



THE
ENVIRONMENT
PARTNERSHIP



RED BANK NEIGHBOURHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS

MANCHESTER PHASE 1 HABITAT SURVEY

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1.0 General Details

Job Number:	9082	Doc. Ref:	9082.007
Site Location:	This Phase 1 Habitat Appendix covers the area outlined within the red line boundary required for the Red Bank Neighbourhood Infrastructure Works. The site is located within Cheetham Hill, Manchester and is centred on grid reference SJ 84674 99639. The site is located in an urban setting and the wider landscape comprises mainly commercial development. The site is located between Red Bank, to the north, and Dantzic Street, to the south and includes an area known as 'St. Catherine's Wood'. The River Irk flows through the site from east to west.		
Date:	The Phase 1 habitat survey was undertaken on 22nd and 29th March 2021.		
Surveyors:	The survey was carried out by experienced TEP ecologist Stephanie Davies (FISC Level 3) and Damian young (FISC Level 4).		
Seasonal Constraints:	The survey was undertaken slightly outside of the recommended season to undertake Phase 1 habitat surveys (April and September inclusive). This was not considered a significant constraint, however, as since the initial habitat survey a number of species-specific ecological surveys have been undertaken on site during the optimal period. The site has been walked over and any significant variation to the baseline has been determined.		
Methods:	JNCC Phase 1 habitat survey (2010) Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM 2017)		
Drawing Ref:	Figure 6.1- G9082.014A Phase 1 Habitat Survey		
Target Notes:	Within this document		
Abbreviations:	Section 41: Habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.		

1.0 Habitat Survey Results

Habitat Descriptions

Habitat Type	Target Note(s)	Description
Semi-natural broadleaved woodland	TN1	The majority of the Red Bank Terrace is dominated by semi-natural broad-leaved woodland. The woodland is dominated by self-set silver birch <i>Betula pendula</i> regeneration. The age and height structure of the woodland is homogenous. Goat willow <i>Salix caprea</i> and buddleia <i>Buddleja davidii</i> are occasional through the woodland. The understorey is dominated by Himalayan balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> . Extensive fly tipping is present throughout the site.
Plantation broadleaved woodland	TN2	This area comprises St. Catherine's Wood. The woodland here is more mature with a more diverse species assemblage, age and height structure than the self-set silver birch woodland present (TN1) elsewhere on site. The woodland has evidence of planting including non-native species, planting in rows and remnants of tree guards. Tree density is higher towards the river and road. The understorey is limited with signs of vandalism.
Running water	TN3	The River Irk corridor forms a distinctive habitat feature which runs through the site. The watercourse is subject to fly tipping with little to no aquatic vegetation. Whilst forming a distinctive corridor, the banks are typically walled, and this limits opportunities for many species. Japanese knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i> , giant hogweed <i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i> and Himalayan balsam are present along the banks of the River Irk.
Dense scrub		An area of bramble dominated, dense scrub is present adjacent to the semi-natural woodland. This area is located on the steep bank.
Scattered scrub		There are small stand of scrub scattered across the site, mainly buddleia associated with hardstanding.
Scattered broadleaved trees		Small, scattered trees, separate from areas of woodland, are present along the Red Bank Viaduct. Species include balsam poplar <i>Populus balsamifera</i> , silver birch and goat willow.

Habitat Type	Target Note(s)	Description
Hardstanding/ ephemeral	TN4	In the north east and west of the site are areas of hardstanding with ephemeral vegetation growth on previously developed land. Buddleia is scattered throughout this area, other species include wild strawberry <i>Fragaria vesca</i> , colt's foot <i>Tussilago farfara</i> , dandelion <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg., evening primrose <i>Oenothera</i> sp. and hard rush <i>Juncus inflexus</i> .
Hardstanding		There are large areas of hardstanding within the site, associated with footprints of buildings, car parking and roads.
Continuous bracken		There is an area of continuous bracken on the northern bank of the River Irk, which is steeply sloped.
Buildings/ Structures		In the north of the site is an area known as Creamline Dairies (B1-B6) which includes a number of buildings. A number of warehouses and outbuildings are also present (B7-B10). There are two bridge crossings over the River Irk within the site boundary. One in the northeast of the site, known as P&P bridge and one crossing into St. Catherine's Wood, opposite Dalton Street. Full building/structure descriptions are given in the Bat Technical Appendix.

2.0 Target Notes

Key: D = Dominant, A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare

Target Note TN1

The majority of the Red Bank plateau is dominated by self-set silver birch regeneration woodland. The understory is limited and dominated by Himalayan balsam.

<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	D
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Himalayan Balsam	D
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Buddleia	O
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow	O
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle	O
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	R
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Broom	R
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	R
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	R



Target Note 2

The area denoted as plantation broadleaved woodland comprises St Catherine's Wood. The woodland has a higher diversity of age, species and structure than that of the self-seeded semi-natural woodland elsewhere on site.

<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	A
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Himalayan Balsam	A
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	F
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	F
<i>Quercus sp.</i>	Oak species	F
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	F
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	F
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	O
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	O
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	O
<i>Prunus sp.</i>	Cherry species	O
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow	O
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	O
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle	O
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Hard Fern	R
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous Sedge	R



Target Note 3

The River Irk runs throughout the site, flowing from east to west. The southern bank is reinforced with a brick wall. The northern bank is also reinforced for the majority but has soft and sandy banks for some small sections. Within the site, in the north, is a raised weir. The watercourse is subject to fly tipping with little to no aquatic vegetation. Scattered scrub, namely buddleia is present throughout the entirety of the watercourse

Buddleja davidii	Buddleia	A
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	F
Corylus avellana	Hazel	O
Rumex crispus	Curled Dock	O
Urtica dioica	Nettle	O



Target Note 4

Ephemeral growth over hardstanding

<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Buddleia	F
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry	F
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion	F
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot	F
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	O
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	O
<i>Oenothera</i> sp.	Evening-primrose species	O
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow	O
<i>Aster</i> sp.	Michaelmas-daisy species	R
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard Rush	R
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	R



3.0 Summary

Notable Habitats

- 3.1 The woodland on site is considered to be semi-natural woodland, however does not meet the criteria to qualify as S41 habitat of principal importance 'Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland' due to the lack of species diversity in the canopy and ground flora.
- 3.2 The hardstanding area with ephemeral growth was identified on MAGIC Map as Priority Habitat 'Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land' (OMHPDL). This habitat does not meet the criteria to qualify as OMHPDL as, while the area has loose bare substrate and is more than 0.25ha, the early successional communities recorded do not reflect those within the criterion described by JNCC.
- 3.3 The River Irk, while an undoubtedly important landscape feature, is unlikely to qualify as a S41 habitat of principal importance. The section of the River Irk which falls within the site boundary is more than 2.5km from its source and has been significantly modified virtually throughout, with aquatic and marginal species typically rare and predominantly associated with localised areas where silt or mud has accumulated alongside the river. The water quality appears to be generally poor with nothing to suggest a significant species diversity.

Notable Flora

- 3.4 No protected (WCA8) plant species were identified during the extended Phase 1 habitat survey.

Invasive Species

- 3.5 The non-native invasive species Himalayan balsam (invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019) and Japanese knotweed (Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)) was recorded on site within the woodland and River Irk corridor and could be impacted by the development, including site clearance works. It is an offence to cause or allow the spread of these species in the wild.



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