

Trees at Trinity Islands, Water Street, Salford M5 4XP

## **ADDENDUM: DAYTIME BAT WALKOVER SURVEY AND NESTING BIRD SURVEY**

July 2024

ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd Reference: 2020-374c

ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd  
Building N2  
Chorley Business and Technology Centre  
East Terrace  
Euxton Lane  
Euxton  
Chorley  
PR7 6TE

Tel: 01772 750502

[mail@erap.co.uk](mailto:mail@erap.co.uk)  
[www.erap.co.uk](http://www.erap.co.uk)



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|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Daytime Bat Walkover Survey / Nesting Bird Survey | Amy Sharples B.Sc. (Hons) M.Sc. ACIEEM                                              | 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 |
| Reporting                                         | Personnel                                                                           | Date                       |
| <b>Author</b>                                     | Amy Sharples B.Sc. (Hons) M.Sc. ACIEEM<br>Senior Ecologist                          | 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024 |
| <b>Signature(s)</b>                               |  |                            |
| <b>Checked</b>                                    | Rachel Brown B.Sc. (Hons)                                                           | 26 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 |
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## SUMMARY

### Introduction and Scope

- i. This addendum report presents the results of a daytime bat walkover survey and nesting bird survey for the trees Trinity Islands, Water Street, Salford M5 4XP carried out in July 2024. The assessment was requested in connection with proposals to remove an additional 10 trees at the western site boundary in association with the development approved under 132429/FO/2021 (now superseded by S73 Permission 134039/JO/2022). This addendum is in relation to the trees at the boundary of the site only.
- ii. The scope of survey undertaken is appropriate to identify potential ecological constraints, the remit of mitigation required and opportunities for biodiversity associated with the development proposals. The assessment, recommendations and conclusions of the previous survey remain valid.
- iii. The site boundary associated with the River Irwell comprises a retaining wall with vegetation including trees and scrub.

### Results of Survey and Assessment

- iv. The proposed tree removal will have no adverse direct or indirect effect on statutory or non-statutory designated sites for nature conservation.
- v. No habitats within the site are Priority Habitat.
- vi. Giant Hogweed, an invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) was detected at the site boundary associated with the proposed tree removal. It is an offence to cause the spread of these species in the wild. Guidance on the control and management of these species is described at **Section 5.3**.
- vii. None of the trees at the site boundary are suitable for use by roosting bats and are of limited suitability for use by nesting birds. No further survey in relation to bats is required at the trees and recommendations for the protection of nesting birds are presented at **Section 5.4**. In accordance with *4029 Trinity NMA - Landscape Items.pdf* (TPM Landscape Ltd, 2024) 10 replacement trees will be incorporated into the landscaping scheme.
- viii. No other protected species have been detected.

### Recommendations

- ix. The recommendations in **Section 5.0** outline all the mandatory measures and additional actions to be applied to ensure compliance with wildlife legislation, the NPPF and best practice.

### Conclusion

- x. It is concluded that the tree removal at the site boundary is feasible and acceptable in accordance with ecological considerations and relevant planning policy.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background and Rationale

- 1.1.1 ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd was commissioned by Renaker Build Limited to carry out an ecological assessment of the trees at Trinity Islands, Water Street, Salford M5 4XP (hereafter referred to as the 'site') as presented at this addendum report. The Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference at the centre of the site is SJ 82756 97795. An aerial image of the site and its surrounding habitats is appended at **Figure 1** (source image: ESRI World Imagery).
- 1.1.2 The assessment was requested in connection with proposals to remove an additional 10 trees at the site boundary in association with the development approved under 132429/FO/2021 (now superseded by S73 Permission 134039/JO/2022).

### 1.2 Scope of Works

- 1.2.1 The scope of ecological works undertaken in July 2024 comprised:
- A desktop study for known ecological information at the site and the local area;
  - A daytime bat walkover survey for bats, which has comprised a ground level tree assessment;
  - Survey and assessment of the trees scheduled for removal for nesting birds;
  - The identification of any potential ecological constraints on the proposals and the specification of the scope of mitigation and ecological enhancement required in accordance with wildlife legislation, planning policy guidance and other relevant guidance; and
  - The identification of any further surveys or precautionary actions that may be required to inform the removal of 10 trees at the site boundary.

## 2.0 METHOD OF SURVEY

### 2.1 Desktop Study

- 2.1.1 The following sources of information and ecological records were consulted:
- MAGiC Maps: A web-based interactive map which brings together geographic information on key environmental schemes and designations, including details of statutory nature conservation sites;
  - Ancient Tree Inventory (Woodland Trust, 2023): An online database of ancient and veteran trees;
  - Environment Agency Main River Map (Environment Agency, 2018); and
  - Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).
- xi. The results of an ecological survey and assessment for the site undertaken in March 2021 are presented at *2020-374 Trinity Islands, Sites C and D, Manchester M5 4XP, Ecological Survey and Assessment* (ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd, 2021), hereafter referred to as the 'ecology report'. This report was submitted and approved in association with the development approved under 132429/FO/2021 (now superseded by S73 Permission 134039/JO/2022).

- 2.1.2 The proposals at the site are small scale and will be of limited impact upon the site and local area. In accordance with *Guidelines for Accessing, Using and Sharing Biodiversity Data in the UK* (CIEEM, 2020), it is considered that the purchase of updated ecological records (as provided by Greater Manchester Local Record Centre) is not required in this instance.

## 2.2 Vegetation and Habitats

- 2.2.1 Searches were carried out for the presence of invasive species, including those listed on Schedule 9 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended), including Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Indian Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) and Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*).

## 2.3 Animal Life

### Bat Species

#### *Ground Level Walkover Survey of the Trees*

- 2.3.1 The ground level walkover survey of the trees at the site was carried out by Amy Sharples B.Sc. (Hons) M.Sc. ACIEEM on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024. The weather was sunny with a light air (Beaufort scale 1) and an air temperature of 19°C.
- 2.3.2 A preliminary assessment of the trees within the site was conducted to assess their suitability for use by roosting bats, and to inform whether further surveys or precautionary measures were required.
- 2.3.3 Trees were assessed from the ground using binoculars and a high-powered torch. Each tree was searched for the presence of the following features:
- Woodpecker holes, rot holes, hazard beams, other vertical or horizontal cracks or splits in stems and branches, partially decayed platey bark, knot holes, man-made holes, tear-outs, cankers in which cavities have developed, other hollows or cavities, including butt-rots, double-leaders forming compression forks with included bark, gaps between overlapping stems or branches, partially detached Ivy (*Hedera helix*) with stem diameters in excess of 50mm and bat, bird or dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) boxes.
- 2.3.4 Terms used to describe any features present follow (where possible) those outlined and described in *Bat Tree Habitat Key, 2nd Edition* (Andrews, H (ed), 2013) and *Bat Roosts in Trees: A Guide to Identification and Assessment for Tree-care and Ecology Professionals* (BTHK, 2018).
- 2.3.5 Trees have been assessed and described using the categories presented at Tables 4.2 and 6.2 of *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4<sup>th</sup> edn)*, (Collins, J. (ed), 2023), as presented in **Table 2.1**.

**Table 2.1: Definition of Terms and Suitability Categories Used in Tree Survey for Roosting Bats**

| Terms and Suitability Categories | Description                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PRF                              | Potential Roost Feature                                                                                                            |
| None                             | Either no PRFs in the tree(s) or highly unlikely to be any.                                                                        |
| FAR                              | Further Assessment Required to establish if PRFs are present in the tree                                                           |
| PRF-I                            | PRF is only suitable for individual bats or very small numbers of bats either due to size or lack of suitable surrounding habitats |
| PRF-M                            | PRF is suitable for multiple bats and may therefore be used by a maternity colony.                                                 |

2.3.6 The requirement for further presence / absence surveys at each tree was then considered.

### ***Habitat Assessment for Commuting / Foraging Bats***

2.3.7 Habitats within and adjacent to the site were assessed for their value and suitability for commuting and foraging bats in accordance with Table 4.1 of *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4<sup>th</sup> edn)* (Collins, J. (ed), 2023). Reference has been made to the categories, descriptions and examples presented in **Table 2.2**.

**Table 2.2: Consideration of Suitability of Foraging and Commuting Habitat for Bats**

| Suitability                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Potential Flight Paths and Foraging Habitats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | No habitat features on site likely to be used by any commuting or foraging bats at any time of the year (i.e. no habitats that provide continuous lines of shade / protection for flight-lines, or generate/shelter insect populations available to foraging bats).                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Negligible <sup>a</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used as flight-paths or by foraging bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains in order to account for non-standard bat behaviour.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Low                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Habitat that could be used by small numbers of bats as flight-paths such as a gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream, but isolated, i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat.<br>Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.                                                                                                       |
| Moderate                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for flight-paths such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens.<br>Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| High                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by bats for flight-paths such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge.<br>High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland.<br>Site is close to and connected to known roosts. |
| <sup>a</sup> Negligible is defined as 'so small or unimportant as to be not worth considering, insignificant'. This category may be used where there are places that a bat could roost or forage (due to one attribute) but it is unlikely that they actually would (due to another attribute). |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

### **Bird Species**

2.3.8 Bird species observed and heard during the survey were recorded.

2.3.9 A nesting bird survey was carried out at the site. The nesting bird survey involved a combination of watching for birds exhibiting nesting behaviour (carrying nest material and food), listening for territorial calls indicative of nesting, and actively searching the vegetation for nests and potential nest sites.

## **2.4 Survey and Reporting Limitations**

2.4.1 All areas of the site were fully accessible at the time of the survey. No survey limitations were experienced.

2.4.2 All measurements within this report are approximate only, and have been either estimated whilst on site or calculated using mapping software (QGIS) or internet-based mapping services such as MAGiC Maps and Google Earth.

## 2.5 Evaluation Methods

- 2.5.1 The habitats, vegetation and animal life were evaluated with reference to standard nature conservation criteria as described in *A Nature Conservation Review* (Ratcliffe, 1977) and *Guidelines for the Selection of Biological SSSIs* (Bainbridge, et al., 2013). These are size (extent), diversity, naturalness, rarity, fragility, typicality, recorded history, position in an ecological or geographical unit, potential value and intrinsic appeal.
- 2.5.2 Government advice on wildlife, as set out in the NPPF and associated government circulars has been taken into consideration. Legislation relating to protected species, such as those listed under Schedules 1, 5, 6 and 8 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) and *The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019*, is referenced where applicable, and any impacts to protected species are evaluated in accordance with current guidance.
- 2.5.3 The presence of any Priority Species, as listed under Section 41 of the *Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006* is noted, and habitats are assessed in terms of their suitability and value for these species. The presence of habitats and / or species listed by the Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plans has been taken into account in the evaluation of the site.

## 3.0 SURVEY RESULTS

### 3.1 Desktop Study

#### Statutory Designated Sites for Nature Conservation and SSSI Impact Risk Zones

- 3.1.1 The sites do not hold any statutory or non-statutory designation for nature conservation.
- 3.1.2 The sites lie within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone for Rochdale Canal Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and SSSI. The SSSI Impact Risk Zone requires the Local Planning Authority to consult with Natural England on likely risks from the following development categories (Ordnance Survey, 2024):

Air pollution: Livestock and poultry units with floorspace greater than 500m<sup>2</sup> and slurry lagoons greater than 4000m<sup>2</sup>.

Combustion: General combustion processes greater than 50 megawatt energy input including energy from waste incineration, other incineration, landfill gas generation plant, pyrolysis / gasification, anaerobic digestion, sewage treatment works and other incineration / combustion.

#### Non-statutory Designated Sites for Nature Conservation

- 3.1.3 The sites lie within 2 kilometres of three Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs). These locally designated sites comprise the River Irwell SBI, located 1.2 kilometres to the north-west of the sites, and the Rochdale Canal, Stott's Lane – Ducie Street Basin SBI, and Ashton Canal (West) SBI, both of which lie 1.5 kilometres to the east of the sites.
- 3.1.4 The presence of locally designated sites within 2 kilometres of the sites is considered further at **Section 4.1**, below.

### **Main River Designation**

- 3.1.5 Both sites lie adjacent to the River Irwell. The section of the River Irwell which lies adjacent to the sites is not identified as a main river on the Environment Agency Main River Map (Environment Agency, 2018).

### **Priority Habitats Inventory**

- 3.1.6 The Priority Habitats Inventory<sup>1</sup> was checked via MAGiC Map. No Priority Habitats are listed for the sites or the area directly adjacent to the sites on the Priority Habitats Inventory.

### **Ancient Tree Inventory**

- 3.1.7 No ancient or veteran trees are identified at the site by the inventory.

## **3.2 Protected and Notable Species 2021**

- 3.2.1 The following records of protected and notable species adjacent to the site boundaries are held by GMEU (2021):

- a. Two records of dunnoek (*Prunella modularis*), a Priority Species;
- b. Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), listed under Schedule 1 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) adjacent to the north-western site boundary (associated with the River Irwell).
- c. *Pipistrelle* species and common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), both European Protected Species and GMBAP Priority species. Two records (one per species) of roosts are noted for the approximate middle of the eastern boundary of Site C. Note that this area currently supports hard standing; no buildings or trees capable of supporting a bat roost are present at this location and it is considered that the records are historic; and
- d. Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) EPS, PS and GMBAP, one record of bat activity adjacent to the north-western site boundary (associated with the River Irwell).

- 3.2.2 Further records of protected and notable species for a 1 kilometre radius of the sites are summarised at **Table 3.1** (2021).

<sup>1</sup> A spatial dataset that describes the geographic extent and location of Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) Section 41 habitats of principal importance.

**Table 3.1: Records of Protected Species Within a 1 Kilometres Radius from the Centre of the Sites (2021)**

| Taxon Group                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Species Name and Designations <sup>1</sup> and Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bird                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p><b>PS</b><br/> Bullfinch (<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>), dunnoek (<i>Prunella modularis</i>), herring gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>), house sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>), lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>), linnet (<i>Linaria cannabina</i>), skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>), song thrush (<i>Turdus philomelos</i>) and starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)</p> <p><b>WCAs1 &amp; GMBAP</b><br/> Black redstart (<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>)</p> <p><b>WCAs1</b><br/> Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>), little ringed plover (<i>Charadrius dubius</i>) and peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Insect                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | PS moth species (unnamed). 5 records, the closest of which is 70 metres north of the site.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Terrestrial mammal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Hedgehog (<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>) PS. One record 875 metres south of the site.</p> <p>Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) EPS, WCAs5 &amp; PS. One record 795 metres north-west of the site.</p> <p>Bat species EPS, WCAs5 &amp; GMBAP. One record of bat activity 800 metres south of the site.</p> <p>Pipistrelle species EPS, WCAs5 &amp; GMBAP. One record of a roost and 4 records of bat activity. The closest roost (apart from the one named above) is 200 metres to the south of the site.</p> <p>Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrelle pipistrelle</i>) WCAs5, PS &amp; GMBAP. 12 records of roosts and 34 records of bat activity. The closest record of a roost (apart from the one named above) is 45 metres north of the site.</p> <p>Soprano pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>) EPS, PS, WCAs5 &amp; GMBAP. One record of a roost and 3 records of bat activity. The closest record of a roost is 45 metres north of the site.</p> <p>Daubenton's bat (<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>) EPS, WCAs5 &amp; GMBAP. One record of a roost 80 metres to the north-east boundary of Site C.</p> <p>Brown long-eared bat (<i>Plecotus auritus</i>) EPS, WCAs5, PS &amp; GMBAP. One record of bat activity 750 metres north-east of the site.</p> |
| <p><sup>1</sup><b>Key to Designation Codes:</b><br/> EPS = European Protected Species under the <i>Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017</i>.<br/> WCAs1 = Species receives full protection under Schedule 1 of the <i>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> (as amended).<br/> WCAs5 = Species receives full protection under Schedule 5 of the <i>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> (as amended).<br/> PS = Priority Species listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006<br/> GMBAP = Species listed on the Great Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

### 3.3 General Description

- 3.1 The approximately 0.89 hectare site (representative of the whole site) is located within an urban area of Manchester. This addendum is applicable to the trees at the site boundary only, the wider site previously comprised hard standing, colonising ruderal herbs and localised area of unmanaged grassland and tall-herb vegetation and scrub vegetation, young trees, scrub and tall-herb vegetation. The site now supports an active construction site. The site lies adjacent to the River Irwell at the western boundary, and is otherwise surrounded by roads, hard standing and active construction site at each boundary.

### 3.4 Trees Scheduled for Removal

- 3.4.1 A total of 10 trees are scheduled for removal. All trees are located at the western boundary of Site D and are associated with the retaining wall of the River Irwell. As such the growth of the trees has been restricted and are all graded as category C (trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 15mm).

- 3.4.2 The trees comprise Maple species (*Acer* sp.), Cherry species (*Prunus* sp.), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Common Whitebeam (*Sorbus anglica*) and Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*).

### 3.5 Invasive Plant Species

- 3.5.1 No Japanese Knotweed is present at the site.
- 3.5.2 As illustrated on **Figure 2**, stands of Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) were detected at the area where trees are scheduled for removal. This species is listed on Schedule 9 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended); it is an offence to spread or cause its spread in the wild. This is considered further at **Section 4.3**.

### 3.6 Animal Life

#### Bat Species

##### *Daytime Survey: Trees*

- 3.6.1 No trees support any features suitable for use by roosting bats. All trees at the site are categorised as 'none' suitability for use by roosting bats. No further survey or assessment is required.

##### *Habitat Assessment for Commuting and Foraging Bats*

- 3.6.2 The habitats within the sites are of poor suitability for use by foraging or commuting bats. The hard standing habitats will support no invertebrate prey.
- 3.6.3 The River Irwell is suitable for use by both foraging and commuting bats, and may act as a wildlife corridor for bats through the surrounding urban landscape. This is considered further at **Section 5.4**, below.

#### *Bird Species*

- 3.6.4 No birds were detected in the site on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024.
- 3.6.5 No active nests or bird activity to indicate the presence of an active nest was detected at the site.
- 3.6.6 The trees and scrub at the site boundary are suitable for use by nesting passerine (i.e. perching) species. This is considered further at **Section 4.4**.

## 4.0 EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

### 4.1 Introduction and Description of Proposals

- 4.1.1 10 trees are scheduled for removal at the western boundary of the site, the wider site supports an active construction site. In accordance with *4029 Trinity NMA - Landscape Items.pdf* (TPM Landscape Ltd, 2024) 10 replacement trees will be incorporated into the landscaping scheme.
- 4.1.2 **Section 4.2** provides an assessment of any impacts of the proposed development on the designated sites for nature conservation present in the wider area. The ecological value of habitats within the site is evaluated at **Section 4.3**, and protected and notable species are considered at **Section 4.4**.

## 4.2 Designated Sites for Nature Conservation

- 4.2.1 Provided the measures to protect the River Irwell outlined at **Section 5.2** are adhered to it is considered reasonably unlikely that the proposed tree removal at the site will have any effect on designated sites for nature conservation present in the wider area.

## 4.3 Vegetation and Habitats

- 4.3.1 The sites contain only common and widespread plant species. None of the habitats within the sites are of significant interest in terms of their plant species composition. None of the habitats present are representative of semi-natural habitat. The NVC communities present are typical of the geographical area and conditions present. No Priority Habitats are present.
- 4.3.2 The River Irwell adjacent to the western boundaries of the sites is of importance in terms of its suitability for use as a wildlife corridor; recommendations to protect River Irwell and maintain its value as a wildlife corridor are presented at **Section 5.2**.
- 4.3.3 Giant Hogweed, an invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended), was detected at the site boundary associated within the proposed tree removal. It is an offence to cause the spread of this species in the wild. The proposed development of the sites represents an opportunity to control the spread of this species; guidance on the control and management of this species is described at **Section 5.3**.

## 4.4 Protected Species and Other Wildlife

- 4.4.1 No protected or notable animal species were detected within the sites. The young trees and shrubs at the boundaries of the sites are suitable for use by nesting birds, otherwise neither site supports any habitats suitable for use by protected species. Measures for the protection of nesting birds are presented at **Section 5.5**.

## 5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS AND ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 These recommendations aim to ensure that the development is implemented in accordance with relevant wildlife legislation, Natural England guidance, the principles of the NPPF, local planning policy and best practice.
- 5.1.2 In accordance with Chapter 15, paragraph 186(d) of the NPPF:
- ‘opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate’.*
- 5.1.3 Where possible, opportunities to enhance the ecological interest and habitat connectivity and seek biodiversity gain through appropriate landscape planting and habitat creation have been identified.
- 5.1.4 All recommendations are appropriate to the geographical area, the habitats in the wider area, the wildlife present in the local area (and likely to use the site post-construction).

- 5.1.5 All recommendations presented at *2020-374 Trinity Islands, Sites C and D, Manchester M5 4XP, Ecological Survey and Assessment* (ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd, 2021) must be adhered to. The recommendations presented at **Sections 5.2 to 5.4** of this addendum are in addition to the existing recommendations.

## **5.2 Protection of Existing Vegetation and Recommendations in Relation to Site Layouts**

### **Protection of River Irwell**

- 5.2.1 The guidance presented at *Pollution prevention for businesses* (Defra and the Environment Agency, 2023) will be adhered to at any works near the River Irwell. Appropriate measures must be adopted to ensure the protection of the watercourse for the following:
- a. Activities which involve pollution substances;
  - b. Activities which produce contaminated water;
  - c. Activities which use drains;
  - d. Storage of materials, products and waste;
  - e. Unloading and moving of potential pollutants;
  - f. Construction, inspection and maintenance activities near watercourses; and
  - g. Works in, over or near a river, stream, lake or pond.
- 5.2.2 It is recommended that a pollution incident response plan is prepared prior to the commencement of works, and an environmental management system (EMS) is prepared to help avoid pollution and act to ensure appropriate actions are taken if an incident occurs.

## **5.3 Invasive Plant Species**

- 5.3.1 It is an offence under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) to cause the spread of Giant Hogweed in the wild.
- 5.3.2 It is recommended that a specialist contractor is employed for the eradication of Giant Hogweed, and that this is completed under a suitable Invasive Species Management Plan.

## **5.4 Birds**

### **Protection**

- 5.4.1 All wild birds are protected under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) while they are breeding. Any works such as vegetation clearance that will affect habitats suitable for use by nesting birds are scheduled to commence outside the bird nesting season. Commencement of works in the nesting season must be informed by a pre-works nesting bird survey, carried out by a suitably experienced ecologist. The bird breeding season typically extends between March to August inclusive.
- 5.4.2 If breeding birds are detected the ecologist will issue guidance in relation to the protection of the nesting birds in conjunction with the scheduled works. This may involve cordoning off an area of the site until the young birds have fledged.

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## 6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 This ecological assessment has demonstrated that tree removal works at the site are feasible and acceptable in accordance with ecological considerations and the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 6.2 In accordance with *4029 Trinity NMA - Landscape Items.pdf* (TPM Landscape Ltd, 2024) 10 replacement trees will be incorporated into the landscaping scheme.
- 6.3 It is possible to implement reasonable actions for the protection and long-term conservation of fauna such as commuting/foraging bats and birds associated with the habitats surrounding the sites.

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## 8.0 APPENDIX 1: TABLES & FIGURES

### 8.1 Photographs

**Table 8.1: Photographs**



**Photo 1:** Trees at western boundary



**Photo 2:** Trees at western boundary



**Photo 3:** Trees at western boundary



**Photo 4:** Trees at western boundary

## 8.2 Figures

**Figure 1:** Aerial to Show Site C and Site D and the Surroundings

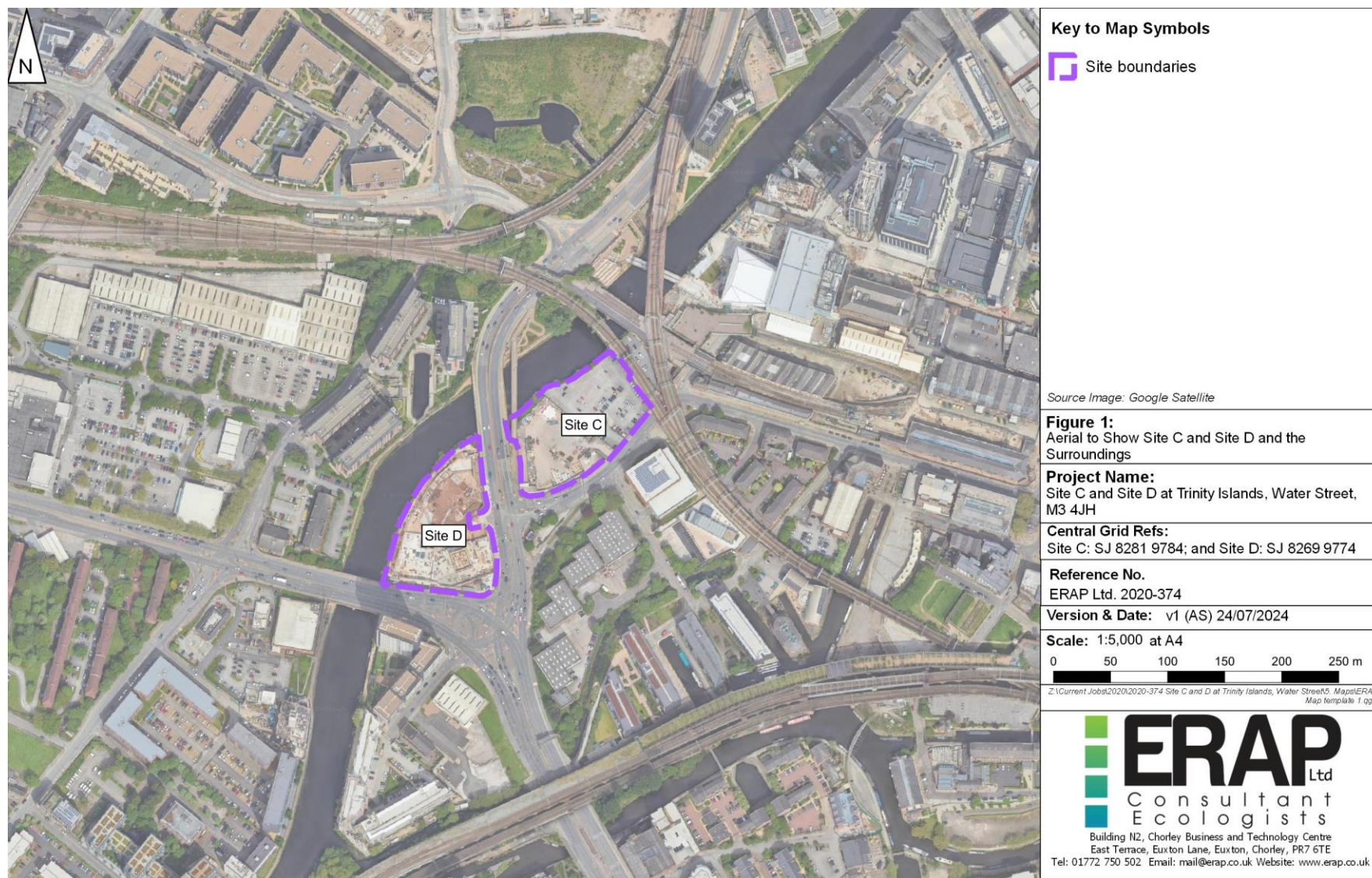


**Figure 2: Phase 1 Habitat and Vegetation Map**

