

# Cleator Moor Innovation Quarter – Unit 20A&B

## BAT ROOST ASSESSMENT REPORT

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784-B034942 Rev 2



Copeland Borough Council  
June 2022

Prepared on Behalf of Tetra Tech Management Services Limited.

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

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Date:	April 2022		
Prepared by: Elizebeth Wilcox		Checked & Approved By: Candice Howe MCIEEM	
			
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Revision:	2	Status:	FINAL
Date:	June 2022		
Prepared by: Patryk Gruba MCIEEM		Checked & Approved By: Candice Howe MCIEEM	
Description of revision: Addition of the 2022 dusk emergence update survey results.			

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contents	Summary
<b>Site Location</b>	Unit 20A&B is located in Cleator Moor and is centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference NY 01791 15561. The site on the north side of Leconfield Street.
<b>Proposals</b>	Unit 20A&B is proposed for refurbishment which includes recladding of walls and recladding of roof.
<b>Scope of this Survey(s)</b>	<p>Previous reports available for the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tetra Tech (2021a) Cleator Moor Innovation Quarter: Bat Roost Assessment Report. On behalf of Copeland Borough Council. Ref: 784-B029668</li> <li>• Tetra Tech (2021b) Cleator Moor Innovation Quarter: Ecological Appraisal. On behalf of Copeland Borough Council. Ref: 784-B029668</li> <li>• WYG (2020) Leconfield Industrial Estate: Ecological Appraisal Report.</li> </ul>
<b>Results and Evaluation</b>	The building is considered to provide low bat roosting suitability. No bat roosts were identified in Unit 20A&B during the dusk emergence surveys conducted in 2021 and the update survey in 2022.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p>One bat box installed on the building (or suitable tree in the wider CMIQ site) will provide enhancement roosting provision for bats.</p> <p>The replacement lighting proposed should be placed in the same positions and LED warm lights should be used, with no UV output.</p>

## GLOSSARY

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BCT	Bat Conservation Trust
BMCL	Bat Mitigation Class Licence
CBC	Copeland Borough Council
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management
EPS	European Protected Species
EPSML	European Protected Species Mitigation Licence
LERC	Local Ecological Record Centre
MCIEEM	Member of Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management
NE	Natural England
NERC Act	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PRF	Potential Roost Feature

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 BACKGROUND

Tetra Tech was commissioned by Copeland Borough Council in April 2022 to review existing bat reports / baseline information and conduct an update bat dusk emergence survey to update the Bat Roost Assessment for the refurbishment of Unit 20A&B. This building was initially subject to a detailed bat roost assessment in 2021 for the wider Cleator Moor Innovation Quarter (CMIQ) site (Tetra Tech, 2021a).

This report was prepared by Tetra Tech Consultant Ecologist Elizebeth Wilcox Qualifying CIEEM and Senior Ecologist Patryk Gruba MCIEEM the conditions pertinent to it are provided in Appendix A.

### 1.2 SITE DESCRIPTION

Unit 20A&B is located in Cleator Moor and is centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference NY 01791 15561 – see Figure 1 for site location plan.

Unit 20A&B is located north-west of Leconfield Street on the wider CMIQ site and includes part of Leconfield Street access road within the site Red Line Boundary.

Industrial units are present to the north-west of Unit 20A&B with unimproved grassland and woodland habitats present to the north and bare hardstanding, unimproved grassland and scrub habitats present to the south. Cleator Moor town centre is located approximately 350m south of the site.

### 1.3 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Unit 20A&B is proposed to be refurbished. These proposals are shown in Appendix B (Drawing Reference: CMIQ-NOR-A20-ZZ-DR-A-90002\_Rev P03) and are summarised below:

- Proposed recladding of walls;
- Proposed recladding of roof;
- Replacement PPC metal gutters and downpipes, gulleys and drain connectors adapted to suit;
- Replacement garage doors;
- Replacement windows and doors;
- Security shutters integrated into new window and door assemblies and re-cladding;
- Internal sanitary and welfare provisions;
- Repairs including:
  - Repair to low level walling – both leaves of cavity wall;
  - Allow for treatment of corrosion to exposed steel frames to canopies
  - Remove existing concrete landing to two fire exits and replace concrete flags to form level platform; and
  - Isolate and remove external lighting and replace external lighting above all external doors.

### 1.4 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to:

- complete a review of existing reports / baseline information;
- summarise findings of the update bat presence / likely absence dusk emergence survey undertaken in May 2022; and

- undertake a bat roost assessment of Unit 20A&B red line boundary, identify impacts to roosting bats and provide appropriate recommendations and mitigation.

Note that scientific names are provided at the first mention of each species and common names (where appropriate) are then used throughout the rest of the report for ease of reading.

## 2.0 METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 DESK STUDY

#### Previous Reports

The following previous reports with information relating to bats have been issued to Copeland Borough Council (CBC):

- Tetra Tech (2021a) Cleator Moor Innovation Quarter: Bat Roost Assessment Report. On behalf of Copeland Borough Council. Ref: 784-B029668
- Tetra Tech (2021b) Cleator Moor Innovation Quarter: Ecological Appraisal. On behalf of Copeland Borough Council. Ref: 784-B029668
- WYG (2020) Leconfield Industrial Estate: Ecological Appraisal Report.

### 2.2 FIELD SURVEYS 2022

The surveys were completed in accordance with current best practice guidelines given in BCT's *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (Collins, 2016), hereafter referred to as the BCT Guidelines.

One dusk emergence survey was completed on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 in order to cover all elevation / aspects of Unit 20A&B.

The dusk emergence survey commenced 15 minutes before sunset and continued for 1.5 hours after sunset. The date, type and personnel involved in each of the surveys are provided in Table 1. Table 2 summarises the survey times and weather conditions. Surveyor locations are shown on Figure 2.

**Table 1: Date, Survey type and Personnel for the Surveys**

Survey	Date	Survey Type	Building Surveyed	Lead Surveyor	Other Surveyors
1	23.05.22	Dusk Emergence	Unit 20A&B	Patryk Gruba (NE Class 2 licensed bat surveyor, reference 2015-11080-CLS-CLS)	Jaime Zarza Bell Chris Duff

**Table 2: Dates, Times and Weather Conditions for the Surveys**

Survey	Date	Sunset / Sunrise	Start	Finish	Start Temp (°C)	End Temp (°C)	Rain	Wind	Cloud (% cover)
1	23.05.22	21:26	21:11	22:56	11	10	None	1-2	30%

Bat detectors used during the surveys were Elekon Batlogger M, which is a real time, full-spectrum detector, with recording and automatic species identification functions. The recording function was utilised to allow post-recording computer analysis of the bat calls recorded using BatExplorer software, where necessary. *British bat calls: A guide to species identification* (Russ, J., 2012) book was used to aid the bat call sound analysis.



## 2.3 LIMITATIONS

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The dusk emergence survey was completed with the assistance of bat detectors. All survey techniques are subject to bias, and bat detector surveys may under-record species with weak echolocation calls, such as brown long-eared bats *Plecotus auritus*. However, these biases were considered when interpreting the results.

Details of this report are considered to remain valid for one year (i.e. 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023). Update surveys may be required if works to the buildings have not commenced by this date or if the development proposals upon which this assessment was made change.

## 3.0 BASELINE CONDITIONS

### 3.1 PREVIOUS REPORTS

The 2021 bat roost assessment at the CMIQ (Tetra Tech (2021a)) was reviewed and is summarised below:

#### 3.1.1 Desk Study

The desk study found records for a variety of bat species within a 2 km radius of the CMIQ site (from the past 10 years) they are displayed in Table 3.

**Table 3: Desk study bat results (only records post 2010 are shown)**

Species	No. of records	Date	Recording	Distance & Direction
Soprano pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	1	2011	5 count	1.5 km NE
Noctule <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	1	2011	1 count	1.5 km NE
Common pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	2	2011	1 count	1.5 km NE
		2012	Count of more than 5 bats	2 km S
Unidentified bat	1	2016	Not specified	1.6 km N

One bat EPSML was granted for the destruction of a resting site for whiskered bat *Myotis mystacinus*, Natterer's bat & Brandt's bat *Myotis brandti* in 2013, located approximately 0.8 km west of the CMIQ site.

#### 3.1.2 Daytime Building Inspection

Unit 20A&B comprised a single-story brick building with a slight single pitch facing north (Photograph 1).

**Photograph 1 – Eastern corner of Unit 20A & B on Leconfield Street**



The exterior of Unit20A&B was considered to offer negligible suitability for use by roosting bats (Appendix C). However, since there was no access to the interior, it was not possible to completely rule out likelihood of bats using the internal area of the building therefore it was upgraded to **low suitability** so that this limitation could be addressed through nocturnal survey.

No bat droppings / signs of bat occupancy were noted on the exterior of Unit 20A&B and it was considered unlikely to be suitable for use by maternity colonies or hibernating bats.

### **3.1.3 Bat Emergence and Re-Entry Surveys**

#### **Dusk emergence survey Unit 20A&B – 20th July 2021**

During the dusk emergence survey no bats were observed emerging from Unit 20A & B.

Low levels of common pipistrelle commuting and foraging were recorded on every face of the building, with activity observed on the road to the southeast and southwest faces. Activity was also observed to the north of the building. A single noctule bat pass was recorded at 21:47 (13 minutes after sunset) and was the first bat recorded.

The first common pipistrelle was recorded northwest of the building at 21:55. A single common pipistrelle was observed north of the building at 22:02, 22:09, 22:19, 22:29, 22:26, 22:40, and 22:42. A single common pipistrelle was observed commuting north parallel to the building at 22:59. A single common pipistrelle was recorded southeast of the building at 22:29 and 22:45.

### **3.1.4 Bat Roost Assessment – Trees**

Woodland groups in the wider CMIQ site were assessed from the ground in 2021. There are no woodland blocks on site, with woodland blocks W1 and W6 offsite adjacent to the north and eastern boundaries (Figure 2).

## **3.2 FIELD SURVEYS 2022**

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#### **Dusk emergence survey Unit 20A&B– 23th May 2022**

During the dusk emergence survey, no bats were observed emerging from Unit 20A&B

Relatively moderate to high levels of common pipistrelle activity was observed throughout the survey with the majority of activity concentrated north of the building (between the Unit 20A&B and the woodland strip) and involving foraging of between two and three individuals. First bat was recorded within this area at 21:56; subsequently, a constant foraging activity (with short intermittent breaks) was recorded until 22:47.

Constant common pipistrelle foraging activity involving between one and two bats was also recorded southeast of the building between 22:08 and 22:24 with further individual passes recorded at 22:30, 22:35, 22:42 and 22:44. Low activity levels were recorded along the western elevation of the building.

Very few soprano pipistrelle passes were recorded including individual passes at 22:09, 22:14, 22:22 and 22:37.

## 4.0 RELEVANT PLANNING POLICY & LEGISLATION

### 4.1 LEGISLATION

All British bat species are given special protection within England by their inclusion on Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). As a result, it is an offence to:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat;
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat in its roost or deliberately disturb a group of bats;
- Damage or destroy a bat's roosting place (even if bats are not occupying a roost at the time);
- Possess or advertise, sell or exchange a bat (dead or alive) or any part of a bat; and
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost.

With specific reference to the offence of disturbance, Regulation 41(1) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) states that a person commits an offence if they:

*"...deliberately disturb wild animals of any such species [i.e. a European Protected Species] in such a way as to be likely significantly to affect:*

- (i) the ability of any significant group of animals of that species to survive, breed, or rear or nurture their young; or*
- (ii) the local distribution or abundance of that species".*

Where development will result in damage to, or obstruct access to, any bat roost (whether occupied or not) or risks harming or significantly disturbing bats, a European Protected Species Mitigation Licence (EPSML) is required from Natural England to allow the development to proceed. Bats are also afforded more general protection in England (and Wales) within the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006. This imposes a duty on all public bodies, including local authorities and statutory bodies, in exercising their functions, *"...to have due regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity"* [Section 40 (1)]. It notes that *"conserving biodiversity includes restoring or enhancing a population or habitat"* [Section 40 (3)]. Consequently, attention should be given to dealing with the modification or development of an area if aspects of it are deemed important to bats, such as roosts, flight corridors and foraging areas. 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, 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.

Seven species of bats (soprano pipistrelle, brown long-eared bat, greater horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, lesser horseshoe bat, *Rhinolophus hipposideros* barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*, Bechstein's bat *Myotis bechsteinii* and noctule) are listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006.

### 4.2 LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) identify habitat and species conservation priorities at a local level (typically County by County) and are usually drawn up by a consortium of local Government organisations and conservation charities. Although they are no-longer managed at a national level many are still reviewed and updated at a local level.

The Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan (CBAP) list bats (all species occurring in Cumbria) as the SPI for the county.

## 5.0 DISCUSSION

### 5.1 BAT ROOST ASSESSMENT

No evidence of bat roosting on site was recorded during the daytime bat roost assessment and external inspections.

Unit 20A & B was assessed to offer **low** roost suitability for spring/summer bats as a precaution as the building could not be fully inspected internally. Unit 20A&B is not considered to be of suitability for hibernating bats.

### 5.2 BAT EMERGENCE SUREYS

No roosts were identified during the bat emergence survey on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Furthermore, no roosting bats were identified within Unit 20A&B during the 2022 dusk emergence survey conducted on the 23<sup>th</sup> May.

#### Sensitive Lighting

Three species of bats were recorded using the site or adjacent habitats during the emergence surveys, with moderate to high common pipistrelle activity to the north recorded during 2022 survey and associated with blocks of woodland W2 and W6 (see Figure 2 for locations).

W2 and W6 will not be directly impacted by the proposals; however, these blocks of woodland may be indirectly impacted through artificial light spill. Commuting and foraging bats are sensitive to light spill and light pollution.

Replacement of existing lighting is included in the current proposals; therefore, no additional light spill is anticipated. Lights should be replaced in the same positions and LED warm lights should be used, which have no UV output, therefore attracting fewer insects with warmer colours reducing impacts on bats (Stone 2012, 2015a, and 2015b; and ILP, 2018).

### 5.3 ENHANCEMENT

There is an opportunity to increase the bat roosting provisions on site in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in order to 'minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible.

It is recommended that a bat box (Schwegler 1FF or similar) is installed on the refurbished building (or suitable retained trees within the wider CMIQ site) as enhancement for roosting bats.

## 6.0 REFERENCES

- Collins, J. (2016). Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines, 3rd Edition, The Bat Conservation Trust. London.
- English Nature (2004). Mitchell-Jones, A.J. Bat Mitigation Guidelines, Version January 2004.
- ILP (2018) Bats and artificial lighting in the UK, Guidance Note 08 / 18.
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- Stone, E.L., Wakefield, A., Harris, S., Jones, G. (2015b). The impacts of new street light technologies: experimentally testing the effects on bats of changing from low-pressure sodium to white metal halide. Philos. T. R. Soc. B. 370, 20140127
- Tetrattech (2021a) Cleator Moor Innovation Quarter: Bat Roost Assessment. On behalf of Copeland Borough Council. Ref: 784-B029668
- Tetrattech (2021b) Cleator Moor Innovation Quarter: Ecological Appraisal. On behalf of Copeland Borough Council. Ref: 784-B029668
- WYG (2020) Leconfield Industrial Estate: Ecological Appraisal Report. On behalf of Copeland Borough Council. Ref: A114312

## FIGURES

**Figure 1 – Site Location Plan**

**Figure 2 – Bat roost and ground level bat tree assessment summary map**







# Site Location Plan

CMIQ Proposed Hub - Unit 20A-B

Copeland Borough Council



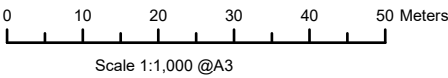
## Legend

-  Site boundary
-  Buildings

## Notes:

Drawn by: JB  
Checked by: EW  
Office: Southampton

Figure No. 1  
Revision No. A



25 April 2022  
NGR: 301791E 515560N

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**Bat roost and ground level bat tree assessment summary map**

CMIQ Proposed Hub - Unit 20A-B





Copeland Borough Council

**Legend**

-  Site boundary
-  Buildings
-  Woodland block

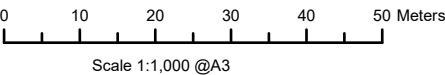
**Surveyor location**

-  V1,2021
-  V1,2022

**Notes:**

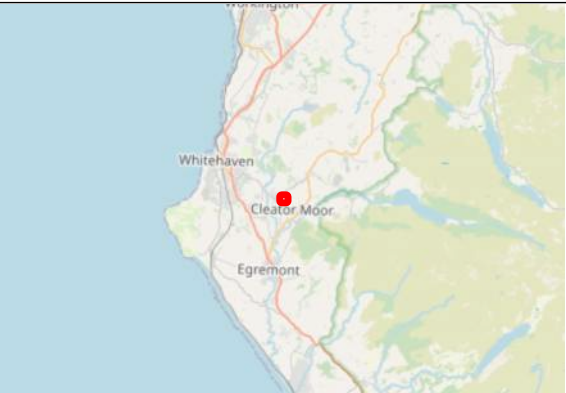
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Figure No. 2  
Revision No. B



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The Pavilion, 1st Floor  
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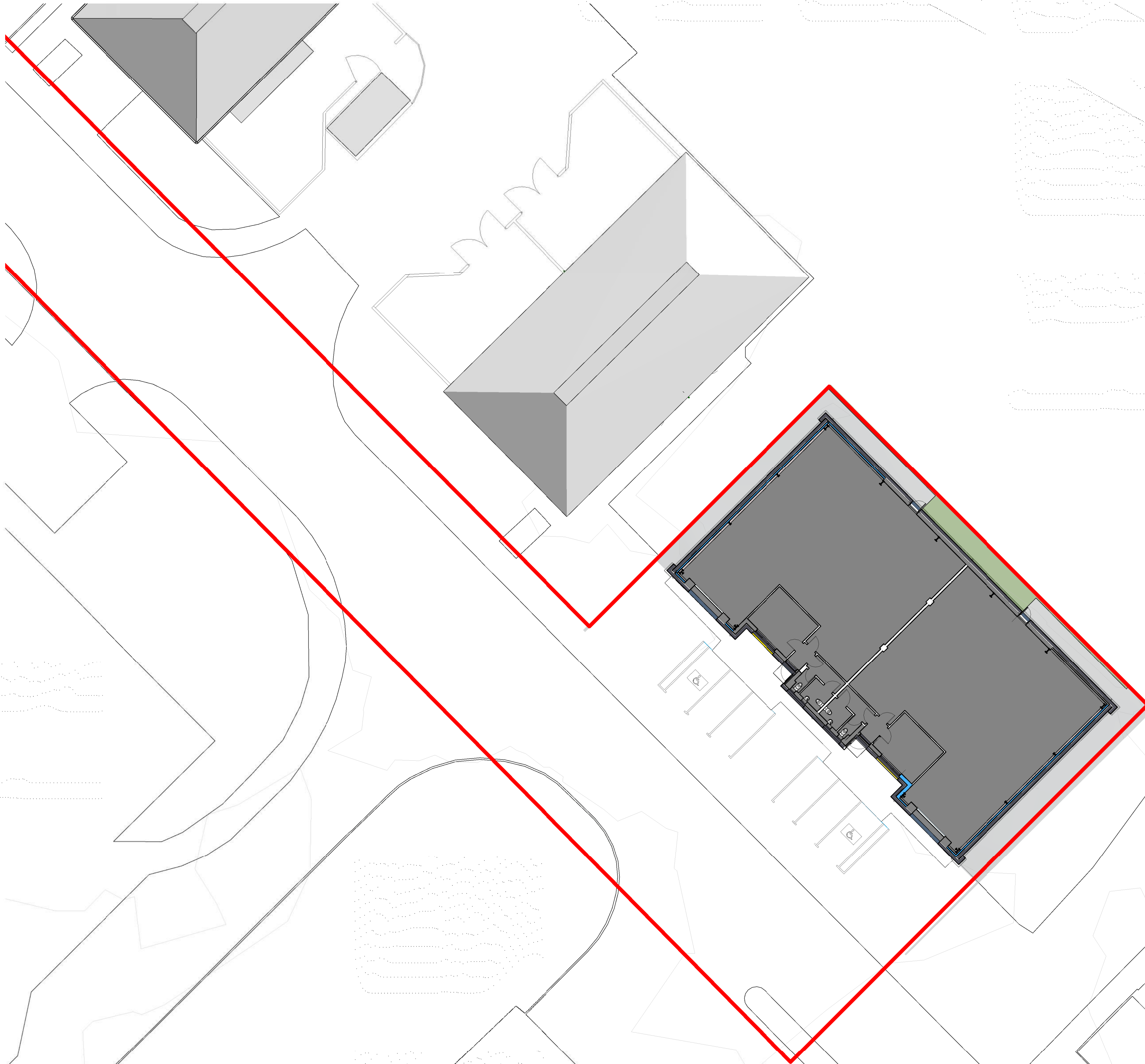
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The whole of the report must be read as other sections of the report may contain information which puts into context the findings in any executive summary.

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**APPENDIX B – PROPOSED PLAN (DRAWING REFERENCE: CMIQ-NOR-A20-ZZ-DR-A-90002\_REV P03)**



# SITE PLAN - PROPOSED

[illegible]

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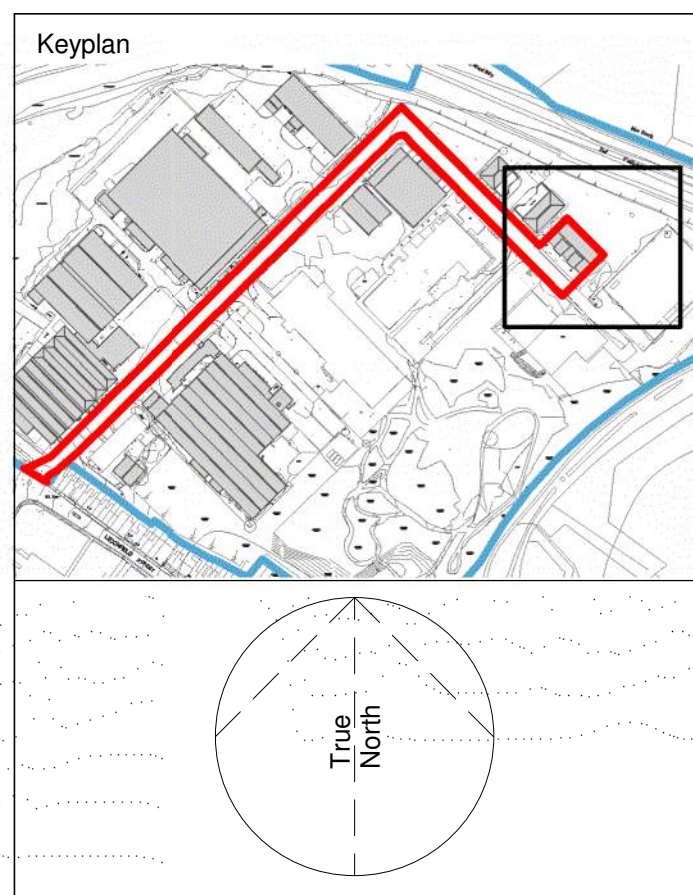
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Drawing Title

SITE - PROPOSED PLAN

Sheet Status  
S3 - FOR REVIEW

Project No.	
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Drawing No.	Rev.
CMIQ-NOR-A20- ZZ-DR-A-90002	P03



## APPENDIX C – BUILDING ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Building Reference	Roosting Features / Description	Photo
B13	Occasional gaps within the steel wall / roof overlaps. <b>Negligible suitability.</b>	