



# **Silk Street, Manchester**

## Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

### Report for Faithful + Gould

|                   |                                    |                                |             |             |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
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# Summary of key issues

The Ecology Consultancy was commissioned by Faithful + Gould to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of Silk Street, Manchester (hereafter referred to as 'the site') in relation to the proposed development of 74 modular homes (comprising a mix of apartments and houses). This comprised a Phase 1 Habitat Survey, protected species assessment and an assessment of the relative nature conservation importance of the site.

The main findings of the PEA report are as follows:

- The habitats present include bare ground, ephemeral/short perennial, fence, improved grassland, introduced shrub, scattered trees – broadleaved and species poor tree line with several areas of hardstanding.
- The development is likely to result in significant effects upon the Rochdale Canal SAC. As such, it is recommended that evidence in support of a Stage 1 - Screening Habitat Regulations is gathered in order to assess any potential impacts the development may have on this internationally designated site.
- The development has potential to disturb foraging and commuting bats along the canal to the north of the site. As such, a strategic lighting plan is recommended to limit the disturbance caused.
- The introduced shrub and trees on site have potential to support breeding birds and will be affected by the proposed development. If necessary, these habitats should be removed between September to February inclusive which is outside of the main bird breeding season. Where this is not possible, a check for nesting birds prior to vegetation clearance should be undertaken by a suitably experienced ecologist. If nesting birds are found at any time during clearance works, work should stop immediately, and an ecologist should be consulted.
- Recommendations to enhance the importance of the site for biodiversity in accordance with national and local planning policies comprise the inclusion of wildlife planting and the provision of bat roosting and bird nesting opportunities.

# 1 Introduction

## BACKGROUND TO COMMISSION

- 1.1 The Ecology Consultancy was commissioned by Faithful + Gould to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of land at Silk Street, Manchester.
- 1.2 The PEA was undertaken to provide ecological information to inform an outline planning application for the proposed development of 74 modular homes (including both apartments and houses) as shown on the plan provided by the client (provided in Appendix 1).

## SCOPE OF THE REPORT

- 1.3 The aim of this appraisal is to provide initial baseline ecological information about the site and surrounds. This information will be used to identify potential ecological constraints associated with the proposed development and to identify the requirement for any additional survey work. The data will be used to evaluate any impact that may risk contravention of legislation or policy relating to protected species and nature conservation. Where necessary, avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures have been recommended to ensure compliance and alignment with national and local planning policies.
- 1.4 This appraisal is based on the following information sources:
  - a desk study of the site and surrounding habitats, including information sourced from the local biological records and freely available online resources;
  - an extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey (JNCC, 2010) of the site to identify and map the habitats present (Appendix 2, Figure 1);
  - a protected species assessment of the site to identify features likely to support legally protected species;
  - an evaluation of the site's importance for nature conservation.
- 1.5 This appraisal has been prepared in line with best practice guidance published by the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM, 2018) and the British Standard 42020:2013 *Biodiversity - Code of Practice for Biodiversity and Development* (BSI, 2013).

## SITE CONTEXT AND STATUS

- 1.6 The proposed development site is 0.72ha in size and is centred on Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference SD 8818 0055. The site is located in Newton Heath on the north-eastern outskirts of Manchester. It is bordered by the Rochdale Canal to the north, Droylsden Road to the east, Great Newton Street to the south and Smallwood Street to the west. On the opposite side of the canal there are several industrial warehouses with residential streets present to the east, south and west.

## **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

- 1.7 The proposed development includes the construction of 74 modular homes comprising 20 terraced houses and 54 apartments. The existing vegetation on site is due to be removed to accommodate the proposed development, however areas of green space, including replacement tree planting, will be provided as part of the proposals.

## **RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND PLANNING POLICY**

- 1.8 The following key pieces of nature conservation legislation are relevant to this appraisal. A detailed description of relevant legislation is provided in Appendix 3:
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017;
  - Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); and
  - Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.
- 1.9 The revised National Planning Policy Framework (Department of Communities and Local Government, 2019) requires local authorities to avoid and minimise impacts on biodiversity.
- 1.10 Other planning policies at the local level which are of relevance to this development include those set out within the Manchester Core Strategy (2012) and the Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) (2009).

## **NOMENCLATURE**

- 1.11 Common names of botanical species are used throughout this report, with a species list, including Latin names in accordance with Stace (2019) provided in Appendix 4. All other species use commonly accepted names in accordance with the Natural History Museum Species Dictionary (Natural History Museum, 2018) with Latin names also provided within the text at their first mention.

## 2 Methodology

### DESK STUDY

2.1 The following data sources were used to provide information on the location of statutory designated sites<sup>1</sup>, non-statutory designated sites<sup>2</sup>, legally protected species<sup>3</sup>, Species and Habitats of Principal Importance<sup>4</sup> and other notable habitats and species<sup>5,6</sup> that have been recorded within a 2km radius of the site:

- Greater Manchester Local Records Centre (GMLRC), the local Biological Records Centre;
- The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) (<http://www.magic.gov.uk/>) online resource, the Government's on-line mapping service; and,
- OS mapping and publicly available aerial photography.

2.2 A summary of records provided by the desk study are provided in Section 3. Records for relevant protected or noteworthy species have been used to inform an assessment of the suitability of the site to support protected species and to provide a preliminary assessment of the site's ecological importance.

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<sup>1</sup> Statutory designations include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Ramsar sites, National Nature Reserves (NNR), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Local Nature Reserves (LNR).

<sup>2</sup> Non-statutory sites are designated by local authorities (e.g. Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation or Local Wildlife Sites).

<sup>3</sup> Legally protected species include those listed in Schedules 1, 5 or 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017; or in the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (as amended).

<sup>4</sup> Species/Habitats of Principal Importance are those listed on Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006.

<sup>5</sup> Notable species include Species of Principal Importance under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006; Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) species; Birds of Conservation Concern (Eaton *et al.*, 2015); and/or Red Data Book/nationally notable species (JNCC, undated).

<sup>6</sup> Notable habitats include Habitats of Principal Importance under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006; those included in an LBAP; Ancient Woodland Inventory sites; and Important Hedgerows as defined by the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

## HABITAT SURVEY

- 2.3 A survey of the site was carried out on the 3 April 2019 in cold, clear, dry conditions. Habitats were described and mapped in line with standard Phase 1 Habitat Survey methodology (JNCC, 2010) on a paper base map and subsequently digitised using ESRI ArcGIS software. Habitats were also assessed against descriptions of Habitat of Principal Importance as set-out by the JNCC (Brig, 2011)<sup>7</sup>. Features of interest were recorded and mapped as target notes.
- 2.4 Records of dominant and notable plants are provided, as are incidental records of any fauna noted during the course of the habitat survey.

## PROTECTED SPECIES ASSESSMENT

- 2.5 The suitability of the site for legally protected species was assessed on the basis of relevant desk study records<sup>8</sup> combined with field observations from the habitat survey. The assessment of suitability was based on best practice guidance, including that for the following species: badger *Meles meles* (e.g. Roper, 2010), bats (Collins (ed.), 2016), great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* (Langton *et al.*, 2001), otter *Lutra lutra* (Chanin, 2003), reptiles (Gent and Gibson, 2003) and water vole *Arvicola amphibius* (Strachan *et al.*, 2011). The likely suitability of habitat for protected species occurrence was ranked on a scale from 'negligible' to 'present' as described in Table 2.1.

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<sup>7</sup> Data required to confirm that certain habitats (including rivers and ponds) meet criteria for Habitats of Principal Importance is beyond that obtained during a Phase 1 habitat survey. In these cases the potential for such habitats to meet relevant criteria is noted but further surveys to confirm this assessment may be recommended

<sup>8</sup> Primarily dependent on the age of the records, distance from the site and types of habitats at the site.

**Table 2.1: Protected species assessment categories**

| Category   | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Present    | Presence confirmed from the current survey or by recent, confirmed records.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| High       | Habitat present provides all of the known key requirements for a given species/species group. Local records are provided by desk study. The site is within or close to a national or regional stronghold for a particular species. Good quality surrounding habitat and good connectivity.                                |
| Moderate   | Habitat present provides some of the known requirements for a given species/species group. Several desk study records and/or site within national distribution and with suitable surrounding habitat. Factors limiting the likelihood of occurrence may include small habitat area, barriers to movement and disturbance. |
| Low        | Habitat present is of relatively poor quality for a given species/species group. Few or no desk study records. However, presence cannot be discounted on the basis of national distribution, nature of surrounding habitats or habitat fragmentation.                                                                     |
| Negligible | Habitat is either absent or of very poor quality for a particular species or species group. There were no desk study records. Surrounding habitat unlikely to support wider populations of a species/species group. The site may also be outside or peripheral to known national range for a species.                     |

- 2.6 The findings of this assessment will establish the need for further protected species surveys which may be required to achieve compliance with relevant legislation.

## **SITE EVALUATION**

- 2.7 The site's ecological importance has been evaluated following guidance issued by CIEEM (CIEEM, 2018) which ranks the nature conservation importance of a site according to a geographic scale of reference: international; national; regional; Metropolitan, County, vice county or other local authority-wide area (Greater Manchester); local; and of importance at the zone of influence of the site only. In evaluating the nature conservation importance of the site, the following factors were considered: nature conservation designations; species/habitat rarity; naturalness; fragility and connectivity to other habitats.
- 2.8 Ecological impacts are also assessed in line with CIEEM (2018) where clear evidence is available to substantiate and justify the findings. In the absence of such evidence, the ecological feature is merely identified as a potential constraint to development.
- 2.9 Where ecological constraints to development are identified, further survey requirements and/or avoidance, mitigation, compensation measures that are proportionate to the

predicted degree of risk to biodiversity and to the nature and scale of the proposed development are described. In addition, in accordance with the NPPF and local/regional planning policies, opportunities to enhance or create benefits for wildlife are provided.

### DATA VALIDITY AND LIMITATIONS

2.10 Every effort has been made to provide a comprehensive description of the site, however, the following limitations apply to this assessment.

- The protected species assessment provides a preliminary view of the likelihood of protected species occurring on the site. It should not be taken as providing a full and definitive survey of any protected species group. Additional surveys may be recommended if it is considered reasonably likely that protected species may be present.
- The ecological evaluation is preliminary and may change subject to the findings of further ecological surveys (should these be required).
- Even where data for a particular species group are provided in the desk study, a lack of records for a defined geographical area does not necessarily mean that there is a lack of ecological interest, the area may simply be under-recorded.
- The Phase 1 habitat survey does not constitute a full botanical survey or provide accurate mapping of invasive plant species.
- The Phase 1 habitat survey was completed early during the optimal survey season, accepted to be from April – September (inclusive) (JNCC, 2010). Botanical surveys are seasonally limited as certain species are more evident during the flowering seasons of spring and summer.
- Ecological survey data is typically valid for two years unless otherwise specified.

2.11 Despite these limitations, it is considered that this report reflects accurately the habitats present, their biodiversity importance and the potential of the site to support protected and notable species.

## 3 Results

### DESIGNATED SITES

#### Statutory designated nature conservation sites

- 3.1 The site itself is not subject to any statutory nature conservation designations however there are three such sites within 2km of the proposed development. These include a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which is designated at the international level, as well as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Local Nature Reserve (LNR), which are designated at the national level. Further information on these statutory designations can be found in Table 3.1 below.

**Table 3.1: Statutory Site Designations**

| Site                | Distance from the proposed site boundary | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rochdale Canal SAC  | 942m north-east                          | Supports a significant population of floating water-plantain <i>Luronium natans</i> in a botanically diverse aquatic plant community which also holds a wide range of pondweeds <i>Potamogeton spp.</i> The canal has predominantly mesotrophic water. This population of <i>Luronium</i> is representative of the formerly more widespread canal populations of north-west England.                                                               |
| Rochdale Canal SSSI | 942m north-east                          | Contains important habitats for submerged aquatic plants and emergent vegetation, including extensive colonies of the nationally scarce SAC species floating water plantain <i>Luronium natans</i> . The site also supports a diverse assemblage of aquatic flora, notably its assemblage of pondweeds, <i>Potamogeton spp.</i> ; the nine species of which found in the canal represent a balanced community which reflects the quality of water. |
| Clayton Vale LNR    | 1km south                                | Reclaimed from land fill by Manchester City Council in the early 1980's and forms a valley with the river Medlock running along its base. The site covers approximately 57 hectares, consisting of unimproved grassland, woodland, three ponds and the river Medlock. The vale has two ponds that are Grade C Sites of Biological Importance containing common reed and supporting a wide range of aquatic species.                                |

- 3.2 The site lies within a SSSI Impact Risk Zone associated with Rochdale Canal SSSI. The risks that should be considered are those associated with infrastructure (pipelines, pylons,

overhead cables), quarry, solar, residential (greater than 100 units), combustion and landfill developments.

### Non-statutory designated nature conservation sites

- 3.3 Eleven non-statutory nature conservation sites are located within a 2km radius of the site, all of which are all Sites of Biological Importance (SBI) Further information on these non-statutory designations can be found in Table 3.2 below.

**Table 3.2: Non-statutory Designated Sites**

| Site                                                  | Distance from the proposed development site | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rochdale Canal Lock at Scowcroft Farm to Stott's Lane | 3m north                                    | Grade A SBI, contains important habitats for submerged aquatic plants and emergent vegetation, including extensive colonies of the nationally scarce SAC species floating water plantain. The site also supports a diverse assemblage of aquatic flora, notably its assemblage of pondweeds,; the nine species of which found in the canal represent a balanced community which reflects the quality of water. |
| Broadhurst Clough                                     | 860m north                                  | Grade C SBI, Dean Brook runs through the lower level of the Clough in a steep sided woodland ravine. The rest of the site consists of a mosaic of amenity grassland, species-rich rough grassland, marshland and a wetland scrape.                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Moston Fairway                                        | 965m north                                  | Grade A SBI, the site consists of cotton-grass, marsh willowherb and patches of heather, combining urban marsh, woodland, grassland, boggy fen and mossland habitats. Some species include southern marsh orchids, along with a variety of mosses and liverworts that can be seen all year round.                                                                                                              |
| Clayton Vale                                          | 1km south                                   | Grade C SBI, the site contains two ponds which contain common reed swamp, with surrounding habitats including woodland.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Rochdale Canal Stott's Lane – Ducie Street Basin      | 1.2km south-west                            | Grade A SBI, contains important habitats for submerged aquatic plants and emergent vegetation, including extensive colonies of the nationally scarce SAC species floating water plantain. The site also supports a diverse assemblage of aquatic flora, notably its assemblage of pondweeds; the nine species of which found in the canal represent a balanced community which reflects the quality of water.  |
| Brookdale Clough (East)                               | 1.2km south-east                            | Grade C SBI with broadleaved woodland and rich ground flora with associated stream habitats.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Brookdale Clough (West)                               | 1.2km south-east                            | Grade C SBI with broadleaved woodland and rich ground flora with associated stream habitats.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Bank Bridge Meadow                                    | 1.4km south-west                            | Grade C SBI, site information not available.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Jericho Clough                                        | 1.7km east                                  | Grade C SBI, site information not available.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Medlock Vale & Lumb Clough (North)                    | 1.9km south-east                            | Grade C SBI, site information not available.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Medlock Vale & Lumb Clough (South)                    | 1.9km south-east                            | Grade C SBI, site information not available.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

### Habitats of Principal Importance

- 3.4 There are four Habitats of Principal Importance that exist within a 2km radius of the site including patches of purple moor grass, lowland fen, deciduous woodland and wood pasture and parkland. Further information can be found in Table 3.3 below.

**Table 3.3: Habitats of Principal Importance**

| Habitat                   | Description                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Deciduous woodland        | Numerous areas exist within a 2km radius of the site. The closest of which is an area of 9.1ha, c.308m south-west of the site                                               |
| Lowland fen               | Several areas exist within a 2km radius of the site and are present within the Broadhurst Clough and Moston Fairway SBIs. These areas are present c.900m north of the site. |
| Purple moor grass         | One area of 0.13ha is present c.1.1km north of the site, within the Moston Fairway SBI.                                                                                     |
| Wood pasture and parkland | An undetermined area exists c.1.6km south-west of the site.                                                                                                                 |

- 3.5 Due to the scale of the development, it is anticipated that there will be no negative effects on the habitats of principal importance listed above in Table 3.3, and as such are not discussed further in this report.

### PHASE 1 HABITAT SURVEY

#### Overview

- 3.6 Habitats within the site comprise a matrix of bare ground, ephemeral/short perennial vegetation, hardstanding, introduced shrub, improved grassland, scattered broadleaved trees, a species-poor tree line and a fence.
- 3.7 Phase 1 habitat types are mapped in Appendix 2, Figure 1 and habitat areas are given in Table 3.4 below. A description of dominant and notable species and a description of each habitat is provided below, with a species list provided in Appendix 4 and photographs in Appendix 5.

**Table 3.4: Phase 1 Habitat Areas**

| Phase 1 Habitat | Extent | %     |
|-----------------|--------|-------|
| Bare ground     | 0.23ha | 54.50 |

**Table 3.4:** Phase 1 Habitat Areas

| Phase 1 Habitat            | Extent  | %     |
|----------------------------|---------|-------|
| Ephemeral/short perennial  | 0.12ha  | 12.31 |
| Fence                      | N/A     | 10.34 |
| Hardstanding               | 0.45ha  | 6.96  |
| Introduced shrub           | 0.07ha  | 6.06  |
| Improved grassland         | 0.11ha  | 4.91  |
| Scattered broadleaved tree | 7 trees | 0.03  |
| Species poor tree line     | 17.5m   | 4.89  |

### Habitat descriptions

#### *Bare ground*

- 3.8 The site is dominated by a large patch of bare ground within the centre of the site. This area consists of gravel and soil. The area is currently being used for car parking. There are no botanical species associated with this area (see Photograph 1).

#### *Ephemeral/short perennial*

- 3.9 Two areas of ephemeral/short perennial vegetation are present in the north and south eastern corner of the site around areas of hardstanding. Dominant species include perennial rye grass *Lolium perenne*, oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* and dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* agg. with occasional greater plantain *Plantago major* and creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens* (see Photograph 2 and 3).

#### *Fence*

- 3.10 Two sections, towards the northern and eastern ends of the site are bordered by a 1m high wooden post fence (see Photograph 4).
- 3.11 A metal rail fence, approximately 2m high, is present on the north-east edge of the site (see Photograph 5).

#### *Hardstanding*

- 3.12 A large area of hardstanding is present in the northern part of the site. There are no botanical species associated with this area (see Photograph 6).

3.13 Roads and associated pavements are present within the centre and margins of the site, including, Silk Street which runs through the centre of the site, Great Newton Street which lies directly south of the site and Cowley Street which forms a through road between the two. There are no botanical species associated with these areas (see Photograph 7).

3.14 A small area of hardstanding is present in the south-east corner of the site and is predominantly used for car parking (see Photograph 8).

#### *Introduced Shrub*

3.15 A patch of cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* is present in the south-east of the site. It lies adjacent one area of hardstanding and also forms the understory of three scattered trees (see Photograph 9).

3.16 An area of scrub, approximately 5m long by 1m wide area, comprising species including dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, cherry laurel, daffodil *Narcissus sp.* and privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, is present in the north-west corner of the site. (see Photograph 10).

#### *Improved grassland*

3.17 An area of improved grassland is located in the north-west of the site adjacent to the fence line and species-poor tree line. The grassland appears to be regularly managed creating a short sward height and is dominated by perennial rye-grass with occasional greater plantain, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, oxeye daisy, white clover and dandelion (see Photograph 11).

#### *Scattered broadleaved trees*

3.18 Seven trees are present on site, these include, two bird cherry *Prunus padus*, three sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and one Norway maple *Acer platanoides* within the south-east section of the site and one broadleaf lime *Tilia platyphyllos* in the north-west corner of the site (see Photograph 12, 13, 14 and 15). All trees are semi-mature.

#### *Species-poor tree line*

3.19 A single, species-poor tree line, approximately 4m tall and 0.5m wide is located along the north-eastern edge of the site and is comprised of young elder *Sambucus nigra* (see Photograph 16). The ground flora associated with the hedgerow is comprised of improved grassland, as detailed above.

## PROTECTED SPECIES ASSESSMENT

3.20 The potential for the site to support protected species has been assessed using criteria provided in Table 3.5, based on the results of the desk study and observations made during the site survey of habitats at the site. The following species/species groups are potentially present at the site:

- Bats;
- breeding birds;
- great crested newt;
- badger;
- invasive species;
- reptiles;
- water vole; and
- otter

3.21 The table also summarises relevant legislation and policies relating to protected and invasive species. Key pieces of statute are set-out in greater detail in Appendix 3.

**Table 3.5: Protected/notable species assessment for the proposed development site.**

| Habitat/ species | Status <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup>                       | Likelihood of occurrence                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bats             | WCA S5 <sup>10</sup> Habitat Regulations 41; NERC; LBAP | <p>The desk study returned 92 field sign and roost records of four bat species recorded within 2km of the site, all four of which are Manchester BAP species. This includes one record of a common pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> recorded within the site. The closest recorded roost is a common pipistrelle roost located c.640m east of the site.</p> <p><b>Roosts: NEGLIGIBLE:</b> No evidence of bats or potential bat roost sites were observed during the PEA and no significant features which could be used for foraging/commuting are likely to be lost.</p> <p><b>Foraging/Commuting: LOW:</b> It is possible that low numbers of foraging and/or commuting bats may be using the canal immediately to the north of the site and as such, they are considered further in Section 4 of this report.</p> |

9 The following abbreviations have been used to signify the legislation regarding different species: HR = Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017; WCA S1 = Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); WCA S5 = Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); WCA S8 = Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); PBA = Protection of Badgers Act, 1992.

10 The following abbreviations have been used to signify the policy of conservation assessments applying to notable species: SPI = Species of Principal Importance under the NERC Act 2006; LBAP = Local Biodiversity Action Plan species; BoCC = Birds of Conservation Concern - amber list / red list (Eaton et al., 2015); and/or RD/NN = red data book/nationally notable species (JNCC, undated). abbreviations

|                    |                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Breeding birds     | WCA S5<br>BoCC                 | <p>The desk study identified 92 records for birds within a 2km radius of the site from the previous ten years, none of which are included in the Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (Greater Manchester Biodiversity Project, 2009) and none of which occurred on site.</p> <p><b>PRESENT:</b> A number of bird species typical of the habitat types present and of the local area were observed using the trees, hardstanding and scrub on and adjacent to the site. This included great tit <i>Parus major</i>, feral pigeon <i>Columba livia domestica</i>, herring gull, <i>Larus argentatus</i> and magpie <i>Pica pica</i>.</p> <p><b>It is likely that breeding birds will occur on site in low numbers and as such, they are considered further in Section 4 of this report.</b></p> |
| Great crested newt | HR<br>WCA S5                   | <p><b>NEGLIGIBLE:</b> The desk study identified no records of great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>, within a 2km radius of the site from the previous ten years. Furthermore, no suitable breeding habitat for this species exists within 250m of the site and no suitable terrestrial habitat is present on site, with numerous barriers existing in the immediate and surrounding area, reducing connectivity to the wider landscape. This species is not considered any further in this assessment.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Badger             | Protection of Badgers Act 1992 | <p><b>NEGLIGIBLE:</b> 13 records of badger setts existed within a 2km search radius of the site, although most of these occurred over 1km away from the development site. No evidence of badger activity was found during the PEA and there are no suitable habitats for this species within 50m of the site. In addition to this, numerous barriers existed around the site, including roads and residential buildings, severely reducing connectivity to the wider area. This species is not considered further in this assessment.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

|                  |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Invasive species | WCA S9      | <b>NEGLIGIBLE:</b> There are no desk study records for invasive species within 2km of the site and none were discovered on site during the PEA. Therefore, invasive species are not considered further in this assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Reptiles         | WCA S5, SPI | <p>The desk study returned three records of slow worm <i>Anguis fragilis</i> within a 2km radius of the site, the closest of which occurred c.1km west of the site.</p> <p><b>NEGLIGIBLE:</b> The habitats on site do not have suitability to support reptile species. Coupled with the lack of connectivity to the wider landscape and to areas with historic records of reptile species, it is deemed that they are likely to be absent from site. This species group is not considered further in this assessment.</p>                                                      |
| Water Vole       | WCA S5      | <p>The desk study returned one record of water vole <i>Arvicola amphibious</i>, located c.1.5km south of the site.</p> <p><b>NEGLIGIBLE:</b> The canal adjacent to the site is extremely unsuitable for water vole. All banks are enforced with concrete, and no vegetation is present on the banks with only areas of hardstanding present. Due to the limited connectivity of the site, disturbance and lack of suitable habitat, it is likely that water vole will be absent from site and as such are not considered further in this report.</p>                           |
| Otter            |             | <p>The desk study returned no records of otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> within a 2km radius of the site.</p> <p><b>NEGLIGIBLE:</b> The canal adjacent to the site is extremely unsuitable for otter. All banks are enforced with concrete and no vegetation is present on the banks, with only areas of hardstanding present. The limited connectivity of the site, disturbance and lack of suitable habitat both on, adjacent to and in the wider area of the site result in the likely absence of otters from the site, and as such are not considered further in this report.</p> |

## NATURE CONSERVATION EVALUATION

- 3.22 The proposed development site is not subject to any nature conservation designations. It contains small areas of common and widespread habitats, none of which are Habitats of Principal Importance or Manchester BAP habitats. The site is situated in an urban area surrounded by industrial and residential buildings, hardstanding, and a canal immediately adjacent to the north.
- 3.23 The Rochdale Canal, Lock at Scowcroft Farm to Stotts Lane SBI located 3m north of the development site, is designated for its nationally scarce populations of water plantain, an SAC selection species where it is also the qualifying feature for the Rochdale Canal SSSI and SAC, located 942m north-east of the development site downstream along the same watercourse as the SBI. The designating feature of these sites has the potential to be affected by the constructional and operational phases of the development and as such are discussed further in section 4.
- 3.24 The habitats on site are suitable for a range of note-worthy species, as reported in the desk study or recorded during the survey. These are as follows:
- foraging/commuting bats using habitats adjacent to the site; and
  - widespread but declining species of birds that are also species of conservation concern<sup>11</sup>
- 3.25 The habitats at the site and populations of the above species are likely to be of importance within the immediate vicinity of the site only. All habitats are common and widespread in Manchester and abundant within the wider landscape of the site. It is unlikely that the site would support rare species, or diverse assemblages or large populations of any noteworthy species.

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<sup>11</sup> Birds of Conservation Concern - amber list / red list (Eaton et al., 2015);

## 4 Potential Impacts and Recommendations

4.1 This section discusses the potential impacts on habitats and notable species that may be present at this site.

4.2 The following key ecological potential impacts have been identified:

- The Grade A SBI - Rochdale Canal Lock at Scowcroft Farm to Stott's Lane located 3m north of the development site, could be adversely impacted through run off and dust created both in the construction and operational phases of the development. As the SBI is designated for its potential presence of floating water plantain, any pollutants that the development may deposit in the canal during these phases of the development could impact the quality of the water and affect the distribution of this species. This could also lead to adverse impacts on the Rochdale Canal SSSI and SAC, located approximately 942m north east of the site.
- Additional lighting during the construction phase is considered likely to result in temporary, reversible impacts to foraging/commuting bats and nesting birds both on and adjacent to the site.
- Additional lighting during the operational phase i.e. post construction is considered likely to result in permanent, irreversible impacts to foraging/commuting bats and nesting birds both on and adjacent to the site.
- Habitat suitable for breeding birds is present, therefore, there is potential to impact nesting birds through loss of habitat and disturbance if clearance during the active breeding period (March to September) cannot be avoided. This is likely to have a permanent negative effect on the favourable conservation status of the breeding bird assemblage, significant at site level due to the extent of similar habitat present in the surrounding landscape.
- There is potential for garden/household waste produced by the potential residents of the development to be deposited to the north of the site to the rear of the buildings that are adjacent to the canal. If any non-native species are present within the properties this could have a severe impact on the waterways, resulting in the spread of any harmful/invasive species or diseases. It is believed that this issue is addressed separately in the waste management plan (Curtins, 2019).

## CONSTRAINTS AND MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.3 Mitigation options proposed are proportional to the scale of impact identified and follow the established mitigation hierarchy as set out in CIEEM (2018) and BS42020:2013. As a priority, measures will be set out to avoid, then mitigate and, as a last resort, compensate for predicted significant effects.

### *Designated Nature Conservation Sites*

- 4.4 Dust and run-off created during the constructional phase of the site could have a large negative impact on Rochdale Canal Lock at Scowcroft Farm to Stott's Lane. The Rochdale Canal SAC and SSSI is located downstream of the above SBI and is designated for submerged aquatic plants and emergent vegetation, including extensive colonies of the nationally scarce species floating water plantain. Due to the proximity of the development to the SBI, there is a chance that pollutants and run-off created by the development could be transported along the direct hydrological link to the Rochdale Canal SSSI and SAC, potentially affecting the designating feature.
- 4.5 It is therefore recommended that a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Stage 1 Screening is undertaken in order to assess (both alone and in combination with other proposals) any likely significant effects the proposed development may have on the SAC and its qualifying features.
- 4.6 In order to reduce negative impacts on the canal through potential release of invasive species and/or garden waste and rubbish generated by new residents, it is recommended that the landscape plans for the proposed development should include construction of a wall along the boundary of the property, adjacent to the towpath. It is recommended that a hedgerow and/or other screening vegetation is planted in front of the wall, at the end of each plot, to deter any waste from being deposited on the canal side of the fence. In addition, new residents of the development should be provided with information regarding non-native species and the potential effects they could have on the environment as to educate them on the consequences a release may have.

### *Breeding birds*

- 4.7 All wild birds and their nests are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). The scrub, trees and improved grassland within the site are suitable to support common/widespread breeding bird species and so any loss may have a significant effect at site level.
- 4.8 Where the proposed works require the removal of shrub, trees and grassland with potential to support breeding birds (and this cannot reasonably be avoided), this should be carried out October to February inclusive, to avoid any potential offences relating to breeding birds during their main bird breeding season (Newton *et al.*, 2011).
- 4.9 If site clearance during the breeding season is unavoidable then potential nesting habitat should be inspected by a suitably qualified ecologist immediately prior to clearance of vegetation to identify any active birds' nests. Should they be present, the nest and a suitable buffer of habitat around it must be retained until an ecologist can confirm that the young have left the nest.
- 4.10 The removal of trees and shrub around the site is being mitigated in the current design through the planting of several trees and small patches of greenspace around the site. These areas will provide suitable foraging and nesting habitat for several species of birds.

### *Bats and lighting*

- 4.11 While different species of bat react differently to night time lighting, research has found that all bats are adversely sensitive to artificial lighting, which impacts on their behaviour. Excessive and/or poorly directed lighting may delay bats in emerging from their roosts; shortening the time available for foraging, as well as causing bats to move away from suitable foraging grounds, movement corridors or roosting sites, to alternative dark areas (Jones, 2000).
- 4.12 To minimise indirect impacts from lighting associated with the proposed development and to allow bats to continue to forage/commute within the periphery of the site and the canal adjacent to the site, it is recommended that any lighting is directional and functional only (i.e. not used for decorative purposes). The use of baffles and appropriate lighting structures should be able to achieve no additional spill to onto the canal, maintaining its functionality for bats.

4.13 Current best practice for mitigation affording to bats when applying a lighting scheme (Fure, 2006; Institute of Professionals, 2018) can be summarised as the following:

- Set dark habitat buffers and a 0.5 lux limit of light spillage through the use of spatial design of lighting;
- building design of the lighting i.e. recessing lights, specialist bollards and low level downward lighting to reduce light spillage;
- select correct luminaire specifications for the project i.e. LED luminaires used where possible, a warm white spectrum (<2700Kelvin) used to reduce blue element of lighting, there should be a peak wavelength of 550nm, metal halide should not be used, all lighting should lack a UV element;
- sensitive landscaping and site configuration. This could include the location, orientation and height of newly built structures, placements of footpaths, open spaces and even the number of windows proposed for a new construction, use of buildings, walls, screening and hard landscaping so as to block light spill from reaching key habitat features. Use of glazing treatments where other mitigating methods can't be used to reduce light spillage; and

#### *Environmental Best Practice*

4.14 In order to ensure that environmental best practice is followed during the proposed development, the following steps are recommended.

- machinery should not be left running on idle for long periods of time;
- lighting/works should be avoided during the hours of darkness during the construction phase; and
- a sensitive lighting scheme should be adopted as part of the design of the proposed development (as detailed above).

4.15 Any retained trees should be protected in accordance with British Standards Institution (2012) guidelines.

#### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT**

4.16 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019) states that at an overview level, the '*planning system should contribute to and enhance the national and local environment by... minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where*

*possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures'.*

4.17 At a local level, Policy EN 15 within Manchester's Core Strategy 2012 – 2027 (MCC, 2012) states that 'Developers will be expected to identify and implement reasonable opportunities to enhance, restore or create new biodiversity, either on-site or adjacent to the site, contributing to linkages between valuable or potentially valuable habitat areas where appropriate. *Ensuring development retains, protects and enhances features of biological and geological interest and provides for the appropriate management of these features.*'. Therefore, the following measures are recommended for the proposed development:

- Incorporation of green walls and climbers into the landscaping plans;
- Installation of bat and bird boxes, including swift boxes and swallow terraces integrated within new buildings and external boxes on the exterior of buildings and on any retained trees; and
- Creation of suitable black redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* habitat on the roofs of the buildings due to be constructed on site as detailed in the Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan for black redstarts (2009).

4.18 The greenspace buffer recommended in Section 4.7 will not only act as a buffer for residential waste/invasive species from the residents of the house but will provide suitable habitat for a range of invertebrates, which in turn could act as an area of foraging for bat and bird species. Where possible, this area should be planted with native fruit bearing species, and avoidance of the use of invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

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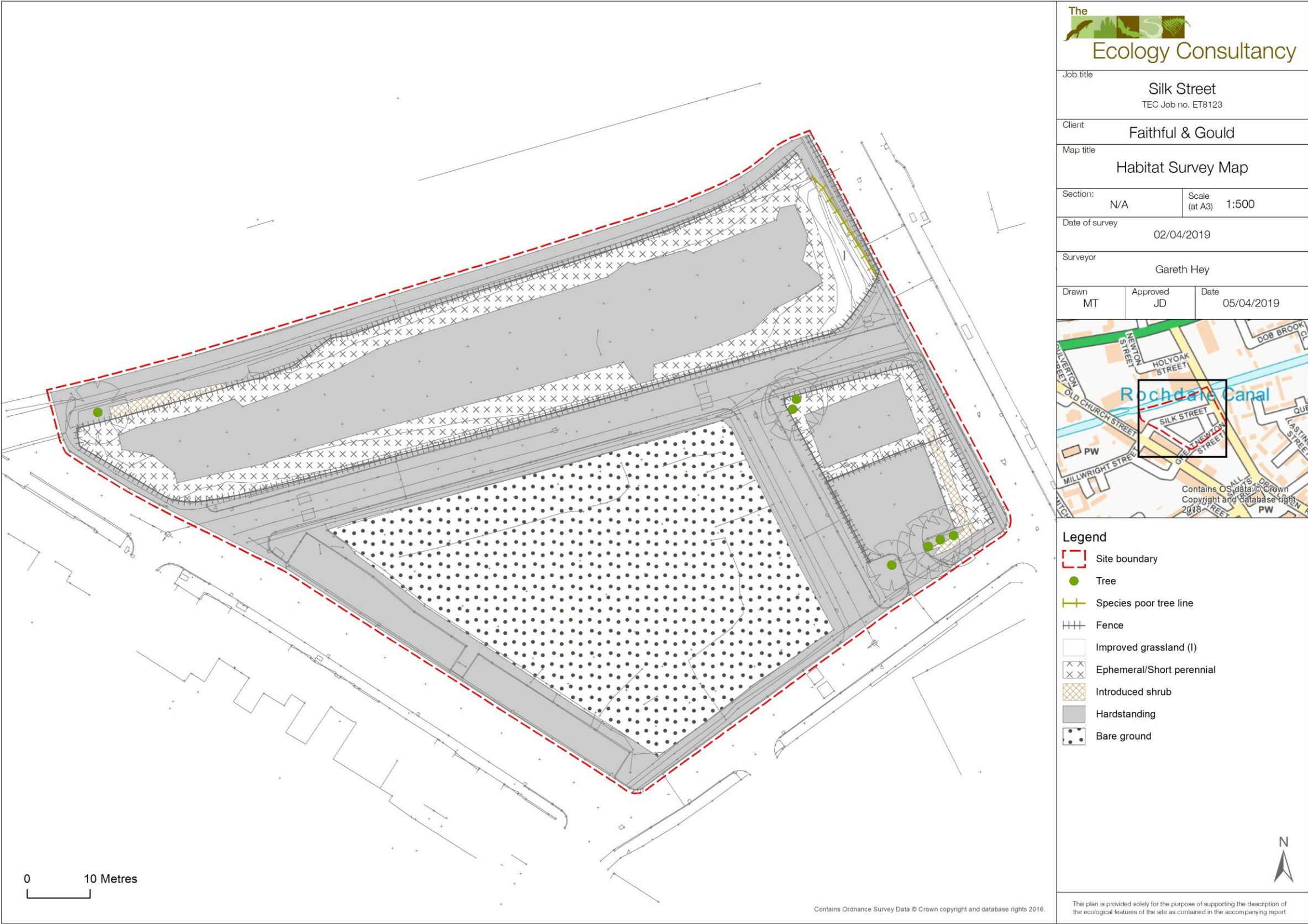
# Appendix 1: Proposed Development Layout

Figure 1. Site Plan



## Appendix 2: Phase 1 Habitat Survey Map

Figure 1. Phase 1 Habitat Survey Map



## Appendix 3: Legislation and Planning Policy

**Important notice:** This section contains details of legislation and planning policy applicable in Britain only (i.e. not including the Isle of Man, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland or the Channel Islands) and is provided for general guidance only. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, this section should not be relied upon as a definitive statement of the law.

## A NATIONAL LEGISLATION AFFORDED TO SPECIES

The objective of the EC Habitats Directive<sup>12</sup> is to conserve the various species of plant and animal which are considered rare across Europe. The Directive is transposed into UK law by The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is a key piece of national legislation which implements the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and implements the species protection obligations of Council Directive 2009/147/EC (formerly 79/409/EEC) on the Conservation of Wild Birds (EC Birds Directive) in Great Britain.

Since the passing of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, various amendments have been made, details of which can be found on [www.opsi.gov.uk](http://www.opsi.gov.uk). Key amendments have been made through the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act (2000).

Other legislative Acts affording protection to wildlife and their habitats include:

- Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000;
- Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006; and
- Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996.

Species and species groups that are protected or otherwise regulated under the aforementioned domestic and European legislation, and that are most likely to be affected by development activities, include herpetofauna (amphibians and reptiles), badger, bats, birds, dormouse, invasive plant species, otter, plants, red squirrel, water vole and white clawed crayfish.

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<sup>12</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora

Explanatory notes relating to species protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (which includes smooth snake, sand lizard, great crested newt and natterjack toad), all bat species, otter, dormouse and some plant species) are given below. **These should be read in conjunction with the relevant species sections that follow.**

- In the Directive, the term ‘deliberate’ is interpreted as being somewhat wider than intentional and may be thought of as including an element of recklessness.
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 does not define the act of ‘migration’ and therefore, as a precaution, it is recommended that short distance movement of animals for e.g. foraging, breeding or dispersal purposes are also considered.
- In order to obtain a European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) licence, the application must demonstrate that it meets all of the following three ‘tests’: i) the action(s) are necessary for the purpose of preserving public health or safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequence of primary importance for the environment; ii) that there is no satisfactory alternative and iii) that the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

### Breeding Birds

With certain exceptions, all birds, their nests and eggs are protected under Sections 1-8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Among other things, this makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built;
- Intentionally take or destroy an egg of any wild bird:
- Sell, offer or expose for sale, have in his possession or transport for the purpose of sale any wild bird (dead or alive) or bird egg or part thereof.

Certain species of bird, for example the barn owl, black redstart, hobby, bittern and kingfisher receive additional special protection under Schedule 1 of the Act and Annex 1 of the European

Community Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (2009/147/EC). This affords them protection against:

- Intentional or reckless disturbance while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young;
- Intentional or reckless disturbance of dependent young of such a bird.

*How is the legislation pertaining to birds liable to affect development works?*

To avoid contravention of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), works should be planned to avoid the possibility of killing or injuring any wild bird, or damaging or destroying their nests. The most effective way to reduce the likelihood of nest destruction in particular is to undertake work outside the main bird breeding season which typically runs from March to August<sup>13</sup>. Where this is not feasible, it will be necessary to have any areas of suitable habitat thoroughly checked for nests prior to vegetation clearance.

Those species of bird listed on Schedule 1 are additionally protected against disturbance during the breeding season. Thus, it will be necessary to ensure that no potentially disturbing works are undertaken in the vicinity of the nest. The most effective way to avoid disturbance is to postpone works until the young have fledged. If this is not feasible, it may be possible to maintain an appropriate buffer zone or standoff around the nest.

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<sup>13</sup> It should be noted that this is the main breeding period. Breeding activity may occur outwith this period (depending on the particular species and geographical location of the site) and thus due care and attention should be given when undertaking potentially disturbing works at any time of year.

## Herpetofauna (Amphibians and Reptiles)

With the exception of the pool frog, these species of amphibians and reptiles are currently listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this Act, they are additionally protected from:

4. Intentional or reckless disturbance (at any level)
5. Intentional or reckless obstruction of access to any place of shelter or protection
6. Selling, offering or exposing for sale, possession or transporting for purpose of sale.

Other native species of herpetofauna are protected solely under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Species such as the adder *Vipera berus*, grass snake, common lizard *Zootoca vivipara* and slow-worm *Anguis fragilis* are listed in respect to Section 9(1) & (5). For these species, it is prohibited to:

- Intentionally (or recklessly in Scotland) kill or injure these species
- Sell, offer or expose for sale, possess or transport for purpose of sale these species, or any part thereof.

Common frog *Rana temporaria*, common toad *Bufo bufo*, smooth newt *Lissotriton vulgaris* and palmate newt *L. helveticus* are listed in respect to Section 9(5) only which affords them protection against sale, offering or exposing for sale, possession or transport for the purpose of sale.

### *How is the legislation pertaining to herpetofauna liable to affect development works?*

A European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) Licence issued by the relevant countryside agency (e.g. Natural England) will be required for works liable to affect the breeding sites or resting places of those amphibian and reptile species protected under The Conservation Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. A licence will also be required for operations liable to result in a level of disturbance which might impair their ability to undertake those activities mentioned above (e.g. survive, breed, rear young and hibernate). The licences are to allow derogation from the relevant legislation but also to enable appropriate mitigation measures to be put in place and their efficacy to be monitored.

Although not licensable, appropriate mitigation measures may also be required to prevent the intentional killing or injury of adder, grass snake, common lizard and slow worm, thus avoiding contravention of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

### Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996

All wild mammals are protected against intentional acts of cruelty under the above legislation. This makes it an offence to:

- Mutilate, kick, beat, nail or otherwise impale, stab, burn, stone, crush, drown, drag or asphyxiate any wild mammal with intent to inflict unnecessary suffering.

To avoid possible contravention, due care and attention should be taken when carrying out works (for example operations near burrows or nests) with the potential to affect any wild mammal in this way, regardless of whether they are legally protected through other conservation legislation or not.

## B NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

### The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) replaced Planning Policy Statement (PPS9) in July 2018 as the key national planning policy concerning nature conservation. The revised 2019 NPPF emphasises the need for suitable development and specifies the need for protection of designated sites, priority habitats and priority species. Emphasis is placed on the need for ecological networks via preservation, restoration and re-creation. The protection and recovery of priority species – that is those listed as Species of Principal Importance in England – is also listed as a requirement of planning policy. In determining a planning application, planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by ensuring that: designated sites are protected from adverse harm; there is appropriate mitigation or compensation where significant harm cannot be avoided; opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments are encouraged; planning permission is refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats including aged or veteran trees and also ancient woodland.

## The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and The Biodiversity Duty

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act came into force on the 01 October 2006. Section 40 of the Act requires all public bodies to have regard to biodiversity conservation when carrying out their functions. This is commonly referred to as the 'biodiversity duty'.

Section 41 of the Act (Section 42 in Wales) requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of 'principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity.' They are referred to in this report as Species of Principal Importance and Habitats of Principal Importance in England. This list is intended to assist decision makers such as public bodies in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the Act. Under the Act these habitats and species are regarded as a material consideration in determining planning applications. A developer must show that their protection has been adequately addressed within a development proposal.

## D LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

The Core Strategy for Manchester City Council sets out the long-term vision for Manchester and provides a blueprint for managing growth and development in the area up to 2027. Policy EN15 states that new developments should aim to incorporate appropriate landscaping and planning with an overall aim for improving biodiversity.

## Appendix 4: Plant Species List

**Plant Species List for land at Silk Street, Manchester from the Phase 1 habitat survey and protected and notable species assessment carried out on the 02 April 2019.**

Scientific nomenclature and common names for vascular plants follow Stace (2019). Please note that this plant species list was generated as part of a Phase 1 Habitat Survey, does not constitute a full botanical survey given the time of year it was undertaken and should be read in conjunction with the associated results section of this PEA.

**Abundance was estimated using the DAFOR scale and additional notes taken as follows:**

D = dominant, A = abundant, F = frequent, O = occasional, R = rare, L = locally

c = clumped, e = edge only, g = garden origin, p = planted, y = young, s = seedling or sucker, t = tree, h = hedgerow, w = water

| Scientific Name             | Common Name         | Abundance | Qualifier |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <i>Acer platanoides</i>     | Norway maple        | R         | t, p      |
| <i>Acer sp.</i>             | Sycamore            | R         | t, p      |
| <i>Bryophyta sp.</i>        | Moss species        | F         | N/A       |
| <i>Lamium purpureum</i>     | Red deadnettle      | O         | N/A       |
| <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> | Oxeye daisy         | O         | N/A       |
| <i>Ligustrum sp.</i>        | Privet sp.          | O         | h         |
| <i>Lolium perenne</i>       | Perennial rye-grass | O         | N/A       |
| <i>Narcissus</i>            | Daffodil sp.        | R         | N/A       |
| <i>Plantago sp.</i>         | Plantain species    | R         | N/A       |
| <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>  | Cherry laurel       | R         | h         |
| <i>Prunus padus</i>         | Bird cherry         | R         | t, p      |
| <i>Ranunculus repens</i>    | Creeping buttercup  | R         | N/A       |
| <i>Sambucus nigra</i>       | Elder               | R         | t, h      |
| <i>Taraxacum sp.</i>        | Dandelion sp.       | O         | N/A       |
| <i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>   | Broadleaf lime      | R         | t, p      |
| <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>     | Bramble             | R         | N/A       |
| <i>Urtica dioica</i>        | Common nettle       | R         | N/A       |

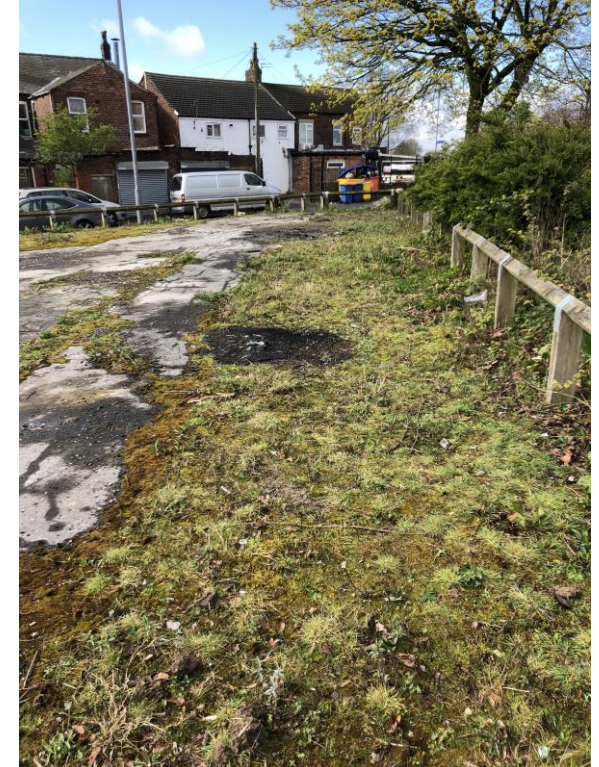
## Appendix 5: Photographs



Photograph 1:



Photograph 2:



Photograph 3:

Large section of bare ground that dominates the centre of the site.



Photograph 4:

Short Ephemeral/perennial patch present around the south-east section of the site.



Photograph 5:

Short ephemeral/perennial patch present around the northern section of the site, bordered by hardstanding.



Photograph 6:

Wooden fence that is present around several areas of the site.



Metal fence that separates the line of trees and hard standing at the north-eastern corner of the site.



Area of hardstanding that dominates the northern section of the site.



Photograph 7:

The site has various roads running through the site and bordering the site.



Photograph 8:

The south-east corner of the site has an area of hardstanding that is used for car-parking.



Photograph 9:

A patch of introduced shrub consisting of laurel is present in the south-east corner of the site.



Photograph 10

A small patch of introduced shrub is present at the north-west border of the site.



Photograph 11:

One patch of improved grassland is present at the north-east corner of the site adjacent to the areas of hardstanding and line of trees.



Photograph 12:

The tree in the north-west corner of the site is a broadleaved lime



Photograph 13:

Two bird cherry are present in the middle-west section of the site, located between areas of hardstanding.

Photograph 14:

One Norway maple is present on the southern border of the site in the corner of an area of hardstanding.

Photograph 15:

Three sycamore on the south east border of the site are present within the introduced shrub section.



Photograph 16:

The species poor line of trees is present on the north-east border of the site and is dominated by elder.



## Ecology Consultancy

The Ecology Consultancy is part of the Temple Group.

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