. Consequently, this document contains a Screening Report which does not take into account mitigation measures and an Appropriate Assessment which does.

1.3 Report Structure

1.3.1 This HRA comprises the following sections:

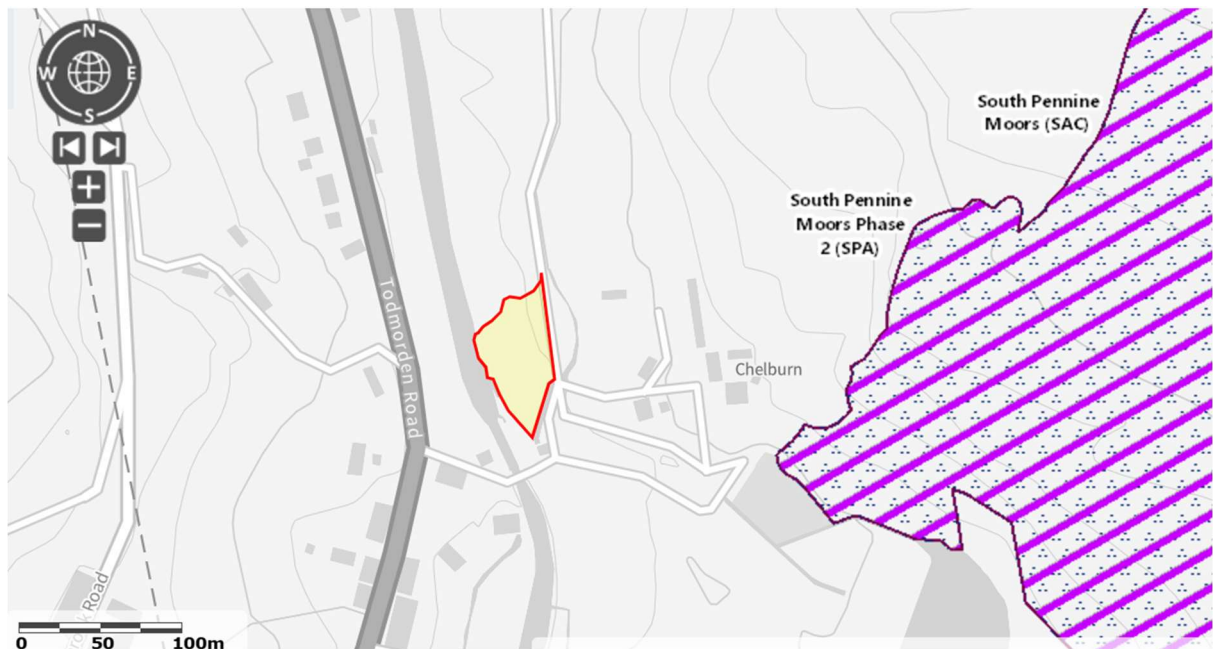
- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Description of the Scheme
- Chapter 3: HRA Methodology - description of the HRA process and methods used for site selection
- Chapter 4: Screening - NSN Site selection - description of sites, conservation objectives and vulnerabilities.
- Chapter 5: Identification of potential pathways for impacts from the Scheme. Assessment of significance of potential impacts. Within this section consideration is given to other plans in the area which might lead to an 'in combination' effect
- Chapter 6: Screening Conclusion - establishes whether an Appropriate Assessment is considered necessary, with rationale.



2. Description of the Scheme

- 2.1.1 The Scheme is the erection of a stable building following demolition of the existing stable building and outbuildings and excavation of land.
- 2.1.2 The site location in relation to the South Pennine Moors SAC and South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA is shown in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1: MAGIC Map image of the site, **Calderbrook Alpacas, Todmorden Road** in relation to the surrounding habitats and the South Pennine Moors SAC and South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA. Red line indicates site boundary.



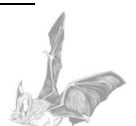
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3. HRA Methodology

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 This assessment considers potential effects on NSN sites as required under Section 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.
- 3.1.2 The assessment has been conducted by James Foster *BSc (Hons)*, Assistant Ecologist, JCA Ltd.
- 3.1.3 Chapters 4-6 cover the Screening Stage of the Habitat Regulations Assessment process in respect of construction and operation of the Scheme.
- 3.1.4 Professional judgement has been used to assess the potential for likely effects on the integrity of any relevant NSN site, based on interpretation of the results of a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) undertaken by JCA Ltd in 2024 (Ref: 21680a/JF), potential impacts of the works, and having regard to good construction practices in implementation. Where there is uncertainty, the precautionary principle has been applied.
- 3.1.5 For the purposes of this assessment, 'integrity' is defined as: the coherence of the site's ecological structure and function, across its whole area, that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the favourable conservation status of populations of the species for which it was classified.
- 3.1.6 In order to make an accurate assessment, information from the following organisations has been considered:
- Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)
 - Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU)
 - Natural England (NE)
 - Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).



3.2 Assessment Methodology

3.2.1 The HRA process is described in Table 1: The steps to be undertaken at each stage of the HRA process.

Table 1: The steps to be undertaken at each stage of the HRA process.

Stage	Steps to be Undertaken by the Developer (Unless otherwise stated)
Stage One: Screening	1. Identify all NSN sites in and around the area. 2. Acquire, examine and understand conservation objectives of each interest feature of each NSN site potentially affected. 3. Consider the plan or project proposals and the changes that they may cause that may be relevant to the NSN. This is likely to involve estimating likely magnitude, duration, location and extent of effects of the changes as far as they may reasonably be predicted at this stage. 4. Identify if any elements of the plan or project are likely to have a significant effect on any interest feature, alone or in-combination with other projects and plans, directly or indirectly, including functionally linked land. Seek official screening statement from the competent authority e.g. the Local Planning Authority. 5. Whilst not a statutory obligation at this stage (only required when an appropriate assessment is being undertaken), competent authorities may consult Natural England (as the SNCB) at this early screening stage in order to seek advice as to whether effects are likely to be significant or verify the competent authority's decision as to the likelihood of significant effects. If significant effects are likely or uncertain, proceed to Stage 2.
Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment	6. Provide information to the competent authority as reasonably required for the purposes of assessing the implications for NSN sites in light of relevant conservation objectives. Draft a report to inform the competent authority's Appropriate Assessment. 7. Competent authorities: before deciding to give any consent, permission or other authorisation for a plan or project, undertake an Appropriate Assessment of the implications for each affected site in light of its conservation objectives, using the best information, science and technical know-how available. 8. Competent authorities: consult the appropriate nature conservation body (e.g. NE), and the general public (if considered appropriate), and have regard to any representations made. 9. Competent authorities: consider whether any possible adverse effect on integrity of any site could be avoided by changes to the plan or project, having regard to the manner in which it is proposed to be carried out or to any conditions or restrictions subject to which they propose that the consent, permission or other authorisation should be given (mitigation measures necessary to avoid or reduce adverse effects). 10. Competent authorities: in light of the conclusions of the assessment, and taking account of NRW and public representations, either: agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of any NSN site; or if it cannot be ascertained that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of any NSN site, consider overriding public interest at Stage 3 and 4.
Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions	11. Identify alternative solutions and assess these as per the methodology set out for Stage 2. 12. If no viable alternative solutions exist, or all reasonable alternatives have been considered and assessed, and the least damaging option is the one that has been selected, proceed to Stage 4. Otherwise, the plan or project should be abandoned.



Stage Four: IROPI	13. Present the case for Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) (economic, social or environmental) for allowing a plan or project that will have adverse effects on the integrity of an NSN site to proceed (note that social and economic reasons do not apply if the project would affect priority habitats or species). 14. Competent authorities: If satisfied that there are no alternative solutions, and that IROPI applies, seek permission from Ministers to proceed with the project. 15. Ministers may require compensatory measures to be delivered as part of the plan or project to ensure the overall coherence of the NSN is protected. Compensatory measures must be practical, implementable, likely to succeed, proportionate and enforceable, and they must be approved by the Ministers.
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3.3 Mechanism for Identification of NSN Sites

3.3.1 NSN sites should be considered for formal screening where there is a potential for a project to have any impacts. To assist in making this judgment, Appropriate Assessment should be considered where:

- An NSN site is directly impacted by or directly within 2km of the project boundary.
- Works are within 30km of an NSN site and bats are noted as one of the qualifying interests.
- There is a hydrological connection between the NSN site and the project (crossing/adjacent to upstream of, or downstream of).
- Any other potential effect pathway exists.



4. Stage One: HRA Screening

4.1 Identification of NSN Sites

4.1.1 NSN sites identified as potentially requiring assessment are set out below.

4.1.2 NSN Sites within 200m of the Scheme:

- South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- South Pennine Moors Phase 2 Special Protection Area (SPA)

4.1.3 NSN Sites designated for bats within 30km of the Scheme:

- None

4.1.4 NSN Designated Sites with hydrological connection:

- Rochdale Canal SAC
- Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)

4.1.5 NSN Designated Sites where any other potential effect pathway exists:

- None

4.2 South Pennine Moors SAC and SPA

4.2.1 The South Pennine Moors SAC and SPA are the only international designations in the vicinity of the proposals and are identified as the receptors that could be affected by the development.

4.2.2 The South Pennine Moors contains the most diverse and extensive examples of upland plant communities with areas of extensive blanket bog, species-rich acidic flushes and mires, wet and dry heaths and acid grasslands. These habitats support a regionally and nationally important moorland bird assemblage. The breeding population of merlin *Falco columbarius*, golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria* and twite *Carduelis flavirostris* are of international importance.

4.2.3 There will be no direct habitat loss at any of the designated sites, however the Screening Report considers the potential for the integrity of these



European Sites, or their favourable status, to be affected by the proposed development, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

4.2.4 The assessment follows a step-by-step process based on the source-pathway-receptor model. Firstly, sources of impacts arising from the Scheme are identified that could affect the European Sites or any functionally linked land. Impact pathways are then examined to understand how these sources might affect the European Sites and undermine a Site's conservation objectives.

4.2.5 Finally, the assessment establishes whether the effect from each impact pathway on the European Site receptors is likely to be significant and concludes either No Significant Effect (NSE) or Likely Significant Effect (LSE).

4.3 Recreational Disturbance Impacts

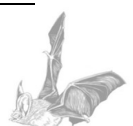
The Scheme is not anticipated to increase tourist accommodation provision in the area and, consequently, the number of visitors staying locally and potentially visiting the designated sites.

4.4 Water Quality and Drainage

The Scheme will not lead to an increase in the generation of wastewater from the site. All wastewater generated by Scheme will be disposed of into the mains sewer system.

4.5 Noise And Visual Disturbance to Designated Bird Species

South Pennine SPA qualifies as a SPA due to the presence of a range of waterfowl, waders and birds of prey. Species such as the golden plover are known to feed on parcels of agricultural land outside of NSN site boundaries.



5. Potential Effects on NSN Sites

5.1 Screening

5.1.1 South Pennine Moors SAC and SPA

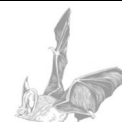
5.1.2 The SAC and SPA share a common boundary, which is within 200m east of the site.

5.1.3 Of the stated vulnerabilities to which the South Pennine Moors designated sites are susceptible (Tables 2 & 3), changes in air pollution, air-borne pollutants, agriculture activities, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, activity of hunting, collecting, taking, removal, trapping, poisoning, poaching, predator control or accidental capture of terrestrial, reduced fecundity/genetic depression, fire and fire suppression, outdoor sports and leisure and recreational activities and disturbance (particularly of bird species) arising from access, recreation and other activities that are relevant to the Scheme.



Table 2: Characteristics, Vulnerabilities and Conservation Objectives of South Pennine Moors SAC Features.

Name of European Site and EU code	Qualifying features	Threats, pressure and activities with impacts on the site	Conservation objectives
South Pennine Moors SAC UK0030280	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: 4030 European dry heaths Dry heath covers extensive areas, occupies the lower slopes of the moors on mineral soils or where peat is thin, and occurs in transitions to acid grassland, wet heath and 7130 blanket bogs. The upland heath of the South Pennines is strongly dominated by heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>. Its main NVC types are H9 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> heath and H12 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> heath. More rarely H8 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Ulex gallii</i> heath and H10 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Erica cinerea</i> heath are found. On the higher, more exposed ground H18 <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> – <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> heath becomes more prominent. In the cloughs, or valleys, which extend into the heather moorlands, a greater mix of dwarf shrubs can be found together with more lichens and mosses. The moors support a rich invertebrate fauna, especially moths, and important bird assemblages. 7130 Blanket bogs (* if active bog) * Priority feature	Key negative impacts and activities with high effect on the borders of the site. - Air pollution, air-borne pollutants - Agriculture activities - Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions Key negative impacts and activities with high effect on the inside of the site. - Fire and fire suppression - Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities Key positive impacts and activities with high effect on the inside of the site. - Annual and perennial non-timber crops - Modification of cultivation practices - Grazing in forests/ woodland - Mowing / cutting of grassland	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; - The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats - The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitats, and, - The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely Qualifying Features:



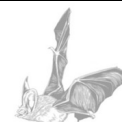
	This site represents blanket bog in the south Pennines, the most south-easterly occurrence of the habitat in Europe. The bog vegetation communities are botanically poor. Hare's-tail cottongrass <i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i> is often overwhelmingly dominant and the usual bog-building <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses are scarce. Where the blanket peats are slightly drier, heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>, crowberry <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> and bilberry <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> become more prominent. The uncommon cloudberry <i>Rubus chamaemorus</i> is locally abundant in bog vegetation. Bog pools provide diversity and are often characterised by common cottongrass <i>E. angustifolium</i>. Substantial areas of the bog surface are eroding, and there are extensive areas of bare peat. In some areas erosion may be a natural process reflecting the great age (9000 years) of the south Pennine peats. 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles Around the fringes of the upland heath and bog of the south Pennines are blocks of old sessile oak woods, usually on slopes. These tend to be dryer than those further north and west, such that the bryophyte communities are less developed (although this lowered diversity may in some instances have been exaggerated by the effects of 19th century air pollution). Other components of the ground flora such as grasses, dwarf shrubs and ferns are common. Small areas of alder woodland	• Forest and Plantation management & use • Improved access to site • Grazing	• H4010. Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath • H4030. European dry heaths • H7130. Blanket bogs* • H7140. Transition mires and quaking bogs; Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface • H91A0. Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles * denotes a priority natural habitat or species Some of the natural habitats and species for which UK SACs have been selected are considered to be particular priorities for conservation at a European scale and are subject to special provisions in the Habitats Regulations.
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	along stream-sides add to the overall richness of the woods. Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site: • 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> • 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: Not applicable. Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: Not applicable.		These priority natural habitats and species are denoted by an asterisk (*) in Annex I and II of the Habitats Directive. The term 'priority' is also used in other contexts, for example with reference to particular habitats or species that are prioritised in UK Biodiversity Action Plans. It is important to note however that these are not necessarily the priority natural habitats or species within the meaning of the Habitats Regulations.
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Table 3: Characteristics, Vulnerabilities and Conservation Objectives of South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA Features.

Name of European Site and EU code	Qualifying features	Threats, pressure and activities with impacts on the site	Conservation objectives
South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA UK9007022	Species referred to in ARTICLE 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in ANNEX II of Directive 92/43/EEC:	Key negative impacts and activities with high affect on the borders of the site.	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving



	During the breeding season the area regularly supports: • Short-eared owl. <i>Asio flammeus</i> (Europe - breeding). Three breeding pairs. • Merlin. <i>Falco columbarius</i>. 28 breeding pairs. • Golden plover. <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>. 292 pairs. Other important species of flora and fauna. BBA – Breeding Bird Assemblage. ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) During the breeding season the area regularly supports: • <i>Asio flammeus</i> 0.3% of the GB breeding population. Count as at 1990. • <i>Falco columbarius</i> 2.2% of the GB breeding population. Count as at 1995. • <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [North-western Europe - breeding] 1.3% of the GB breeding population. No count period specified. • AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS	• Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions Key negative impacts and activities with high effect on the inside of the site. • Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including damage caused by game (excessive density), and taking/removal of terrestrial animals (including collection of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey, etc., trapping, poisoning, poaching, predator control, accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear), etc.) • Reduced fecundity/ genetic depression • Fire and fire suppression • Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities Key positive impacts and activities with high effect on the inside of the site. • Forest and Plantation management & use • Annual and perennial non-timber crops	the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring; • The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features • The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features • The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely • The population of each of the qualifying features, and, • The distribution of the qualifying features within the site. Qualifying Features: • A098 <i>Falco columbarius</i>; Merlin (Breeding)
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		Grazing in forests/ woodland	- A140 <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>; European golden plover (Breeding) - Breeding bird assemblage
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5.2 Potential Negative Impacts

- 5.2.1 The potential impacts to the SPA and SAC and functionally linked land are listed below.
- 5.2.2 The Scheme is not anticipated to increase the tourist accommodation provision in the area and, consequently, the number of visitors staying locally and potentially visiting the designated sites.
- 5.2.3 The Scheme is not anticipated to increase air pollution or air-borne pollutants.
- 5.2.4 The Scheme is not anticipated to increase agricultural activities.
- 5.2.5 The Scheme is not anticipated to increase human induced changes in hydraulic conditions.
- 5.2.6 The Scheme is not anticipated to increase the activity of hunting, collecting, taking, removal, trapping, poisoning, poaching, predator control or accidental capture of terrestrial animals (including insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey, etc.).
- 5.2.7 The Scheme is not anticipated to increase reduced fecundity/genetic depression.
- 5.2.8 The Scheme is not anticipated to increase fire and fire suppression.
- 5.2.9 The Scheme is not anticipated to increase outdoor sports and recreational and leisure activities.
- 5.2.10 It is not considered that the Scheme will be sufficient to compromise the conservation objectives of the SAC and SPA or any functionally linked land. **No Likely Significant Effect**, therefore, is anticipated.

5.3 Water Quality and Drainage

- 5.3.1 There is no direct hydrological connection between the Scheme and the Designated Site.
- 5.3.2 The Scheme will not lead to an increase in the generation of wastewater from the site. All wastewater generated by Scheme will be disposed of



into the mains sewer system. The additional wastewater will, therefore, produce **no Likely Significant Effect** on the designated sites.

5.4 Noise And Visual Disturbance to Designated Bird Species

- 5.4.1 The South Pennine Moors SPA qualifies as an SPA due to the presence of a short-eared owl, merlin, golden plover and an internationally important assemblage of birds.
- 5.4.2 The Scheme is located approximately 200m east of the Designated Site at its closest point. Given the small-scale of the Scheme, with no structures being higher than a single storey, and the distance to the Designated Site, it is highly unlikely that birds within the SPA and any functionally linked land will be impacted by noise or visual disturbance in either the construction or operational phases.
- 5.4.3 Some bird species will disperse from the Designated Site to forage on surrounding agricultural land. These birds may be subject to a degree of disturbance, but the development will result in a insignificant loss of a low ecologically valuable habitat and is unlikely to cause an increase in disturbance pressures. Furthermore, there is abundant habitat in the area to which birds could move to avoid any disturbance such that there would be no appreciable impact on their ability to forage undisturbed.
- 5.4.4 Given the low potential for disturbance to a relatively few birds from the Designated Site, and the abundance of disturbance-free foraging habitat in the area, **no Likely Significant Effect** is anticipated to arise from noise or visual disturbance.

5.5 Cumulative Effects of Other Plans/Projects

- 5.5.1 Rochdale Borough Council planning applications portal was searched for other new plans and projects for which planning applications are approved or pending, which could potentially impact upon South Pennine Moors and South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SAC and SPA in combination with the proposed works at the Scheme.
- 5.5.2 Rochdale Brough Council Planning – Map Search website was used to identify relevant planning applications (Rochdale Brough Council Planning, 2024) The search produced the following applications:

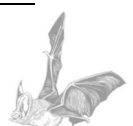


Table 5: Planning applications on Rochdale Borough Council portal from the last five years and within 500m of the Scheme.

Ref No.	Description of Development	Location	Status of Application	Likely Significant Effect
19/01379/FUL	Change of use of Unit 2 and adjacent land from storage (Class B8) to MOT testing bay and car repair centre	Red Lees Works Todmorden Road Littleborough Rochdale OL15 9LZ	Decided - Grant subject to conditions	No LSE
21/01149/CPL	Application for a Certificate of Lawful Use for use of premises as a children's nursery	Waterfall Tea Room Dean Head Todmorden Road Littleborough OL15 9LZ	Grant	No LSE
23/01046/HOUS	Part-single, part-two storey side extension with balcony and glass balustrade to the rear first floor elevation following demolition of existing outbuilding, formation of garden steps, and alterations to fenestration on the ground floor rear elevation (resubmission of 23/00166/HOUS)	24 Dean Head Todmorden Road Littleborough Rochdale OL15 9LZ	Decided - Grant subject to conditions	No LSE
22/01504/HOUS	2No roof light to front and 2no to rear elevation with raising of the eaves and ridge height and Juliet balcony to ground floor rear elevation	104 Summit Todmorden Road Littleborough Rochdale OL15 9QX	Decided - Grant subject to conditions	No LSE
23/00931/HOUS	Erection of a detached single storey building to form storage and garage building - Retrospective	1 Stoney Head Higher Calderbrook Road Littleborough Rochdale OL15 9NH	Decided - Grant subject to conditions	No LSE
24/00161/HOUS	Two storey side/rear extension, Juliet balcony and extension of patio.	12 Holme House Street Littleborough Rochdale OL15 9QU	Decided - Grant subject to conditions	No LSE



24/00914/CPL	Certificate of lawfulness for a proposed single storey side extension to west and east elevation	7 Holme Terrace Littleborough Rochdale OL15 9QR	Grant	No LSE
23/01074/HOUS	First Floor Rear Extension	17 Smithy Nook Littleborough Rochdale OL15 9NF	Decided - Grant subject to conditions	No LSE



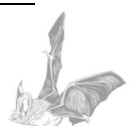
- 5.5.3 Of the eight planning applications identified in Table 5, all of these are relatively small scale. Direct and indirect impacts to the South Pennine Moors SAC and South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA are considered unlikely. At the distance from the South Pennine moors that these developments will take place, disturbance to bird species is unlikely.
- 5.5.4 It is considered that the results above show that there will be **No Likely Significant Effects** from cumulative or in-combination impacts of other projects within a 500m radius of the Scheme. These projects have not been considered further.



6. Screening Conclusion

6.1 Habitats

- 6.1.1 The screening exercise has shown that without mitigation, the proposed works are anticipated to have **no Likely Significant Effects** upon the South Pennine Moors SAC and South Pennine Moors SPA site.
- 6.1.2 The absence of Likely Significant Effects means that a Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment which will assess changes to the project, conditions or timing and mitigation that would avoid these effects, is not required.



7. References

JCA Ltd. (2024), *Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report*, JCA Ref: 21680/a

Rochdale Borough Yorkshire Council (2024) *Planning – Map Search* [online] Available at:
<https://www.rochdale.gov.uk/> (Accessed 03/12/24)

DEFRA (2024), *Magic Map Application* Available at: <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

JNNC (2024) *STANDARD DATA FORM for sites within the 'UK national site network of European sites*. Available at: <https://jncc.gov.uk/>

Natural England (2024), *Designated Sites View*, Available at:
<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>

Relevant Legislation:

The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. Available at:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111176573>



Appendices

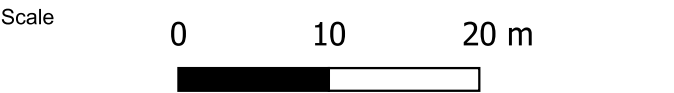
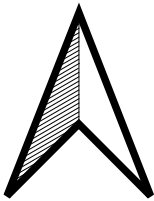
Appendix 1: UKHab Habitat Map





Site name & address
**Calderbrook Alpacas,
Todmorden Road, Littleborough,
Lancashire, OL15 9AL**

- Key**
- Red Line Boundary
 - Habitats**
 - g4 - Modified grassland
 - 10 - Scattered scrub
 - 14 - Scattered rushes
 - 32 - Scattered trees
 - 100 - Grazed
 - 114 - Drystone wall
 - u1b5 - Buildings/structures
 - Trees

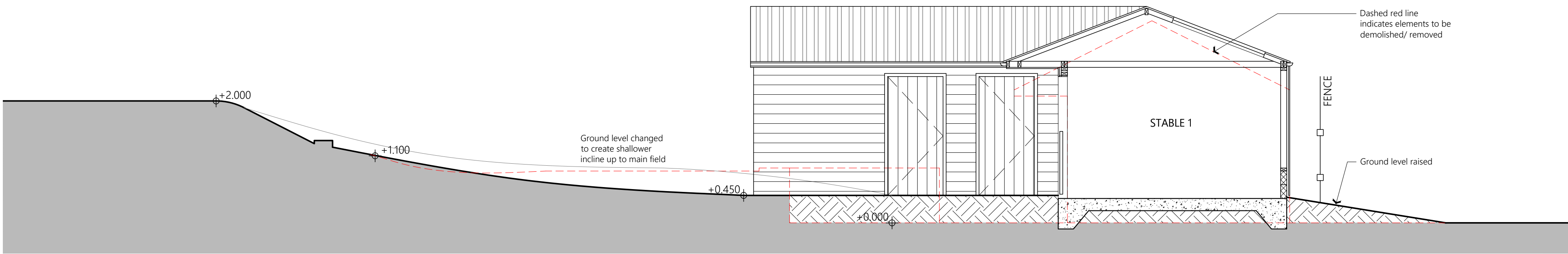


Site Calderbrook Alpacas	Client Joanne Schembri
Project Preliminary Ecological Appraisal	Author JF
Plan ref 21680a/JF	Revision 0

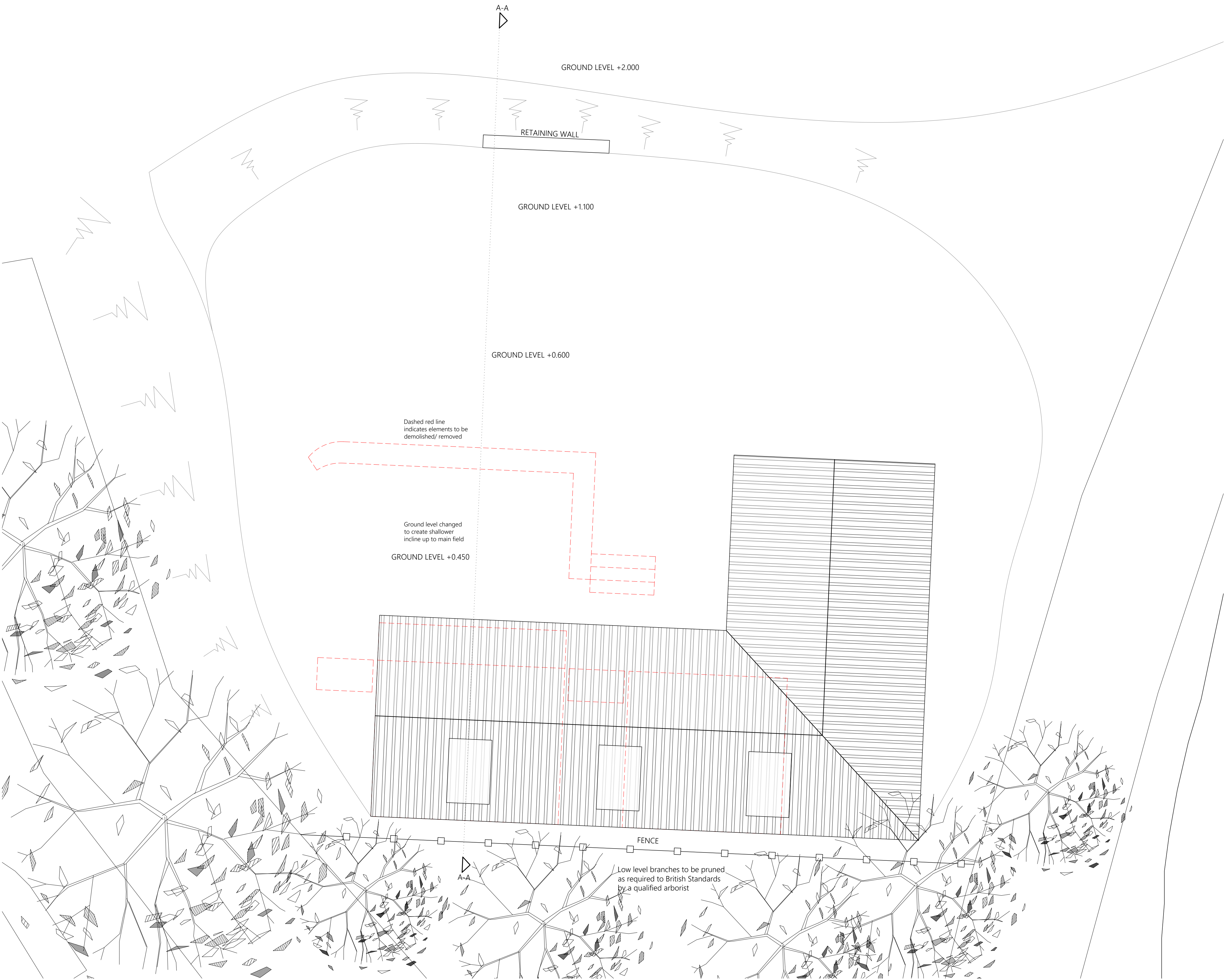
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright
and database right 2024

Appendix 2: Proposed Development Plan

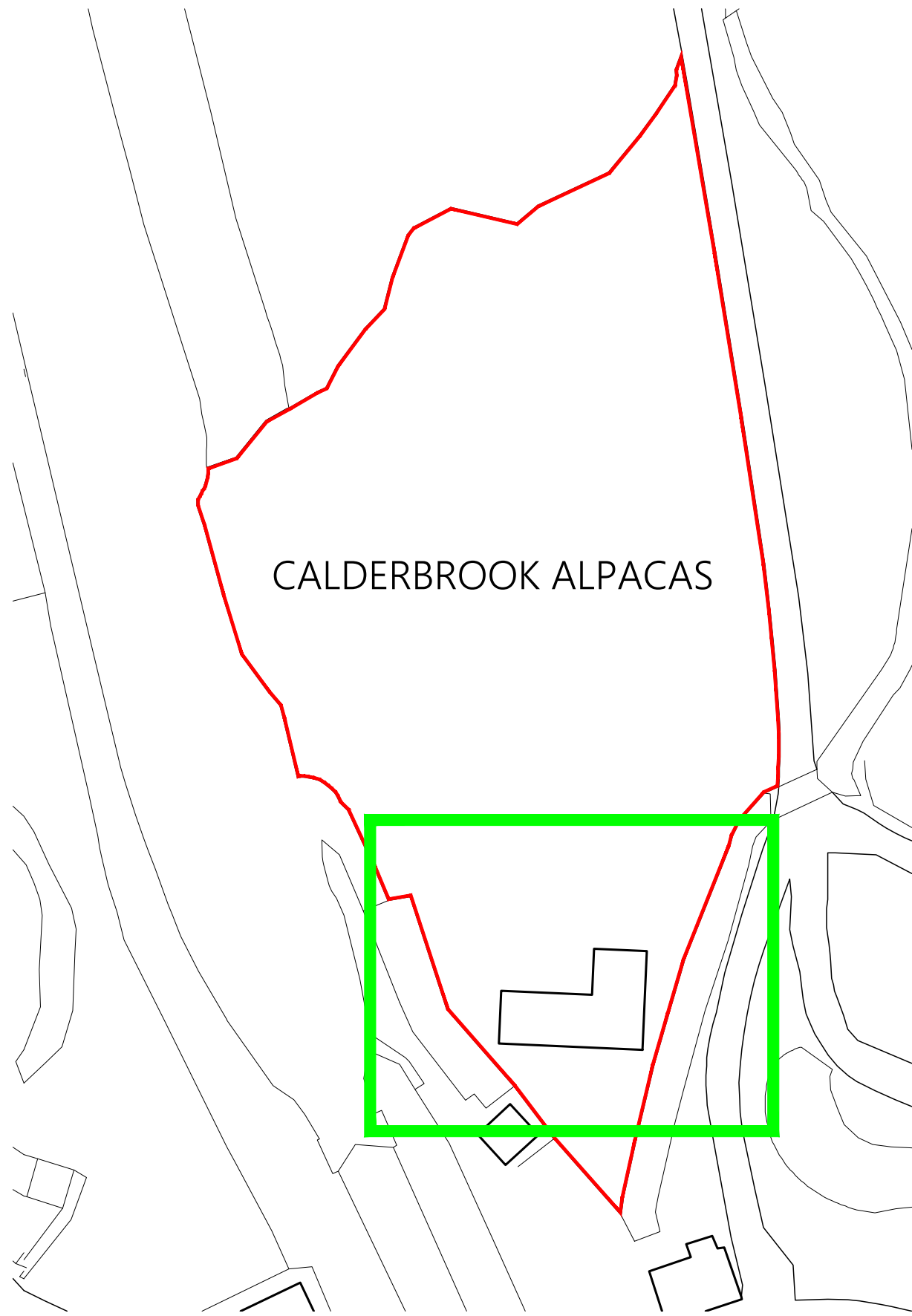




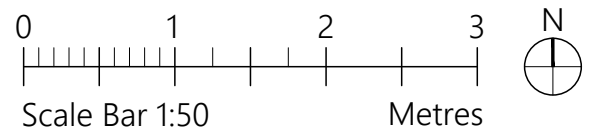
PROPOSED SITE SECTION A-A



PROPOSED SITE PLAN



REFERENCE PLAN
SCALE 1:500@A1



PROJECT	Calderbrook Alpacas Todmorden Road Littleborough, OL15 9LY		
CLIENT	Calderbrook Alpacas		
STATUS	Information		
DRAWING	Proposed Plan and Site Section		
DWG No.	2331-03	REV	
SCALE	1:50@A1	DATE	August '23
AGB CAD SERVICES		website: www.agbcad.co.uk email: info@agbcad.co.uk telephone: 07912 090 125 DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING	

Appendix 3: Author Qualifications

Adam West, Principal Ecologist

BSc (Hons) Animal and Wildlife Management.

Adam joined JCA to lead the expanding ecology department. Having returned to education as a mature student, Adam studied Countryside Management for two years before undertaking a Bachelor's degree, for which he was awarded First Class Honours. Adam has many years' experience in ecological consultancy, working on projects ranging from individual planning applications to national infrastructure projects. Adam holds a Natural England Level 1 great crested newt survey class licence, a Natural England Level 2 bat survey class licence (and the Scottish and Welsh equivalents) and a CSCS card.

James Foster, Assistant Ecologist

BSc (Hons) Biology.

James gained his undergraduate degree in biology in 2012 from University of Leeds. James has plenty of experience in ecology, having worked countless projects of different scales all over the north and midlands. James has 11 years of experience surveying anything from reptiles to hedgerows and holds a Great crested newt licence level 1 and is working towards his bat licence and barn owl licence.

Alex Donovan, Assistant Ecologist

MBiol, BSc Biology (Industrial).

Alex joined JCA in 2023 after graduating from the University of Leeds with a First Class Honours Integrated Master's degree in Biology. As part of his degree programme, Alex spent an industrial placement year working in the Uplands Research Department of the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, assisting on various ecological surveys and projects. Alex is a registered Trainee Bird Ringer, licensed through the BTO and is experienced in conducting preliminary ecological surveys, bat roost assessments and emergence surveys, Biodiversity Net Gain, and has knowledge of wildlife legislation. Alex is a CIEEM Qualifying Member and is currently working towards a Natural England level 1 bat licence, level 1 great crested newt licence, and a barn owl survey licence.



The Information and advice which we have prepared and provided is true and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the CIEEM's Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and bona fide opinions.

Signed



.....
James Foster *BSc (Hons)*

03/12/2024

Reviewed by



.....
Alex Donovan *MBiol, BSc (Hons)*

04/12/2024

Approved by



.....
Adam West *BSc (Hons), ACIEEM*

15/12/2024



For and on behalf of **JCA Ltd**

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ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

Ecological Pre-Planning Services

- Phase 1 Habitat Surveys
- Great Crested Newt eDNA Sampling
- Protected species: Bat, Wintering and Nesting Bird, Badger, Amphibian, Otter, Water Vole, White-Clawed Crayfish, Dormice and Reptile Surveys.
- Preparation for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Invasive Species Surveys
- Code for Sustainable Homes
- Butterfly & Insect Surveys

Ecological Post-Planning Services

- Biodiversity Enhancement Plans
- Protected Species Mitigation
- Ecological Management (Bat and Bird box installation and inspection)
- Planting Schemes
- Monitoring of bird or bat boxes.

ARBORICULTURAL SERVICES

Guidance for Architects & Developers

- British Standard 5837 Surveys
- Arboricultural Implications Assessments (AIA)
- Arboricultural Method Statements (AMS)

Advice for Engineers, Loss Adjusters and Insurers

- Tree Surveys for Subsidence
- Heave Assessment
- Tree Root Identification

Advice for Local Authorities and Social Housing

- Tree Safety Surveys
- Specialist Decay Detection
- Landscape and Orchard Design

Tree Advice for the Legal Profession

- Subsidence Litigation
- Personal Injury and Accident Investigation
- Expert Witness, Planning Inquiries and Appeals

Veteran Tree Management

- Ancient Woodland Management
- Veteran Tree Management

Tree Health and Pest and Disease Management

- Pest and Disease Surveys
- Tree Health Checks
- Disease Mitigation and Control



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