PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

GANDHI'S TEMPLE, SOUTH SHIELDS

DECEMBER 2015

DRAFT

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PROJECT NUMBER	4064

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R01	Draft	16.02.15	MO	-	RJW
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UNLESS REQUESTED OTHERWISE, THE INFORMATION BELOW, RELATING TO THE LOCAL AREA, WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS CENTRE FOR THE NORTH EAST (ERIC)

SPECIES	RECORDER	DATE	LOCATION (4 FIG. NGR)	COMMENT
Herring Gull	E3 Ecology	12.02.15	NZ 36	Foraging
Starling	E3 Ecology	12.02.15	NZ 36	Foraging
Mediterranean Gull	E3 Ecology	12.02.15	NZ 36	Foraging
Black-headed Gull	E3 Ecology	12.02.15	NZ 36	Foraging

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A. SUMMARY

E3 Ecology Ltd was commissioned by Fitz Architects Ltd. In February 2015 to undertake a preliminary ecological assessment of a public toilet block (Gandhi's Temple) and associated land in South Shields. The proposed development comprises the redevelopment of the structure to create a restaurant.

Consultation with the MAGIC website for protected sites within 2km indicated that the Durham Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) lies within 100m to the north east of the site, the Northumbria Coast Ramsar site and Special Protection Area (SPA) lies at its closest point 500m to the south east and the Durham Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC) also lies 500m to the south east.

The site is situated in South Shields adjacent to the coast in an area used for recreation. The flat roofed temple structure to be renovated/extended is currently used as a public toilet, and comprises well sealed brick work and rendering. The windows and doors are covered with metal security fittings.

Habitats surrounding the structure are dominated by hard standing, with a mosaic of roads footpaths and cobbled areas present. Two small areas of mown semi-improved grassland are present, with areas of coarse grassland also present, associated with the adjacent beach parking areas. A large expanse of sandy beach is present to the east, whilst recreational facilities, including football pitches and restaurants are present to the north, south and west. The site as a whole is considered to be of low ecological value.

Habitats on site are considered to provide extremely limited foraging opportunities for bats that may be present in the wider area. Given the nature of the structure and its surroundings, it is considered to be of negligible value to bats with the well sealed structure providing no potential roost sites.

The small areas of grassland may be used by locally common bird species, though given the limited extent any use will be in very low numbers, with use further limited by the levels of disturbance from the adjacent walkways. The site is unlikely to provide any nesting opportunities, given its small size and disturbed nature, though may provide sporadic opportunities for individual nesting gulls.

Due to the nature and location of the site, it is considered that the qualifying species of the nearby protected sites will be absent, and that there is no direct functional link between the development site and these protected areas. Furthermore works will be undertaken between April and October to limit any residual risk of indirect impacts associated with construction.

Due to the urban location and nature of the site, no other protected species are considered likely to be present.

Potential impacts of the development are:

- Risk of indirect impacts on internationally designated sites present in the local area, through increased footfall associated with the development
- Limited residual risk of disturbance associated with construction, due to timing of works
- Potential disturbance to individual gulls that may sporadically nest on the roof of the structure.
- Disturbance to a very small area of poor quality potential bat foraging habitat through increased lighting post development.
- Loss of habitat considered to be of low ecological value.

Key mitigation measures include:

- A checking survey to confirm that gulls are not nesting on the structure will be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist should building renovation be undertaken during the bird nesting season (March to August inclusive).
- Any excavations left open overnight will have a means of escape for mammals that may become trapped in the form of a ramp at least 300mm in width and angled no greater than 45°.
- Landscape planting within the site post development will include native coastal species of known value to wildlife.
- A permanent interpretation panel will be installed at the beach access point to highlight the importance of the local designated areas.
- High intensity security lights will be avoided, as far as practical, and any lighting will be directional, low level (2m) and low power LED lights.

The local planning authority and Natural England are likely to require the means of delivery of the mitigation to be identified. It is recommended that mitigation and enhancement proposals are incorporated into the master-planning documents.

If you are assessing this report for a local planning authority and have any difficulties interpreting plans and figures from a scanned version of the report, E3 Ecology Ltd would be happy to email a PDF copy to you. Please contact us on 01434 230982.

B. INTRODUCTION

E3 Ecology Ltd was commissioned by Fitz Architects Ltd. to undertake a preliminary ecological assessment of Gandhi's Temple and associated land to meet the requirements of the local planning authority.

B.1 BACKGROUND TO DEVELOPMENT

The site is located at the southern end of the South Shields Promenade at an approximate central grid reference of NZ 378 669. The site location is illustrated below in Figure 1. The site is currently owned by the Local Authority.

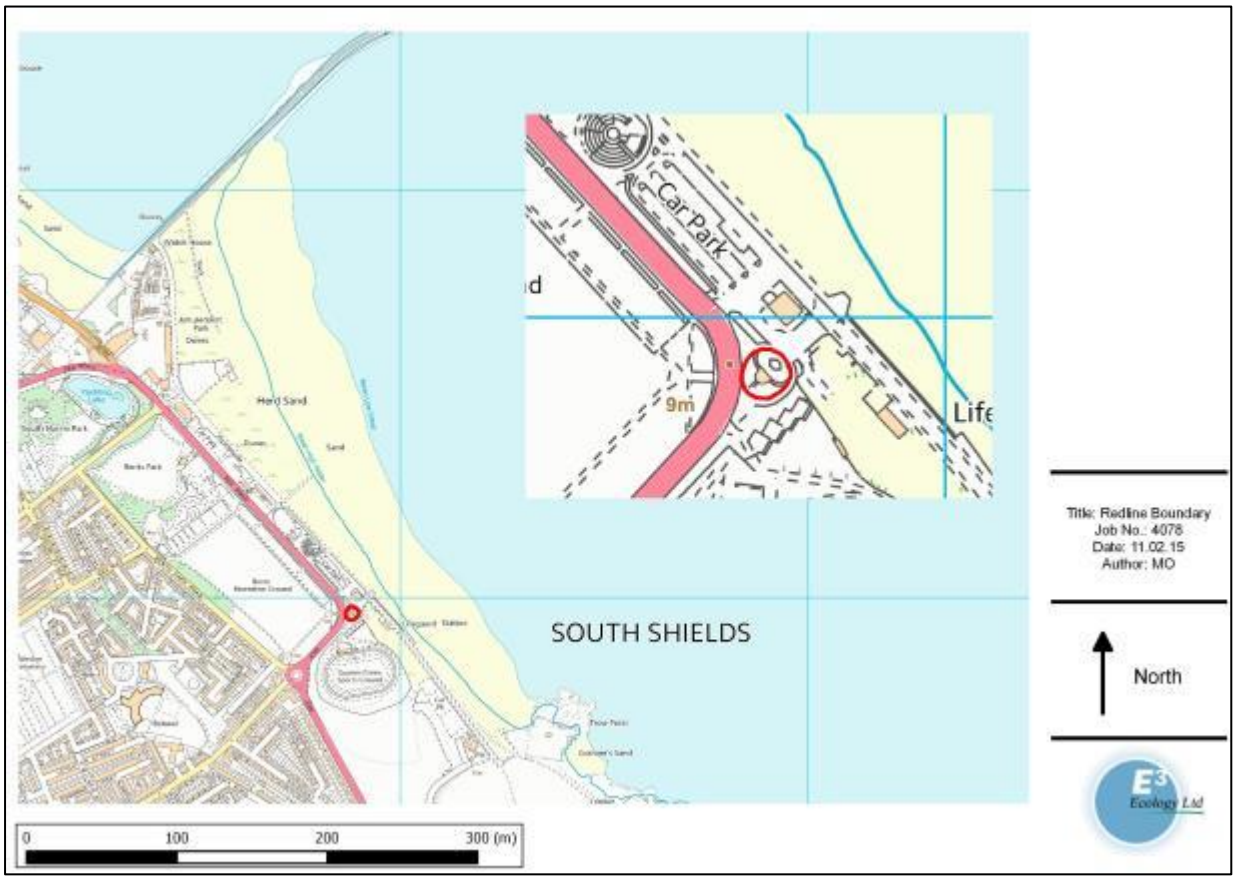


FIGURE 1 – SITE LOCATION
(Reproduced from the ordnance survey map under licence)

B.2 CURRENT DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION

It is proposed to redevelop the existing structure and public toilets into a restaurant with approximately 21 associated car parking spaces. Works will be undertaken between April and October.

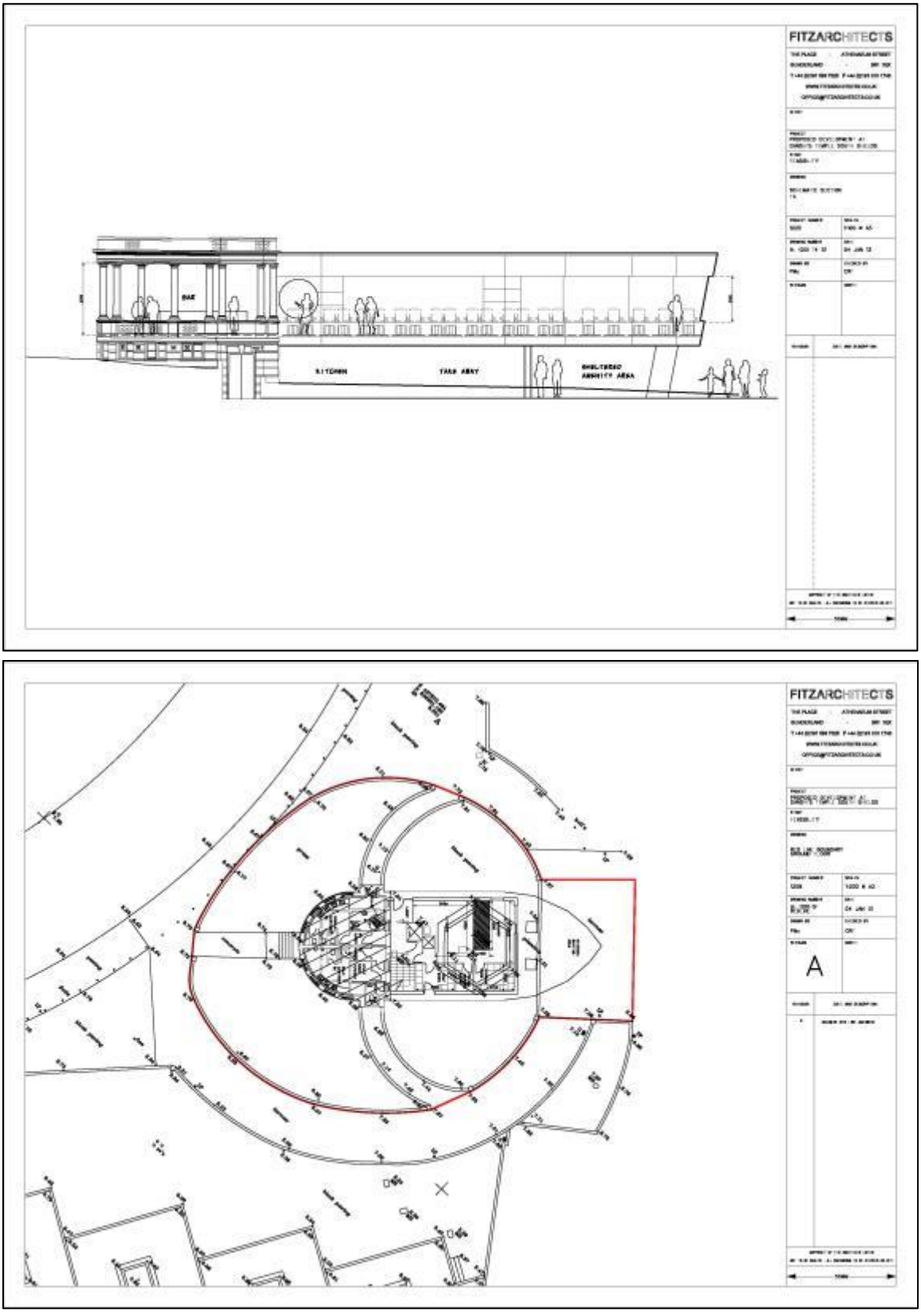


FIGURE 2 – DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

B.3 PLANNING POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

B.3.1 PLANNING POLICY

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states the following:

- Plan policies and planning decisions should be based upon up-to-date information about the natural environment (Paragraph 158 and 165).
- Plan policies should promote the preservation, restoration and recreation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the recovery of priority species (Paragraph 117).
- Local planning authorities should set out a strategic approach in their Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure. (Paragraph 114).
- When determining planning applications in accordance with the Local Plan and the presumption in favour of sustainable development local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by applying a number of principles, including if significant harm resulting from a development cannot be avoided, adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused. (Paragraph 118).

As of October 1 2006, public authorities have a duty to conserve biodiversity under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

B.3.2 PROTECTED SPECIES LEGISLATION

The following protected species may be present on a site such as this:

TABLE 1 – SUMMARISED SPECIES LEGISLATION

SPECIES	RELEVANT LEGISLATION	LEVEL OF PROTECTION
Bats (All species)	• Protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) (1981) (Listed on Schedule 5) - as amended • Classified as European protected species under Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 • Bats are also protected by the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996	The WCA (1981) and Habitat Regulations (2010) make it an offence to: • Intentionally kill, injure, or take any species of bat • Intentionally or recklessly disturb bats • Intentionally or recklessly damage destroy or obstruct access to bat roosts
Birds	• Protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended with the exception of some species listed in Schedule 2 of the Act	The WCA (1981) makes it an offence to (with exceptions for certain species): • Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird • Intentionally take, damage or destroy nests in use or being built (including ground nesting birds) • Intentionally take, damage or destroy eggs • Species listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA or their dependant young are afforded additional protection from disturbance whilst they are at their nests
Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act) the offence in section 9(4) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 of damaging a place of shelter or disturbing those species given full protection under the act is extended to cover reckless damage or disturbance.		

Although not afforded any legal protection, species previously listed as Biodiversity Action Plan (UK or Local) priority species are a material consideration in the planning process and as such have been assessed accordingly within this report.

B.3.3 INVASIVE SPECIES LEGISLATION

The following invasive species may be present on a site such as this;

TABLE 2 – SUMMARISED INVASIVE SPECIES LEGISLATION

SPECIES	RELEVANT LEGISLATION	DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCE
Japanese Rose (Rosa rugosa)	• Listed on Part II of Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981 as amended)	Section 14 of the WCA (1981) states: • if any person plants or otherwise causes to grow in the wild any plant which is included in Part II of Schedule 9, he shall be guilty of an offence.

B.3.4 PROTECTED SITE LEGISLATION

Details of the legislation surrounding protected sites are provided in the appendices, with further in formation within the Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report.

B.4 PERSONNEL

Survey work and reporting was undertaken by:

		NE Bat Licence No.
• Mark Osborne	Btec MCIEEM	CLS 0863

This report was checked by:

		NE Bat Licence No.
• Becky White	MA MSc MCIEEM	CLS 02581

Details of experience and qualifications are available at www.e3ecology.co.uk.

B.5 SCOPE OF STUDY

The scope of the study in terms of the survey area, zone of influence and the desk study area is based on professional judgement and on the sites characteristics, the surrounding area and the nature of the proposed development. The scope of the survey is based on the information provided prior to the completion of this appraisal.

For this site the whole site area as well as a 50m buffer around the periphery of the red line boundary was appraised where access was available. A 2km buffer from the site was used for the data search.

B.6 OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

To determine the presence or otherwise of habitats and species of conservation value, the extent to which they may be affected by the proposed development, and the additional work that may be required to complete a full ecological impact assessment and to design suitable mitigation.

C. SURVEY AREA AND METHODOLOGY

C.1 SURVEY AREA

Figure 3 illustrates the site boundary whilst Figure 4 illustrates the broad habitats present on site and within an approximate 1km buffer zone to provide context.

FIGURE 3 – AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF THE SITE ILLUSTRATING ITS EXTENT WITH A RED LINE BOUNDARY
(Reproduced under licence from Google Earth Pro.)

FIGURE 4 – AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH CENTRED ON THE SITE WITH A 500M AND 1KM RADIUS ILLUSTRATING THE SETTING AND THE ADJACENT HABITATS
(Reproduced under licence from Google Earth Pro.)

The study area has been based on professional judgement using the habitats on site, the surrounding habitats, geographical knowledge of the local area and the nature of the proposed development.

C.2 DESKTOP STUDY METHODOLOGY

Initially, the site was assessed from aerial photographs and 1:25000 OS plans. Following this, a data request was sent to the Local Records Centre and the MAGIC website was checked for any notable sites.

C.3 PRELIMINARY FIELD STUDY METHODOLOGY

C.3.1 PHASE 1 HABITAT SURVEY

C.3.1.1 SURVEY METHODS

The field survey of the proposed site was conducted using the methodology of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee's Phase 1 Habitat Survey, as outlined in their habitat-mapping manual[1]. Each parcel of land was assessed by a trained surveyor and classified as one of approximately ninety habitat types. These were then mapped and the habitat information supplemented by dominant and indicator species codes and target notes where appropriate. Where areas within the study area do not fall into the Phase 1 Habitat Survey classification, alternative methods of recording have been used.

C.3.1.2 SURVEY EQUIPMENT

- 10x42 RSPB HD binoculars
- Digital camera

C.3.2 PRELIMINARY PROTECTED SPECIES ASSESSMENT

C.3.2.1 SURVEY METHODS

Where there is a risk of protected species or species listed as priority species on the now superseded UK Biodiversity Action Plan, an initial assessment was completed to inform the proposals. This appraisal included the following key elements:

- Where present structures and trees were assessed for the risk of supporting roosting bats.
- If present, wetlands were reviewed for their potential use by great crested newt, otter and water voles, with particular attention paid to possible otter sprainting sites and resting areas.
- If present, any trackways regularly used by badger were noted and any badger sett usage assessed by the presence of freshly dug earth or bedding at the entrance.
- The risk of reptiles using the site was assessed based on the habitats present.
- Likely use of the site by birds was assessed from the species seen during the survey, and the habitats present.
- A risk assessment based on the broad habitat types used by species of principal importance in England and local BAP species, recent records and their geographical distribution was completed. Where specific habitat requirements for these species

[1] Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey, A Technique For Environmental Audit, JNCC, 2010

have been recorded on site these have been noted, and used as part of this assessment. The species groups assessed are limited to birds, freshwater fish, amphibians, reptiles, terrestrial mammals, butterflies and dragonflies.

Where it is considered likely that there is a significant risk of protected, priority species or local BAP species being affected by the proposals or where habitats are of particularly high value and/or where statutory sites are present in the vicinity which may be affected by development proposals, additional specialist survey work has been recommended.

C.3.3 PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

TABLE 3 – SURVEY CONDITIONS				
DATE	**TEMPERATURE**	**CLOUD COVER**	**PRECIPITATION**	**WIND CONDITIONS**
12.02.2015	6°C	80%	None	SW0-1

C.3.4 SURVEY CONSTRAINTS

There were not considered to be any significant constraints to the survey work.

D. RESULTS

D.1 DESKTOP STUDY

D.1.1 PRE-EXISTING INFORMATION

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Figures 1 (A1) and 3 (C1) show that the general land use in the surrounding area comprise amenity grassland, existing restaurants and the North Sea coast. Residential areas associated with the town of South Shields are present to the west and a promenade and lifeguard station are present to the east of the site.

The most recent aerial photograph of the site (Figure 2, C1, 2013) indicates that habitats on site are dominated by hard standing and highlight that the adjacent restaurant utilises the area of land between the site and the beach for both parking and outdoor dining tables. Historic imagery suggests that the site has been under the same land use since at least 2001.

MULTI AGENCY GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE (MAGIC) WEBSITE

Consultation with the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website indicated that the following protected sites are located within 2km of the proposed development:

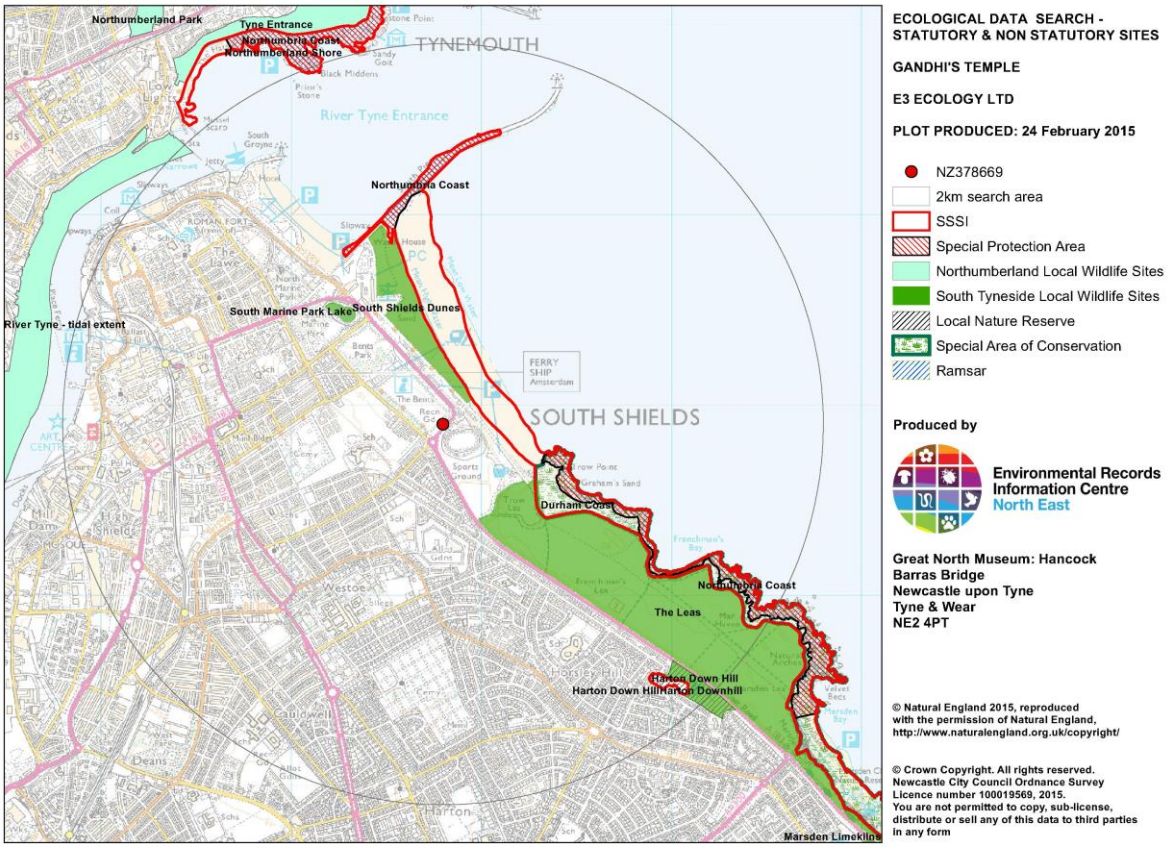
- Northumbria Coast SPA and Ramsar site (approximately 500m south east and 1km to the north)
- Durham Coast SAC (500m south east)
- Northumberland Shore SSSI (2km north)
- Durham Coast SSSI (100m east)
- Harton Down Hill SSSI (1780m south) also a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and a South Tyneside Local Wildlife Site (STLWS)

D.1.2 CONSULTATION

Consultation with the Environmental Records Information Centre for the North East (ERIC NE) indicated that the following statutory and non-statutory sites lie within 2km of the proposed development (excluding those mentioned previously above):

- The Leas South Tyneside Local Wildlife Site (STLWS)
- South Marine Park Lake South Tyneside Local Wildlife Site (STLWS)
- South Shields Dunes South Tyneside Local Wildlife Site (STLWS)
- River Tyne - tidal extent Northumberland Local Wildlife Sites (NLWS)

Locations of these sites in relation to the proposed development are illustrated in figure 4 below:



ERIC NE also provided records of the following notable and/or protected species from within 2km of the site in the last 20 years:

TABLE 4 – ERIC DATA SEARCH RESULTS

Species	Number of Records Provided	Closest Record (m)
Birds		
Turnstone	2	791
Sanderling	1	791
Dunlin	1	791
Ringed Plover	1	791
Golden Plover	1	791
Curlew	1	791
Redshank	2	791
Great Northern Diver	1	791
Red-necked Phalarope (unconfirmed)	2	851
Brent Goose (unconfirmed)	3	790
Peregrine (unconfirmed)	1	790
Mammals		
West European Hedgehog	7	316
Eurasian Red Squirrel	2	1487
Grey Seal	1	943
Invertebrates		
Small Heath	1	1221
Wall	13	583

D.2 FIELD SURVEY

D.2.1 HABITATS

The figure below illustrates the habitats within and adjacent to the site.

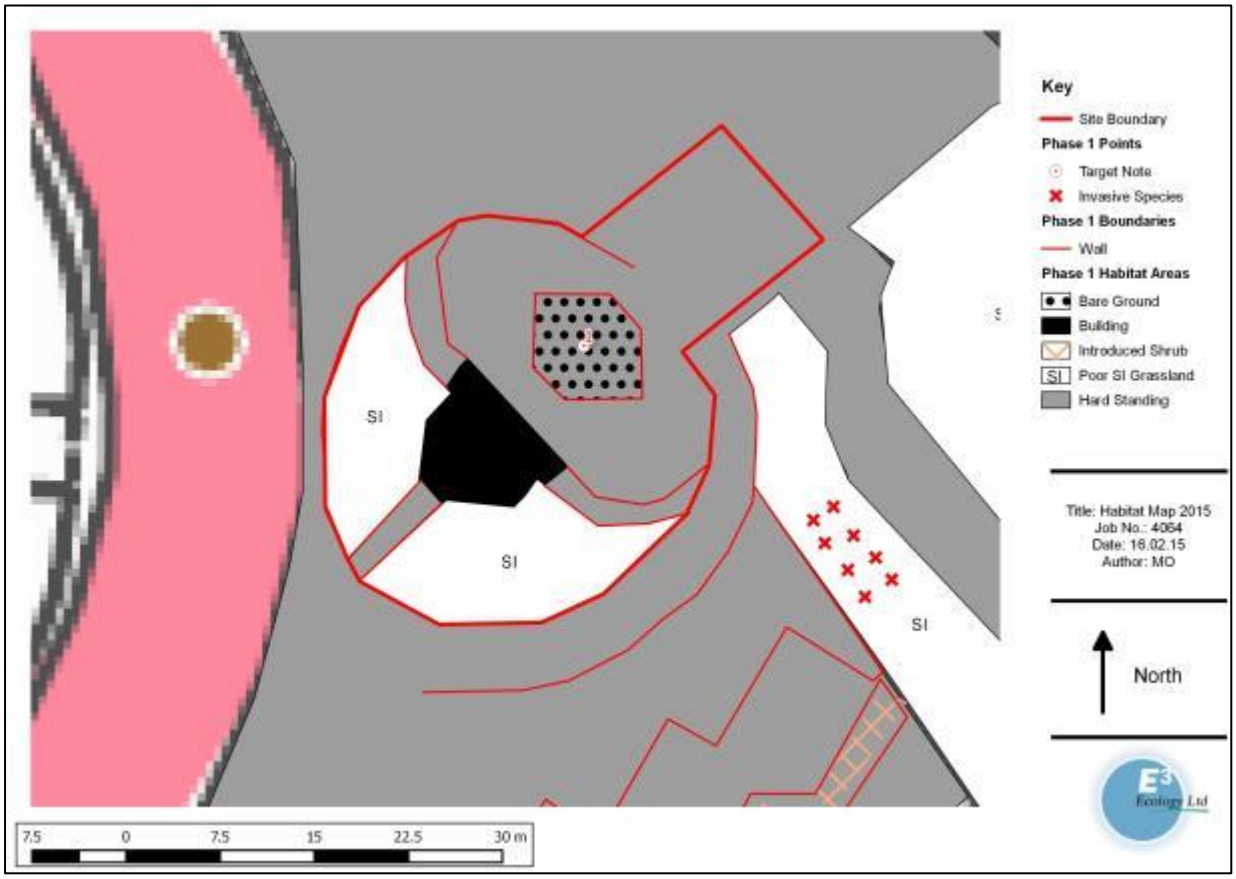


FIGURE 5 – HABITAT MAP
(Reproduced from the ordnance survey map under licence)

HARD STANDING
The site is surrounded by hard standing associated with roads and footpaths.

SEMI-IMPROVED GRASSLAND

Two small areas of mown amenity/semi improved grassland are present to each side of the structure. The grassland is mown to a height of approximately 5cm and although dominated by grasses supports a greater range of forb species than would be expected within amenity grassland, likely due to the sandy substrate. Species present include: perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), daisy (*Bellis perennis*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), yarrow (*Achilliea millefolium*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), cock's foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), *Agrostis* sp., dandelion (*Taraxacum* agg.), common mouse ear (*Cerastium fontanum*) and a cat's ear sp. (*Hypochaeris* sp.).

INTRODUCED SHRUB

Introduced shrubs have been planted within the hard landscaped beds to the south.

BUILDING

A bandstand/temple like structure situated between the road and the promenade at South Shields, currently used as a public toilet facilities.

D.2.2 TARGET NOTES

TN1 - RAISED PLANTING BED

A single unplanted raised bed is present within the site, to the east of the main structure. The bed has been left over winter and species such as nettle (*Urtica dioica*), red dead nettle (*Lamium pupureum*) and shepherd's purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*) are present.

TN2 – GANDHI'S TEMPLE STRUCTURE

The structure is currently used as a public toilet and is comprised of red brick construction with a covered concrete deck above. The sides are open and comprise rendered pillars. The structure has a flat roof and throughout the brick work is in good condition, offering no perceptible opportunities for roosting bats. The windows and doors are covered with metal grates. Based on the nature of the structure and the surrounding habitats it is considered to have negligible potential for supporting roosting bats.

TN3 – COASTAL GRASSLAND

Coarse grassland on a sandy substrate was recorded adjacent to the site, associated with disturbed ground, parking areas and verges of the promenade. The grassland is unmanaged and comprised the following species: false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), marram grass (*Ammophila arenaria*), creeping thistle (Cirsium arvense), ribwort plantation, prickly sow thistle (*Sonchus asper*) and yarrow.

TN4 – INVASIVE SPECIES

A small patch of Japanese rose (*Rosa rugosa*) was recorded adjacent to the site.

D.2.3 SPECIES

BATS

The Gandhi's Temple structure is considered to have a negligible risk of supporting roosting bats and there are no other opportunities within the site. The site provides extremely limited commuting and foraging opportunities and is considered to be of negligible value to the taxon.

BIRDS

The site provides very limited nesting opportunities, with its size and levels of disturbance likely to render it unsuitable to anything but sporadic nesting attempts from individual gull species. During the survey 24 starling were recorded on the roof of adjacent structures, whilst a mixed flock of black-headed (119), Mediterranean (1) and common gulls (4), was recorded from the amenity grassland to the west; two oystercatchers were also recorded foraging within this area.

The site is considered to be unsuitable to support qualifying species from the nearby SPA and Ramsar sites and as such is considered to be of negligible ecological value to birds. The

adjacent beach may provide low tide foraging opportunities for waders typical to this habitat, though it is likely that the levels of disturbance will deter this, with 19 walkers and 16 dogs recorded at one time on the adjacent beach. Three herring gull and 14 black headed gull were recorded loafing on the beach.

REPTILES

The site is considered unsuitable for this taxon, being highly disturbed and dominated by hard standing, though the grassland associated with the coast may provide habitat for common lizard.

ADDITIONAL PROTECTED SPECIES INFORMATION

The lack of suitable habitat on site or adjacent leads to the conclusion that otter, water vole, great crested newt and badger are absent from the proposed development area.

PRIORITY AND LOCAL BAP SPECIES

The coastal grassland adjacent to the site may provide habitat suitable for a limited range of priority butterfly species, potentially including wall, small heath and grayling.

E. ASSESSMENT

The value and significance of the habitats and species found was assessed against the following criteria developed from the Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment produced by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management[2].

TABLE 4 - ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT VALUATION	
LEVEL OF VALUE	**EXAMPLES**
International	• An internationally designated site or candidate site. • A viable area of a habitat type listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive, or smaller areas of such habitat, which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole. • Any regularly occurring population of an internationally important species, which is threatened or rare in the UK. • Any regularly occurring, nationally significant population/number of any internationally important species.
National	• A nationally designated site. • A viable area of a priority habitat or smaller areas of such habitat, which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole. • Any regularly occurring population of a nationally important species, which is threatened or rare in the region or county. • A regularly occurring regionally or county significant population/number of any nationally important species. • A feature identified as of critical importance on the former UK BAP.
Regional	• Viable areas of key habitat identified in the Regional BAP or smaller areas of such habitat, which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole. • A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a regionally important species.
County	• County designated sites. • A viable area of a habitat type identified in the County BAP. • Any regularly occurring, locally significant population of a species which is listed in a County “red data book” or BAP on account of its regional rarity or localisation. • A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a species important in a County context.
District	• Areas of habitat identified in a District level BAP. • Sites designated at a District level. • Sites/features that are scarce within the District or which appreciably enrich the District habitat resource. • A population of a species that is listed in a District BAP because of its rarity in the locality.
Parish	• Area of habitat considered to appreciably enrich the habitat resource within the context of the Parish. • Local Nature Reserves.
Local	• Habitats and species that contribute to local biodiversity, could only be replicated in the medium term, but are common in the local area. • Loss of such habitats would ideally be mitigated if local biodiversity is to be conserved and enhanced.
Low	• Habitats of poor to moderate diversity such as established conifer plantations, species poor hedgerows and un-intensively managed grassland that may support a range of Local BAP species but which are unexceptional, common to the local area and whose loss can generally be readily mitigated.

[2] Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (2006) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the United Kingdom (Version 7 July 2006). http:/www.ieem.org.uk/ecia/index.html.

E.1 HABITATS

The site is a very small area of land comprising primarily of hard standing and a well sealed built structure. The habitats are considered to be of low ecological value and common in the local area.

E.2 NOTABLE SPECIES

Bats, most likely pipistrelle sp., may forage within the site on occasion but there are no potential roosting opportunities present. Due to the habitats present and likely levels of disturbance opportunities for birds to forage or nest within the site are extremely limited.

Given the nature of the habitats present and the urban, disturbed nature of the site no other protected species are considered likely to be present on site.

E.3 LIMITATIONS

Although the assessment was undertaken outwith the key season for botanical survey, based on the habitats present, there were not considered to be any significant constraints to the preliminary ecological assessment.

F. IMPACTS

The likely effects of the proposed development, without appropriate targeted mitigation, are:

F.1 DIRECT DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS

- Loss of habitat considered to be of low ecological value.
- Potential disturbance to individual gulls that may sporadically nest on the roof of the structure.
- Disturbance to a very small area of poor quality potential bat foraging habitat through increased lighting post development.

F.2 INDIRECT IMPACTS

- Risk of indirect impacts on internationally designated sites present in the local area, through increased footfall.
- Limited residual risk of disturbance associated with construction, due to timing of works
- Disturbance to a very small area of poor quality potential bat foraging habitat through increased lighting post development.

F.3 IMPACTS ON LOCAL STATUTORY AND NON STATUTORY SITES

No direct or indirect impacts on the designated sites are considered likely. The closest designated site, Durham Coast SSSI, is present within 100m, however due to the nature of the habitat to be lost and the proposals, the existing promenade between the two sites and the existing infrastructure no impact on this designated site is predicted

Impacts on the European designated sites are fully addressed within the Habitat Regulations Screening document.

G. RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations below have been based upon survey effort to date. Where additional survey work is recommended to inform the mitigation and compensation strategy, this is detailed in section G.1. The strategy aims to avoid significant negative impacts initially. Where it is not possible to avoid such impacts, mitigation measures will be designed that aim to reduce the impacts to a level that is not deemed significant. Should avoidance and mitigation not be sufficient to reduce the impacts to such a level a compensation strategy will be proposed to address the negative impact.

G.1 FURTHER SURVEY

No further survey is recommended.

G.2 AVOIDANCE AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

G.2.1 WORKING METHODS AND BEST PRACTICE

- A checking survey to confirm that gulls are not nesting on the structure will be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist should building renovation be undertaken during the bird nesting season (March to August inclusive).
- Any excavations left open overnight will have a means of escape for mammals that may become trapped in the form of a ramp at least 300mm in width and angled no greater than 45°.
- Works will be undertaken between April and October to address the low residual risk of impacts associated with constructional disturbance.

G.2.2 HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

- Landscape planting within the site post development will include native coastal species of known value to wildlife.
- A permanent interpretation panel will be installed at the beach access point to highlight the importance of the local designated areas.
- High intensity security lights will be avoided as far as practical, and any lighting will be directional, low level (2m) and low power LED lights.

APPENDIX 1.STATUTORILY AND NON- STATUTORILY DESIGNATED SITES

A1.i Statutorily Designated Sites

Ramsar Sites
Ramsar sites are designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, agreed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. The Convention recognizes wetlands as important ecosystems and includes a range of wetland types from marsh to both fresh and salt water habitats. The wetlands can also include additional areas adjacent to the main water-bodies such as river banks or coastal areas where appropriate.

Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
SPAs are classified by the UK Government under the EC Birds Directive and comprise areas which are important for both rare and migratory birds.

Special Areas of Conservation
SACs are designated under the EC Habitats Directive and are areas which have been identified as best representing the range and variety of habitats and (non-bird) species listed on Annexes I and II to the Directive. SACs are designated under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) unless they are offshore.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest
SSSIs are designated as sites which are examples of important flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features. They are notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 with improved provisions introduced by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

National Nature Reserves (NNRs)
NNRs are designated by Natural England under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and support important ecosystems which are managed for conservation. They may also provide important opportunities for recreation and scientific study.

Country Parks
Country Parks are statutorily designated and managed by local authorities in England and Wales under the Countryside Act 1968. They do not necessarily have any nature conservation importance, but provide opportunities for recreation and leisure near urban areas.

A1.ii Non-Statutorily Designated Sites

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)
LNRs are designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 by local authorities in consultation with Natural England. They are managed for nature conservation and used as a recreational and educational resource.

Non-Governmental Organisation Property
These are sites of biodiversity importance which are managed as reserves by a range of NGOs. Examples include sites owned by the RSPB, the Woodland Trust and the Wildlife Trusts.

Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs)

These are sites defined within the local plans under the Town and Country Planning system and are material considerations of any planning application determination. They are designated by the local authority although criteria can vary between authorities.