

ATKINS

Member of the SNC-Lavalin Group

Whitemoss Road and Dam Head Drive

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report

Guinness Partnerships

December 2021



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This document does not purport to provide legal advice.

This document has 41 pages including the cover.

Due to the potential presence of protected species on site, this is a redacted version of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report. A full, unredacted and confidential version of the report will be submitted directly to Manchester City Council.

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Summary

Report purpose	The aims of this report are to: Identify key ecological constraints to the development; Identify if additional ecological surveys are required to inform an ecological impact assessment; and Identify avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures.
Proposed Scheme	The Proposed Scheme is for the construction of approximately 30 affordable homes, including 12 three bed properties and 18 two bed properties.
Desk studies and field surveys	• A walkover survey of accessible land within and adjacent to the Site on 4th November 2021; and • A desk-study was undertaken on 5th November 2021.
Ecological features	Baileys Wood Site of Biological Importance is present approximately 35 m south of the Site. Deciduous woodland habitat of principal importance is present directly to the southeast of the Site. Semi-natural ancient woodland is present 35m from the Site (within Baileys Wood Site of Biological Importance Habitats within and surrounding the Site are suitable for bats, great crested newts, badger, nesting birds, reptiles, priority invertebrates and otter. Invasive non-native plant species (INNPS) montbretia, wall cotoneaster and Himalayan cotoneaster are present within the Site.
Avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures	Works should be carried out under a Precautionary Method of Working (PMW) for reptiles. If vegetation clearance between 1st March and 31st August cannot be avoided, works should be carried out under a PMW for nesting birds. Existing habitats such as hedgerow, trees and scrub will be retained as far as practicable to avoid and reduce loss and severance of habitats. If this is not possible habitat lost should be mitigated via landscaping design. Retained trees will be protected in line with guidelines provided in BS 5837 Trees in relation to construction¹. Any excavations during construction should be covered overnight or provided with a ramp to prevent entrapment of badger or other mammals. The lighting design throughout construction and operation of the Proposed Scheme should be designed to be sensitive to bats and crepuscular species, avoiding important commuting and foraging routes such as the nearby woodland, wherever possible. Government regulatory information², Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPPs)³ and Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) guidance on the control of water pollution from construction sites⁴ should be followed. Advice should be sought from a specialist contractor regarding INNS plants. The Proposed Scheme should achieve 10% Biodiversity Net Gain, as per local planning policy.

¹ British Standards, “BS5837:2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. Recommendations,” 2012.

² Regulatory guidance for England can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pollution-prevention-for-businesses>

³**Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPPs).** GPPs provide environmental good practice guidance for the whole UK. <http://www.netregs.org.uk/environmental-topics/pollution-prevention-guidelines-ppgs-and-replacement-series/guidance-for-pollution-prevention-gpps-full-list/>

⁴The CIRIA documents are a series of publications developed by the Construction Industry Research and Information Association. Each document is targeted at a particular type of business or activity and covers environmental good practice to minimise pollution. Particular attention should be given to CIRIA C532 (Control of water pollution from construction sites, 2001). The CIRIA publications also make reference to environmental legal obligations and are available from: http://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/Resources/Resource_overview/Resources/Resources_overview.aspx?hkey=a80608d2-a045-4d72-8bb9-5ecf23f8d761“

Recommendations for further survey	A Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment (PBRA) should be carried out on buildings and trees within 30 m of the Site. Following this assessment, further surveys may be required dependant on the nature of the works. An otter survey is recommended for all watercourses within 250m of the Site, upstream and downstream. A detailed badger survey is recommended to be carried out within suitable habitats within 30 m of the Site. Ancient semi-natural woodland or lowland deciduous woodland habitat of principal importance should be subject to specialist botanical surveys and the Local Planning Authority should be contacted regarding impacts on the Baileys Wood SBI. The Proposed Scheme should achieve 10% Biodiversity Net Gain, as per local planning policy, this assessment should be carried out following a suitable metric.
Opportunities for biodiversity enhancements	Opportunities to include bat boxes or bricks as well as bird boxes or swift bricks within the Proposed Scheme design should be investigated. Opportunities to incorporate green roofs or walls on any newly created structures, or to retrospectively fit them on existing structures should be considered. The landscape and planting design of the Proposed Scheme is recommended to include native species that are beneficial to biodiversity

Report Validity

In the event of scope or programme changes or if works do not commence within 12 months of the date of this report then updates to the surveys may be required to ensure the validity of the data, as per CIEEM guidance⁵.

1. Introduction

Terms of Reference

- 1.1.
- Atkins, member of the SNC-Lavalin group, was commissioned by Guinness Partnerships to undertake a preliminary ecological appraisal (PEA) in connection with the proposed construction of 30 affordable homes at the Whitemoss Road and Dam Head Drive site (hereafter referred to as the Proposed Scheme). The Proposed Scheme is near M9 6DA in Greater Manchester, as shown on in the Scheme Drawing in Appendix A (hereafter referred to as the Site).
- 1.2.
- This report has been undertaken with reference to current good practice⁶ and provides an initial appraisal of any likely ecological constraints upon designated sites, protected species and other Important Ecological Features (IEFs).
- 1.3.
- Following the principles of the mitigation hierarchy and British Standard (BS) 42020:2013⁷, this report also identifies the need for measures to avoid, mitigate or compensate for damage and disturbance to habitats and species. Opportunities to provide biodiversity enhancements in accordance with local, regional and national biodiversity planning strategies are also identified where appropriate. Furthermore, this report also acts to identify recommendations for further ecological surveys that may be required to establish the presence or likely absence of ecological features within and adjoining the Proposed Scheme.
- 1.4.
- This report is intended to inform design development, site layout and/or site investigations. In addition, it provides the indicative scope for further ecological surveys and/or ecological impact assessment required in connection with a planning application or to contribute to an Environmental Impact Assessment.

The Site

- 1.5.
- The Site is located at Ordnance Survey national grid reference (OSGR) SD 8645 0341 in Greater Manchester (M9 6DA). The Site is located within a residential area, residential housing is present

⁵ CIEEM (2019) Advice Note on the Lifespan of Ecological Reports and Surveys
⁶ CIEEM (2017) Guidelines for preliminary ecological appraisal. 2nd Edition.
⁷ British Standard (2013) BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity - code of practice for planning and development

to the north, west and east of the Site. To the south of the Site is deciduous woodland and ancient semi-natural woodland.

- 1.6. The Site is approximately 1.1 ha in extent and features poor semi-improved grassland as the main habitat type, this grassland appeared to be managed through regular mowing. There is a small area of unmanaged rank poor semi-improved grassland in the south eastern part of the Site. Dense scrub, scattered scrub, hardstanding (footpaths) and woodland are present within the Site.

The Scheme

- 1.7. Specific details of the Proposed Scheme are yet to be confirmed, including site compounds, access routes and the timing of the works. When details of the Proposed Scheme are available, this PEA may need to be updated.
- 1.8. The Proposed Scheme is for the construction of approximately 30 affordable homes, including 12 three bed properties and 18 two bed properties. The Proposed Scheme will result in the loss of poor semi-improved grassland, and small areas of scrub, woodland and semi-mature and mature scattered trees. The details of the Proposed Scheme, as they are currently understood, are shown on the Scheme Drawing in Appendix A.

Scope of the Assessment

- 1.9. This report presents ecological information obtained during the following:
- A desk-study undertaken on 5th November 2021; and
 - A walkover survey of accessible land within and adjacent to the Site on 4th November 2021.
- 1.10. The walkover survey and identification of potential ecological constraints was based on the condition of the Site and its immediate surrounds encountered at the time of the walkover survey, and information about the Proposed Scheme available at the time. If information on the Proposed Scheme should change, the Site may need to be re-visited to establish if there are any further ecological constraints arising from changes to the design.

2. Methods

Desk Study

- 2.1. The geographical area for obtaining ecological data through desk studies has been determined using best practice guidance and professional judgement. Baseline data has been gathered from a range of sources through data requests, consultation, and using online resources as outlined below. This included data gathering in relation to statutory and non-statutory designated sites and protected and priority species and habitats⁸. The study areas used for the data gathering are detailed in Table 2-1. The desk study was undertaken on 5th November 2021. For species records collected, those within 10 years of the data collection date have been considered as ‘recent’ within the assessment.
- 2.2. The following online resources were accessed:
- Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website⁹;
 - The Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory¹⁰;
 - Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) Maps¹¹; and
 - British Geological Society (BGS) Geology of Britain Viewer¹².
- 2.3. Ordnance Survey maps and the Grid Reference Finder website¹³ were used to identify the presence of water bodies within 500 m of the Site boundary, in order to establish if the land within and immediately surrounding the Site could be used as terrestrial habitat for great crested newts. This species typically uses suitable terrestrial habitat up to 500 m from a breeding pond¹⁴. However,

⁸ These are defined in CIEEM (2017) Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal 2nd Edition

⁹ [MAGIC \(defra.gov.uk\)](https://magic.defra.gov.uk/)

¹⁰ [Ancient Tree Inventory - Woodland Trust](https://www.woodlandtrust.co.uk/ancient-tree-inventory/)

¹¹ [BSBI maps](https://www.bsbi.org.uk/maps/)

¹² [Geology of Britain viewer | British Geological Survey \(BGS\)](https://www.bgs.gov.uk/geology-of-britain-viewer/)

¹³ <https://gridreferencefinder.com/>

¹⁴ English Nature (2004). Great Crested Newt Mitigation Licences

there is a notable decrease in great crested newt abundance beyond a distance of 250 m from a breeding pond¹⁵.

- 2.4. Greater Manchester Local Records Centre (GMLRC) was contacted to request records of protected and priority (Section 41¹⁶) species and details of non-statutory designated sites.

Table 2-1 - Data search areas

Data Type	Search area – distance from Proposed Scheme boundary
Statutory designated sites	2 km
Non-statutory designated sites	2 km
Irreplaceable habitats including ancient woodland	1 km
Protected and priority species	2 km

- 2.5. Natural England’s Open Data Geoportal for Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zones (IRZs)¹⁷ was used to identify whether the scheme fell within the IRZ for any relevant SSSIs.
- 2.6. A review of national and local planning policy relevant to the Proposed Scheme was undertaken as part of the data gathering. The following policy documents were subject to review:
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021) National Planning Policy Framework¹⁸;
 - GMCA Biodiversity Net Gain: Guidance for Greater Manchester¹⁹ and
 - Core Strategy 2012-2027, Manchester City Council²⁰

Field Surveys

- 2.7. The geographical area for undertaking ecological field surveys has been determined using the current survey guidance, professional judgement and the Zones of Influence, which have been determined based upon likely effects arising from the Proposed Scheme.

Surveyor Competencies

- 2.8. All the surveys were led by surveyors who have been assessed to be at least of capable experience following the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) competency framework²¹.

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

- 2.9. An ecological walkover survey of areas within and adjacent to the Site, including land up to 50 m from the Site boundary where access was allowed (the Survey Area), was undertaken on 4th November 2021 using the extended Phase 1 habitat survey methodology²² as guidance. The walkover survey recorded information on the habitats within the Survey Area and also included a search for evidence of the presence of, and the potential of each habitat to support, protected and priority species as recommended by CIEEM²³.
- 2.10. All land within and adjacent to the Site up to 50 m from the Site boundary where access was allowed (the Survey Area) was surveyed according to CIEEM guidance. Vascular plant names

¹⁵ English Nature (2004). An assessment of the efficiency of capture techniques and the value of different habitats for the great crested newt (ENRR576) <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/134002>

¹⁶ Section 41 of the natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

¹⁷ [Natural England Open Data \(arcgis.com\)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf)

¹⁸ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf

¹⁹ [gmca-bng-guidance-update_250221-final-edited.pdf \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](https://gmca-bng-guidance-update-250221-final-edited.pdf)

²⁰ https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/200074/planning/6573/core_strategy_2012-2027

²¹ <https://www.cieem.net/competency-framework>

²² Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010) Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey - a technique for environmental audit.

²³ CIEEM (2017) Guidelines for preliminary ecological appraisal. 2nd Edition.

recorded during this survey follows Stace²⁴, whilst nomenclature for lower plants follows Blockeel *et al*²⁵.

- 2.11. This survey method comprised mapping habitats present according to the JNCC Phase 1 habitat survey methodology²², with target notes (TN) used to record specific details on the plant species composition of the habitats, alongside current management and quality where appropriate. TNs were also used to record features of ecological importance (e.g. ponds and complex habitat mosaics). In addition, the survey worked to assess the suitability of identified habitats present for the following species, whilst any evidence of actual presence was noted at the time of the survey (in line with current guidance):
- amphibians (terrestrial and aquatic habitats), including an assessment of aquatic habitat for its suitability to support great crested newts using the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment²⁶
 - bats²⁷;
 - badgers;
 - breeding and wintering birds;
 - reptiles²⁸;
 - priority invertebrates²⁹;
 - plants²⁹
 - fungi²⁹; and
 - other protected and priority species.
- 2.12. Evidence of the presence of the following invasive species was recorded where seen:
- Evidence of animal species as listed on the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019; Chinese mitten crab, red swamp crayfish, signal crayfish, spiny cheek crayfish, muntjac deer, ruddy duck, Egyptian goose and grey squirrel.
 - Evidence of the presence of Invasive Non-Native Plant Species (INNPS). These are listed within Schedule 9 (Part II) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and subject to strict legal control.

Limitations

- 2.13. This section identifies any limitations to the surveys or assessment and provides an explanation as to the perceived effect of these on the appraisal.
- 2.14. Access was restricted in a number of locations across the Survey Area as they were occupied residential properties. These locations are highlighted on the extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan in Appendix B. Where possible habitats in these areas were viewed and assessed from public rights of way. Considering the nature of the habitats present within the Survey Area it is not considered that access limitations provide a significant constraint to the assessment.
- 2.15. The survey was carried out in November, at a time of year when certain botanical species (including some INNPS) are not easily identifiable. Therefore, the presence of INNPS cannot be ruled out. This limitation was further reduced through having a Field Identification Skills Certificate (FISC) botanist accompany lead surveyors at the time of the field survey.
- 2.16. Many cryptic taxa that may constitute IEFs, particularly including apomictic species of plant, invertebrates and fungi, could not be adequately surveyed at the time of the survey. These groups require specialist survey and survey windows are generally highly restrictive, particularly for plants in the genera *Taraxacum*, *Rubus* and *Hieracium*. However, attributable to the nature of the habitats present at the Site and surrounding landscape, this is not considered to be a significant limitation.

²⁴ Stace (2019) New Flora of the British Isles 4th edition

²⁵ Blockeel, T.L, Bell, N.E., Hill, M.O., Hodgetts, N.G., Long, D.G., Pilkington, S.L. & Rothero, G.P. 2020. A new checklist of the bryophytes of Britain and Ireland. Journal of Bryology online, March 2021

²⁶ Oldham R.S., Keeble J., Swan M.J.S. & Jeffcote M. (2000) Evaluating the suitability of habitat for the Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) Herpetological Journal 10 (4), 143-155 (2000).

²⁷ Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edition). The Bat Conservation Trust, London

²⁸ Froglife (1999) Reptile Survey: an introduction to planning, conducting and interpreting surveys for snake and lizard conservation. Froglife advice sheet 10

²⁹ As relevant to the location, identified through the desk study

- 2.17.

The search for waterbodies within 500 m of the Site was undertaken by using Ordnance Survey plans and aerial photographs only. These sources may not show all waterbodies within 500 m of the Site boundary and therefore some water bodies may not have been identified. However, the ecological walkover aimed to identify suitable aquatic and terrestrial habitat for great crested newts within the Survey Area.
- 2.18.

None of the buildings adjacent or near to the Site were subjected to a detailed potential bat roost suitability assessment (PBRA) during the survey visit. It is recommended that a follow up PBRA is performed on each building likely to be affected by the development.
- 2.19.

The desk study reviewed the Woodland Trust Trusts Veteran Trees inventory and MAGIC for records of irreplaceable habitats. This provides records of veteran trees and other irreplaceable habitats but is not an exhaustive list and other veteran trees or irreplaceable habitats may be present in the area. The walkover survey aimed to identify such features and as such this is not considered a constraint.
- 2.20.

GMLRC records are not exhaustive, and the absence of records does not demonstrate the absence of species.
- 2.21.

Ecological surveys are limited by factors which affect the presence of plants and animals such as the time of year, migration patterns, weather and behaviour. The ecological surveys undertaken to support this PEA report have not therefore produced a comprehensive list of plants and animals and the absence of evidence of any particular species should not be taken as conclusive proof that the species is not present or that it will not be present in the future. The above limitation has been addressed through taking the precautionary approach within the appraisal.

3. Results

Statutory and non-Statutory Designated Sites

- 3.1.

Table 3-1 details the statutory and non-statutory designated sites for nature conservation identified though the desk study.

Table 3-1 - Statutory and non-statutory designated sites within 2 km³⁰ of the Site

Site name	Designation	Location of designated site ³¹	Features of interest ³²
Baileys Wood	SBI	35 m south of the Site	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland, with ancient woodland to the east of the Site. Sessile oak is dominant in the canopy. Other habitats present include scrub, acid grassland, species poor neutral grassland, running water and marshy grassland. This is a grade C SBI.
Boggart Hole Clough	Local Nature Reserve (LNR) (Statutory)	0.3 km south of the Site	This site represents the largest woodland clough in Manchester, part of this woodland is ancient woodland.
Boggart Hole Clough	Site of Biological Importance (SBI) (Non-statutory)	0.3 km south of the Site	This site represents the largest woodland clough in Manchester, part of this

³⁰ This is the zone of influence for designated sites.

³¹ Where designated sites are situated outside of the Site boundary, the distance and direction is given to the closest point that the designated site is from the Site.

³² including qualifying features of internationally designated sites and reasons for designation for SSSIs

			woodland is ancient woodland.
Alkrington Woods	LNR (Statutory)	0.9 km north of the Site	An area of woodland, grassland, marsh and standing water with amenity areas.
Boardman Brook	SBI	0.9 km north of the Site	A brook running through deciduous woodland, located directly adjacent to Alkrington Woods.
Alkrington Woods and Rhodes Lodges	SBI	0.9 km north of the Site	An area of woodland, grassland, marsh and standing water with amenity areas.
Blackley Forest	LNR (Statutory)	1.7 km south of the Site	Forest and grassland make up the majority of the reserve, the River Irk flows through the park.

- 3.2. The Site falls into the Rochdale Canal Site of Special Scientific Impact Risk Zone (SSSI IRZ). This is also designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The SSSI contains important habitats for submerged aquatic plants and emergent vegetation associated with oligotrophic to mesotrophic waters, including an internationally important population of floating water-plantain (*Luronium natans*). Floating water-plantain is a European Protected Species listed under Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and is listed as a primary reason for the selection of the site as an SAC. The site also supports diverse aquatic flora including several pondweeds, such as nationally rare American pondweed (*Potamogeton epihydrus*) and county-rare blunt-leaved pondweed (*P. obtusifolius*). The Rochdale Canal SSSI is over 2 km from the Site. The Proposed Scheme does not fall into a IRZ category which would pose a risk to the Rochdale Canal SSSI. In addition, there is no hydrological connectivity between the Site and the SSSI. Given the absence of hydrological connectivity and distance from the Site it is considered unlikely that floating-water plantain (Annex II species listed as a reason for designation of the site) or other aquatic species would be impacted by the works. Therefore, the Rochdale Canal SSSI and SAC are not considered further in this report.
- 3.3. Boggart Hole Clough LNR and SBI, Alkrington Woods LNR, Blackley forest LNR, Boardman Brook SBI, and Alkrington Wood and Rhodes Lodgers SBI are unlikely to pose a constraint to the works. There is no downstream hydrological connectivity between the Site and these designated sites. Given the absence of pollution pathways and the distance of these designated sites from the Site, these designated sites are not considered further in this report.
- 3.4. Given its proximity to the Site, the Proposed Scheme may impact Baileys Wood SBI from pollution during the construction phase and increased recreational pressure during operation of the Proposed Scheme. Therefore, recommendations are provided in Section 4. The location of Baileys Wood SBI is indicated in the Priority Habitat and SBI Plan in Appendix B.

Irreplaceable Habitats

- 3.5. Two areas of ancient semi-natural woodland were identified from MAGIC. The closest was located 35 m south of the Site, and forms part of a larger area of woodland which is listed as deciduous woodland on MAGIC, this area of woodland is located within Baileys Wood SBI. The second is within Boggart Hole Clough LNR and is located approximately 0.5 km from the Site. The location of this woodland is indicated on the Priority Habitats Plan in Appendix B. Given the proximity of ancient woodland to the Site, ancient woodland may be impacted by the works from pollution and increased recreational disturbance. This may lead to the decline of semi-natural ancient woodland and recommendations are provided below.
- 3.6. There were no veteran trees within 1 km of the Site on the Woodland Trust Tree Inventory, and none were identified during the extended Phase 1 habitat survey. A single notable tree was identified on the Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory, this is a hybrid black poplar (tree ID 204047) and is located 0.9 km southwest of the Site. This tree is considered unlikely to be impacted by the Proposed Scheme. There is no downstream hydrological connectivity to the Site, and large

residential areas are present between the Site and the notable tree. Therefore, veteran or notable trees are not considered further in this assessment.

3.7. No other irreplaceable habitats (such as blanket bog, limestone pavement, sand dunes, salt marsh and lowland fen³³) were identified within 1 km of the Site through the desk study.

Habitats

3.8. The Site predominately consists of poor semi-improved grassland, much of this grassland area is regularly mown although in the eastern section of the Site some areas of grassland appear to be less frequently cut with ranker areas evident. There are small areas of woodland, dense and scattered scrub and lines of trees within the Site and the wider Survey Area. The wider area includes residential housing and gardens, with woodland (including ancient semi-natural woodland) to the east and south of the Survey Area.

3.9. The table below lists all of the priority habitats within 1 km of the Site.

Table 3-2 – Priority habitat types within 1 km of the Site

Habitat Type	Location of habitat
Deciduous woodland (considered likely to be Lowland mixed deciduous woodland habitat of principal importance although detailed surveys have not been carried out)	Fourteen parcels within 1 km. The closest parcel is located immediately adjacent to the southeast of the Site, within approximately 5 m of the Site boundary.
Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land	Two parcels within 1 km. The closest parcel is located approximately 550 m east of the Site.

3.10. Given the proximity of the lowland mixed deciduous woodland habitat of principal importance to the Site this habitat may pose a constraint to the Proposed works, this habitat may be impacted by pollution and increased recreational pressures. Recommendations are provided below.

3.11. Table 3-4 lists all of the habitats present within the Survey Area and identifies those habitats which are listed as Habitats of Principal Importance³⁴. The table also provides details of the area³⁵ of each habitat within the Survey Area and the proportion of the Site this makes up. Habitats are mapped on the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan. Target notes are listed below in Tale 3-5.

Table 3-3 - Habitat types within the Site

Habitat Type	Area of habitat/ distance of linear feature	
	Ha/M	% of Site
Poor semi-improved grassland	1.19 ha	96%
Dense scrub	0.05 ha	1%
Scattered scrub	0.04 ha	1%
Broadleaved woodland	0.82 ha	1%

³³ [National Planning Policy Framework \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/national-planning-policy-framework)

³⁴ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5706>

³⁵ Measurements were taken in QGIS.

Habitat Type	Area of habitat/ distance of linear feature	
	Ha/M	% of Site
Line of trees	40 m	N/A
Scattered trees	0.03 ha	<1%
Hardstanding	0.2 ha	<1%

- 3.12. The woodland present adjacent to the Site is identified as deciduous woodland priority habitat on MAGIC, however, no further details of the type of deciduous woodland priority habitat are provided and the overall confidence of the habitat classification is low. This is likely to qualify as lowland mixed deciduous woodland habitat of principal importance, however, no detailed botanical survey has been carried out. This woodland has direct connectivity to semi-natural ancient woodland which is located 35 m from the Site. As priority habitat is likely to be present directly adjacent to the Site this habitat may be impacted by the works by pollution and increased residential pressure as a result of the Proposed Scheme and recommendations are provided below.

Protected and Priority Species

- 3.13. Evidence of protected and priority species, or habitats with the potential to support protected and priority species are indicated on the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan in Appendix B, with specific features highlighted by TNs on the map. TN descriptions are provided in Appendix B. Details of legislation relating to protected species is provided in Appendix C. A table details plant species found within the Survey Area is provided in Appendix D.

Amphibians

- 3.14. GMLRC provided no records of great crested newts within 2 km of the Site.
- 3.15. No ponds or other areas of standing water were identified on OS maps within 500 m of the Site. No European Protected Species (EPS) licences for GCN were identified on MAGIC within 2 km of the Site.
- 3.16. The poor semi-improved grassland has limited suitability for GCN as it is mown short and regularly managed. A small area of rank grassland, small areas of scrub and woodland within the Site and Survey Area provides suitable terrestrial habitat for GCN and other amphibians.
- 3.17. Standing water located outside of the Site, approximately 60 m from the Site boundary was subject to a Habitat Suitability Index Assessment (HSI) the waterbody came out with a score of 0.54, which indicated below average suitability for use by great crested newts. Given the absence of other waterbodies within 500 m of the Site, the poor quality of the standing water within the woodland for great crested newts and the limited suitable habitat within the Site great crested newts are considered unlikely to pose a constraint to the assessment and are not considered further in this report.

Bats

- 3.18. GMLRC provided 37 records of bats within 2 km of the Site. Species include common pipistrelle, Daubentons bat, unknown myotis species and unknown pipistrelle species. The closest record was approximately 335 m north of the Site, this record was of four bats (unknown species identity or activity).
- 3.19. Two trees at TN3, and buildings at TN6 and TN7 had suitability for use by roosting bats. These are detailed in Appendix B. It is possible that more buildings and trees within the Survey Area have suitability for roosting bats, however, a detailed Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment (PBRA) was not carried out.
- 3.20. The habitats within the Site consist primarily of poor semi-improved grassland, with some scattered trees, dense scrub and scattered scrub. The Site is bordered by woodland to the east and southeast, and residential housing and gardens to the north, south and west. The Site itself is

considered to have low suitability for foraging and commuting bats given the absence of linear features such as watercourses and poor connectivity to the wider landscape.

- 3.21. As suitable roosting, foraging and commuting habitat for bats has been recorded within the Survey Area this species group may pose a constraint to the Proposed Scheme and recommendations are provided in Section 4.

Badgers

- 3.22. GMLRC provided two records of badgers within 2 km of the Site. Details pertaining to badger setts locations have been removed for reports within the public realm. For information relating to presence of badger setts, refer to the full confidential report.
- 3.23. No evidence of badgers was recorded during the extended Phase 1 habitat survey. The Site consists of predominantly poor semi-improved grassland that is regularly managed by mowing. However, there are areas of scrub and woodland within the south-eastern section of the Site and directly adjacent to the Site which are suitable for foraging and commuting badger, and sett building. Woodland adjacent to the Site has connectivity to suitable habitats for badger in the wider area, including ancient semi-natural woodland.
- 3.24. As suitable habitat for badger has been recorded within the Survey Area this species may pose a constraint to the Proposed Scheme and recommendations are provided in Section 4.

Birds

- 3.25. GMLRC provided 163 records of birds within 2 km of the Site. The closest record was of a dunnoek at approximately 25 m south of the Site. Records of peregrine , kingfisher , dunnoek, song thrush, lapwing and yellow wagtail were also returned.
- 3.26. Habitats within the Site include poor semi-improved grassland, scattered trees, and scrub which do not provide suitable habitat for kingfisher or peregrine, which are Schedule 1 species of bird, was seen within the Site or wider Survey Area. However, these habitats do provide suitable tree/shrub nesting habitat for common species of nesting bird. The area of rank grassland within the Site may provide suitable habitat for some ground nesting species.
- 3.27. As suitable nesting habitat for birds has been recorded within the Site and wider Survey Area, this nesting birds may pose a constraint to the Proposed Scheme and recommendations are provided in Section 4.

Reptiles

- 3.28. GMLRC provided no records of reptiles within 2 km of the Site.
- 3.29. The poor semi-improved grassland which makes up the majority of the Site is managed through mowing on a regular basis. This grassland lacks suitable basking areas and refuges for reptiles. However, dense scrub, scattered scrub and woodland within and adjacent to the Site provides suitable habitat for widespread reptile species (common lizards, grass snakes, slow worms and adders).
- 3.30. As suitable habitat for widespread reptile species has been recorded within the study area, widespread reptile species may pose a constraint to the Proposed Scheme and recommendations are provided in Section 4.

Priority Invertebrates

- 3.31. GMLRC provided five records of priority invertebrates within 2 km of the Site. The closest record was of a bordered gothic moth located approximately 750 m south of the Site. The other records were of white letter hairstreak, ghost moth and shaded broad-bar.
- 3.32. Habitats within the Site which may be impacted by the works by clearance, including trees and scrub, may provide suitable habitat for priority invertebrates, particularly including habitat mosaics to the east which include transitions between short and rank grassland, scrub and woodland.

As suitable habitat for priority invertebrates has been recorded within the Survey Area these may pose a constraint to the Proposed Scheme and recommendations are provided in Section 4.

Otters

- 3.33. GMLRC provided no records of otters within 2 km of the Site.

- 3.34. No watercourses or waterbodies which may be used by otters were identified within the Survey Area. However, a series of watercourses were identified on OS maps approximately 75 m southeast of the Site. These watercourses are located within ancient woodland. There is potential for foraging and commuting otter to be using these watercourses, and resting sites (including holts) may be present.
- 3.35. As suitable habitat for otters has been recorded in the desk study, this species may pose a constraint to the Proposed Scheme and recommendations are provided in Section 4.

Water voles

- 3.36. GMLRC provided no records of water voles within 2 km of the Site.
- 3.37. No watercourses or waterbodies suitable for water vole were present in the Survey Area. The closest waterbodies visible on OS maps are approximately 75 m away from the Site. Given the absence of suitable habitat for water vole within the Survey Area, this species is not discussed further in this report and is not considered to pose a constraint to the Proposed Scheme.

White-clawed crayfish

- 3.38. GMLRC provided no records of white-clawed crayfish within 2 km of the Site.
- 3.39. There are no watercourses within the Survey Area, the closest watercourses visible on OS maps are approximately 75 m from the Site and will not be impacted by the works. As no suitable habitat for crayfish has been recorded within the study area, this species is not discussed further within this report as it is not considered to pose a constraint to the Proposed Scheme.

Other Notable Species

- 3.40. GMLRC returned 23 records of hedgehogs within 2 km of the Site. The closest record is approximately 70 m west of the Site. No records of other priority species were returned.
- 3.41. The habitats within the Site are suitable for hibernating, foraging and commuting hedgehog, including scrub and woodland. Given they are surrounded by gardens and woodland in present in the surrounding area and the number of records received hedgehogs are likely to be present within the Site. Hedgehogs may pose a constraint to the Proposed Scheme and recommendations are provided in Section 4.

Fungi

- 3.42. GMLRC provided no recent records of priority or specially protected fungi within a 2km radius of the Site.
- 3.43. The habitats within the Site or the Survey Area are unlikely to support significant fungal assemblages given the location, character and overall quality of habitats present across the Site.
- 3.44. As no suitable habitat for significant fungal assemblages has been recorded within the study area, they are not discussed further within this report as it is not considered to pose a constraint to the Proposed Scheme.

Plants

- 3.45. GMLRC returned no records of INNPS or priority plants within 2 km of the Site.
- 3.46. The field survey identified stands of the INNPS wall cotoneaster, Montbretia and Himalayan cotoneaster within the Site, these are located at TN10, TN4 and TN5 respectively. No protected or priority plants were identified within the Survey Area.
- 3.47. As INNPS are located within the Site, these species pose a constraint to the Proposed Scheme, and recommendations are provided in Section 4.

4. Constraints and Recommendations

Key Constraints

- 4.1. The habitats identified during the extended Phase 1 habitat survey and desk study are suitable for the following species/species groups:

Bats

- 4.2. Habitats within the Site offer low suitability for foraging and commuting bats and habitats immediately adjacent to the Site offer suitability for foraging, commuting and roosting bats. The current proposal includes construction of a new housing estate which is to involve removal of any trees on Site, building works which may involve heavy machinery and new lighting. All of these could result in disturbance to bat roosts within nearby buildings and loss of low suitability foraging habitat.

Badgers

- 4.3. Although there was no evidence of badgers setts present on Site, the woodland directly adjacent to Site provides habitat suitable for foraging and sett creation. Badgers are a highly mobile species and can move into an area rapidly (including sett creation). Movement of construction vehicles could result in disturbance, damage or destruction to badger setts potentially also causing disturbance or death of badgers.

Nesting birds

- 4.4. The scattered trees and scrub on Site are considered to have potential for common and widespread species of tree-nesting bird. Felling of these trees within the nesting season (1st March to 31st August) could result in the damage and/or destruction to active nests.

Reptiles

- 4.5. Scrub, woodland and rank grassland within the Site provide suitable foraging habitat, commuting habitat and shelter to widespread species of reptiles. Clearance of this habitat or movement of machinery through this habitat may result in the killing and injury of reptiles.

Priority invertebrates

- 4.6. Habitat mosaics within the Site may be suitable for priority invertebrates, these habitats will be lost as a result of the works which may impact priority invertebrates by habitat loss.

Otter

- 4.7. No watercourses will be directly impacted by the works. However, watercourses within 250 m of the Site may be suitable for use by otter including for natal holts. The Proposed Scheme include the construction of 30 new houses which will require the use of heavy machinery and may cause disturbance to otters in the area via noise and vibration.

Hedgehogs

- 4.8. Habitats within the Site and within the Survey Area offer suitability for foraging hedgehogs. Habitat within the Survey Area (ie. Scrub and woodland) also offer suitability for hibernating hedgehog. Small amounts of woodland and scrub is anticipated to be removed at the Site, which could result in disturbance or harm to hedgehogs that may be occupying that space

Plants

- 4.9. Invasive non-native species, montbretia, wall cotoneaster and Himalayan cotoneaster, were identified at the Site. The Proposed Scheme, including vegetation clearance and excavation, have the potential to lead to the spread of these species.

Priority Habitats, Ancient woodland and Non-Statutory Designated Sites

- 4.10. Lowland deciduous woodland habitat of principal importance is present directly adjacent to the Site, and ancient semi-natural woodland is present 35 m south of the Site, within Baileys Wood SBI. These habitats may qualify for a.41 and/ or Annex I status. The Proposed Scheme may result in impacts to these features from pollution or increased recreational pressures.

Further Survey Requirements or Actions

Badgers

- 4.11. A detailed survey for badgers should be carried out of the woodland within 30 m of the Site to survey for badger setts which may be impacted by the works. This survey can be carried out at any time of year but will ideally be carried out between November and March when the vegetation is less dense, and access to the woodland is easier and setts or other evidence will be more visible.

Bats

- 4.12. A PBRA should be carried out of all buildings and trees within 30 m of the Site, in line with The Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) Good Practice Guidelines³⁶. Following the PBRA survey, additional bat surveys of trees and buildings that will be impacted by the works may be required, in line with good practice guidance. Further bat activity surveys as detailed under BCT guidelines are not considered appropriate due to the nature of the Site, which is located in a heavily built-up area with high levels of lighting and noise disturbance from the residential properties already present. Precautionary mitigation and enhancement outlined below will assume that a low number of common bat species use the Site for foraging and commuting.

Otters

- 4.13. A single survey of all watercourses within 250 m of the Site (upstream and downstream) should be carried out in order to identify the presence/ likely absence of resting sites. This survey can be carried out at any time of year but will ideally be carried out between November and March when the vegetation will be at a lower density and access to the watercourse will less restricted. This survey should be carried out under optimal weather conditions³⁷.

Ancient Woodland and Non-Statutory Designated Sites

- 4.14. The construction of 30 dwellings is likely to have multiple impacts upon areas of nearby important habitats and Baileys Wood SBI, including areas of ancient semi-natural woodland, namely through pollution and increased disturbance as a result of increased recreational pressure. Therefore, further botanical surveys are recommended to inform the current condition of areas of woodland which may then feed into a wider mitigation. The Local Planning Authority should be contacted with regard to potential impacts on Baileys Wood SBI non-statutory designated site.

Biodiversity Net Gain

- 4.15. The Environment Act 2021³⁸ recently received Royal Assent passing the Act into active legislation, mandating the achievement of quantifiable biodiversity net gain projects and plans in England. Whilst these provisions are currently in a transitional period, where mandating biodiversity net gain is not mandatory for two years after Royal Assent of the Act, this is superseded where a Local Authority's Local Plan already contains provisions for biodiversity net gain.
- 4.16. GMCA Biodiversity Net Gain guidance³⁹ states that 'For developments in Greater Manchester, the minimum level of Biodiversity Net Gain is considered to be achieved when the biodiversity units for the habitats (for example, area based habitats, rivers and/or hedges) impacted by the development is increased by 10% or more after the development. This means delivering 10% gain for area base habitats and 10% net gain for hedges and 10% for rivers if any of these habitats are present on the site.' Relevant staff at the local planning authority and Greater Manchester Ecology Unit should be contacted for guidance if needed. The biodiversity net gain assessment should follow methods set out in a suitable metric, such as Biodiversity Metric 3.0⁴⁰.

³⁶ [Bat Survey Guidelines 2015](#)

³⁷ Otter surveys must not be undertaken during spate conditions or following periods of heavy rain, as evidence can be washed away.

³⁸ [Environment Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

³⁹ [gmca-bng-guidance-update_250221-final-edited.pdf \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](#)

⁴⁰ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6049804846366720>

Mitigation

- 4.17. Mitigation in relation to otters, badgers, bats, ancient semi-natural woodland and non-statutory designated sites would be determined once the required surveys as detailed above have been carried out.

General

- 4.18. It is recommended that all works adhere to the Guidance on Pollution Prevention (GPP)⁴¹ and the Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) C715 Environmental good practice on site handbook⁴².
- 4.19. Any excavations should be covered overnight to prevent mammals falling in. Where pits and trenches cannot be closed or filled on a nightly basis, ensure that a plank is placed into the excavation so an animal can use this as a means to escape if necessary. All excavations should be checked for animals the following morning before proceeding with works. If an animal is found, the animal should not be touched, and an ecologist should be contacted for further advice on how to proceed .
- 4.20. Contractors should ensure all rubbish and construction materials are collected and removed from Site on a regular basis to prevent trapping or injury to mammals.
- 4.21. If any protected species or evidence of legally protected species, or any INNPS, are unexpectedly encountered at any point during the works, all works should cease, and an ecologist should be contacted for further advice on how to proceed.
- 4.22. No night-time working (taken to be 30 minutes prior to sunset until 30 minutes after sunrise) should be undertaken to avoid impacts on nocturnal and crepuscular animals. If night-time working is required, this should be discussed with an ecologist prior to commencement to establish what mitigation measures are required.
- 4.23. Retained trees will be protected in line with guidelines provided in BS 5837 Trees in relation to construction⁴³.
- 4.24. Existing habitats such as hedgerow, trees and scrub will be retained as far as practicable to avoid and reduce loss and severance of habitats. Where possible, access routes and compounds will be restricted to hardstanding. The woodland to the east of the Site should not be subject to clearance if possible. If this is not possible habitat lost should be mitigated via landscaping design.
- 4.25. The lighting design throughout construction and operation of the Proposed Scheme should be designed to be sensitive to bats and other nocturnal/crepuscular species, avoiding important commuting and foraging routes such as the nearby woodland, wherever possible.

Bats

- 4.26. Details of the necessary mitigation required with regard to bats in relation to the Proposed Scheme would be provided following the results of the PBRA and any relevant nocturnal surveys, if necessary (as informed by the PBRA).
- 4.27. If lighting during construction or operation is required, this should be designed in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust lighting guidance⁴⁴. The construction lighting design should take into account the need to avoid illuminating areas where bats may be roosting in locations such as the houses directly adjacent to the Site.
- 4.28. Removal of hedgerows, lines of trees, woodland and areas of scrub should be avoided wherever possible. If this is not possible, landscaping design should include the replacement of these areas of habitat.

Reptiles

- 4.29. Works should be carried out under a Precautionary Method of Working (PMW) for reptiles. This PMW should include pre-works checks and dismantling of any refugia by an ecologist, using a two-stage cut in order to clear vegetation in order to facilitate hand searching by an ecologist and maintaining vegetation at a height less than 50 mm for the duration of the works. This PMW will also

⁴¹ <https://www.netregs.org.uk/media/1418/gpp-5-works-and-maintenance-in-or-near-water.pdf#:~:text=Guidance for Pollution Prevention%28GPP%29 documents are based,will be committing a criminal offence. Following these>

⁴² Environmental Good Practice on Site Guide, CIRIA, Jan 2015, Edition 4

⁴³ British Standards, "BS5837:2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. Recommendations," 2012.

⁴⁴ Bat Conservation Trust (2009) Bats and Lighting in the UK. Bats and the Built Environment Series.

recommend that vegetation clearance and dismantling of refugia is taken outside of the core hibernation period for reptiles, taken to be November to March (inclusive).

Nesting Birds

- 4.30. It is recommended that vegetation clearance is kept to a minimum and is undertaken outside of the core nesting bird season (the core nesting bird season is 1st March and 31st August). If this cannot be achieved, then vegetation clearance should be undertaken following a PMW with respect to nesting birds. This PMW will include pre-works checks for nesting birds, no sooner than 24 hours prior to any vegetation clearance. If an active bird's nest is found, it will be left undisturbed with an appropriate buffer of vegetation (to be determined by a suitably qualified ecologist) until the young have fully fledged.

Plants

- 4.31. A specialist contractor should be engaged to advise on the management or removal of invasive non-native species from within the Site.

Hedgehogs

- 4.32. Where areas of scrub or woodland are to be cleared, these should first be checked to ensure no hedgehogs are occupying the space.
- 4.33. Where fences are installed hedgehog highways (a 5 inch hole) should be installed within the fencing, in order to facilitate the movement of hedgehogs within the local area.
- 4.34. The general mitigation measures section above provides recommendations that encompass further provisions for hedgehogs.

Ancient Woodland and Designated Sites

- 4.35. Measures to protect ancient woodland and designated sites are outlined under the general mitigation above, further mitigation may be required following the required survey and consultation with the Local Planning Authority.

Habitats

- 4.36. Existing habitats such as hedgerow, trees and scrub will be retained as far as practicable to avoid and reduce loss and severance of habitats. Where possible, access routes and compounds will be restricted to hardstanding. The woodland to the east of the Site should not be subject to clearance if possible. If this is not possible habitat lost should be mitigated via landscaping design.

Plants

- 4.37. A specialist INNPS contractor should be contacted for advice on the level mitigation required to avoid the spread of INNPS (including two cotoneaster species and montbretia).

Biodiversity Opportunities for Ecological Enhancements

- 4.1. In line with the NPPF⁴⁵ and local planning policy measures biodiversity should be protected and enhanced along with providing net gains for biodiversity on site in all Schemes. The recommendations below are based on information in this report along with information from the desk study. The below measures will be over and above any similar measures needed to mitigate effects.
- 4.2. Opportunities to include bat boxes or bricks as well as bird boxes or swift bricks within the Proposed Scheme design should be investigated.
- 4.3. Opportunities to incorporate green roofs or walls on any newly created structures, or to retrospectively fit them on existing structures should be considered.
- 4.4. There are opportunities to incorporate features with value for foraging bats into the new development from landscaping design. This could entail planting of suitable trees, shrubs and hedgerows. Given the current low suitability of the habitats within the Site for bats, incorporation of appropriate landscaping can be used to increase the value of the Site for foraging and commuting

⁴⁵ [National Planning Policy Framework \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework)

bats. Areas of retained or planted vegetation on the Site should be left un-lit so they can be utilised for foraging.

- 4.5. The landscape and planting design of the Proposed Scheme is recommended to include native species that are beneficial to biodiversity. Native trees, shrubs and plants that are beneficial to insects will in turn provide an increased foraging resource to bats and other species groups.

Report Validity

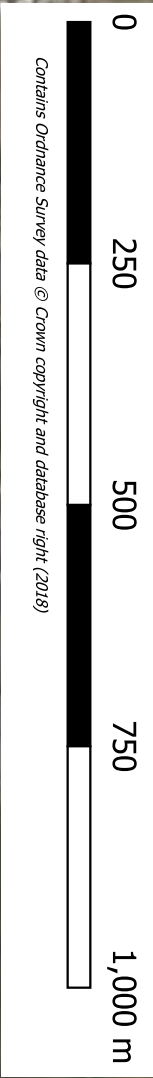
In the event of scope or programme changes or if works do not commence within 12 months of the date of this report then updates to the surveys may be required to ensure the validity of the data, as per CIEEM guidance⁴⁶.

⁴⁶ CIEEM (2019) Advice Note on the Lifespan of Ecological Reports and Surveys

Appendices



Appendix A. Site Location and Scheme Drawings



 Site Boundary

Atkins Limited © Chadwick House Birchwood Park Warrington England WA3 6AE			
Project: Whitemoss Road and Dam Head Drive			
Client: Guinness Partnership			
Title: Site Location			
Drawing number: TBC			
Original scale		1:7,823.2	
PAGE 1/1			
Drawn by:	Checked	Reviewed	Approved
GW	by: JS	by: LMG	by:
Date: Dec 21	Date: Dec 21	Date: Dec 21	Date:

PROPOSED PLAN



Proposed Site Plan

1:500

- N
- SITE BOUNDARY
- SITE AREA : 9,997m²
- EXISTING TREES
- EXISTING TREES TO BE REMOVED
- PROPOSED SOFT LANDSCAPING (Subject to a detailed landscaping strategy)
- PROPOSED TREES (Subject to a detailed landscaping strategy)
- PROPOSED STREET TREES (Subject to a detailed landscaping strategy)
- EV 7kW Charge Point
- DUAL ASPECT UNITS TO ADDRESS EACH CORNER
- DRAINAGE EASEMENT
- AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP WITH GRAVEL SURROUNDS
- House Type
- 2B4P House Type 1 @ 83m² 6
- 2B4P House Type 2 @ 83m² 12
- 3B5P House Type 1 @ 96m² 12
- Total 30
- All parking spots to be 6m x 3m

PROPOSED MASSING



Appendix B. Extended Phase 1 Habitat Plan, Priority Habitats and Baileys Wood SBI and Target Notes

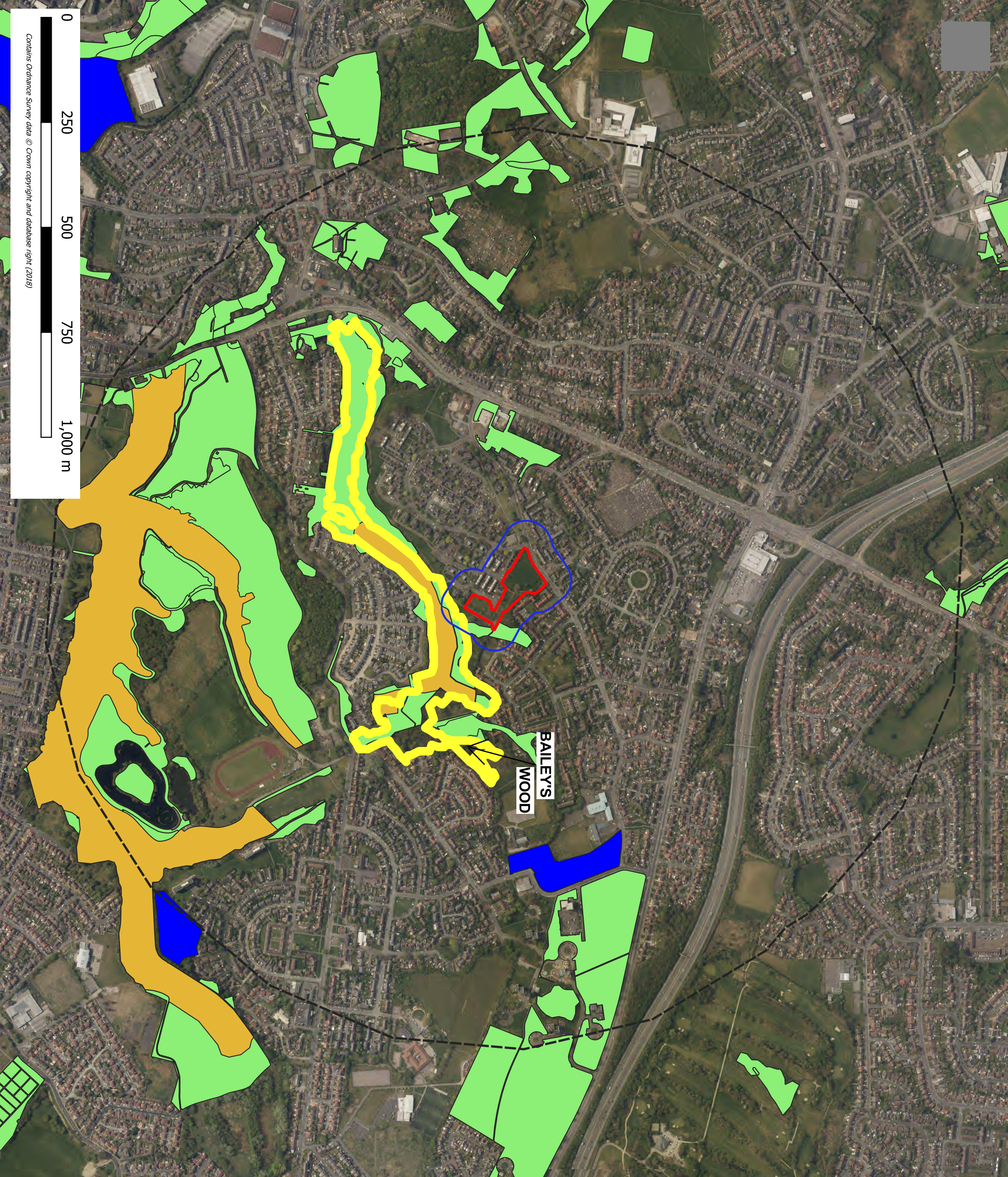
Extended Phase 1 Habitat Plan



- Survey Area
- Site Boundary
- Target Notes
- Poor semi-improved grassland
- Broadleaved woodland
- Dense scrub
- Scattered Scrub
- Tree
- Line of Trees
- Hardstanding
- No Access

Atkins Limited © Chadwick House Birchwood Park Warrington England WA3 6AE			
Project: Whitemoss Road and Dam Head Drive			
Client: Guinness Partnerships			
Title: Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan			
Drawing number: TBC			
Original scale		1:1,050	
PAGE 1/1			
Drawn by:	Checked	Reviewed	Approved
GW	by: JS	by: LMG	by:
Date: Nov 21	Date: Dec 21	Date: Dec 21	Date:

Priority Habitats and Baileys Wood SBI



- 1km buffer
- Survey Area
- Site boundary
- Ancient Woodland
- Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land
- Deciduous woodland
- Baileys Wood SBI

Chadwick House Birchwood Park Warrington England WA3 6AE			
Priority Habitats Data@ data.gov.uk			
Project: Whitemoss Road and Dam Head Drive			
Client: Guinness Partnership			
Title: Priority Habitats and Baileys Wood SBI			
Drawing number: TBC			
Original scale			
1:8,240			
PAGE 1/1			
Drawn by:	Checked	Reviewed	Approved
GW	by: JS	by: LMG	by:
Date:	Date: Dec 21	Date: Dec 21	Date:
Dec 21			

Target Notes

Table B-1 – Summary of Target Notes

Target note	Description	Photograph
TN1	An area of standing water within the woodland, located approximately 60 m from the Site.	
TN2	Overview picture of the woodland present to the southeast of the Site. This woodland most closely approximates to a W10/W11 pedunculate oak – bracken – bramble / sessile oak – downy birch – wood sorrel woodland community and is dominated by pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>) and hybrids (<i>Q x rosacea</i>), with some downy birch (<i>Betula pubescens</i>), with an understorey of creeping soft-grass (<i>Holcus mollis</i>), English bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides cf. non-scripta</i>), bracken (<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>) and bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.).	

TN3	Two sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>) trees located adjacent to each other, the trunks of the trees are split and may be suitable for roosting bats. A more detailed inspection is required.	 A photograph showing the lower trunks of two sycamore trees. The bark is light grey and shows significant vertical splitting and cracking, which is noted as being suitable for roosting bats. The ground is covered with fallen leaves and some low-lying vegetation.
TN4	Montbretia (<i>Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora</i>), an INNPS.	 A photograph of a cluster of Montbretia plants. The plants have long, narrow green leaves and several bright yellow flowers. They are growing in a garden setting with other foliage and fallen leaves visible in the background.
TN5	Himalayan cotoneaster (<i>Cotoneaster simonsii</i>), an INNPS.	 A photograph of a Himalayan cotoneaster shrub. The shrub has dense, dark green foliage with some yellowing leaves, indicating autumn. It is growing in a garden setting with other plants visible in the background.

TN6	Residential property with a gap under the soffit board providing potential for roosting bats, further features may be present as a full inspection was not possible due to access restrictions.	
TN7	Residential properties approximately 20 m north of the Site, the buildings had gaps under the soffit board and at the gable end, they have low suitability for roosting bats.	
TN8	Site overview photo showing mown poor semi-improved grassland which makes up the majority of the Site. Scattered trees are present across the Site. This grassland is dominated by the grasses common bent (<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>) and perennial rye-grass (<i>Lolium perenne</i>), alongside frequent to occasional forbs such as dandelion (<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.), white clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>) and ribwort plantain (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>). This grassland most closely approximates	

	to a species-impooverished MG7a perennial rye-grass ley white clover sub-community.	
TN9	Dense scrub present within the Site. This habitat is suitable for widespread species of reptiles. Areas of dense scrub are dominated by various bramble species within the <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> aggregate, alongside occasional tall ruderal herbs including great willowherb (<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>) and rosebay willowherb (<i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i>).	
TN10	Wall cotoneaster (<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>) (an INNPS)	No photograph.
TN11	Small areas of woodland are present in the south eastern parts of the Site and scattered trees were present throughout the Site, species present in these areas include Norway maple (<i>Acer platanoides</i>), Oregon grape (<i>Mahonia aquilinum</i>), Pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>), Pendulous sedge (<i>Carex pendula</i>) and Alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>).	

Appendix C. Legislation table

Species	Legislation	Offences	Licensing procedures and guidance
Bats <i>European protected species</i>	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) Reg 43	Deliberately ⁴⁷ capture, injure or kill a bat; deliberate disturbance ⁴⁸ of bats; or damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place used by a bat. [The protection of bat roosts is considered to apply regardless of whether bats are present.]	A Natural England (NE) licence in respect of development is required. Guidance documents: <i>NE Standing Advice for protected species 2013</i> <i>European Protected Species: Mitigation Licensing- How to get a licence</i> (NE 2013) <i>Bat Mitigation Guidelines</i> (English Nature 2004) <i>Bat Workers Manual</i> (JNCC 2004)
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.9	Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb ⁴⁹ a bat in such a place.	Licence from NE is required for surveys (scientific purposes) that would involve disturbance of bats or entering a known or suspected roost site.
Badger	Protection of Badgers Act 1992	Wilfully kill, injure or take a badger; or intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a badger sett or disturb a badger in its sett. [It is not illegal to carry out disturbance activities in the vicinity of setts that are not occupied.]	Where required, licences for development activities involving disturbance or sett interference or closure are issued by Natural England (NE). Licences for activities involving watercourse maintenance, drainage works or flood defences are issued under a separate process. Licences are normally not granted from December to June inclusive because cubs may be present within setts. Guidance documents: <i>NE Standing Advice for protected species 2013</i> <i>Badgers & Development</i> (NE 2007)
Otter <i>European protected species</i>	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) Reg 43	Deliberately ⁴⁷ capture, injure or kill an otter; deliberate disturbance ⁴⁸ of otters; or damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place used by an otter.	Licences issued for development by Natural England. Guidance documents: <i>NE Standing Advice for protected species 2013</i> <i>European Protected Species: Mitigation Licensing- How to get a licence</i> (NE 2013)

⁴⁷ Deliberate capture or killing is taken to include “accepting the possibility” of such capture or killing

⁴⁸ Deliberate disturbance of animals includes in particular any disturbance which is likely a) to impair their ability (i) to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young, or (ii) in the case of animals of hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or b) to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.

⁴⁹ Lower levels of disturbance not covered by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) remain an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) although a defence is available where such actions are the incidental result of a lawful activity that could not reasonably be avoided.

	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.9	Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb ⁴⁹ an otter in such a place.	No licence is required for survey in England. However, a licence would be required if the survey methodology involved disturbance.
Birds	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.1	Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird; intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; intentionally take or destroy the nest or eggs of any wild bird. Intentionally or recklessly disturb a Schedule 1 species while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; intentionally or recklessly disturb dependent young of such a species [e.g. most birds of prey, kingfisher, barn owl, black redstart, little ringed plover].	No licences are available to disturb any birds in regard to development. Licences are available in certain circumstances to damage or destroy nests, but these only apply to the list of licensable activities in the Act and do not cover development. General licences are available in respect of 'pest species' but only for certain very specific purposes e.g. public health, public safety, air safety. Guidance documents: <i>NE Standing Advice for protected species 2013</i>
Great crested newt <i>European protected species</i>	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) Reg 43	Deliberately ⁴⁷ capture, injure or kill a great crested newt; deliberate disturbance ⁴⁸ of a great crested newt; deliberately take or destroy its eggs; or damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place used by a great crested newt.	Licences issued for development by Natural England. Guidance documents: <i>NE Standing Advice for protected species 2013</i> <i>European Protected Species: Mitigation Licensing- How to get a licence</i> (NE 2013) <i>Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines</i> (English Nature 2001)
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.9	Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb ⁴⁹ a great crested newt in such a place.	Licences issued for science (survey), education and conservation by Natural England.
Adder Common lizard Grass snake Slow worm	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.9(1) and S.9(5)	Intentionally kill or injure any common reptile species.	No licence is required. However, an assessment for the potential of a site to support reptiles should be undertaken prior to any development works which have potential to affect these animals. Guidance documents: <i>NE Standing Advice for protected species 2013</i>

Rabbits, foxes and other wild mammals	Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996	Intentionally inflict unnecessary suffering to any wild mammal.	Natural England provides guidance in relation to rabbits, foxes (which are also protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 from live baits and decoys) and other wild mammals, on their website. Lawful and humane pest control of these species is permitted.
Plants <i>Invasive species, e.g.</i> Japanese knotweed, hybrid knotweed, giant knotweed, giant hogweed, rhododendron, Himalayan balsam	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.14	It is illegal to plant or otherwise cause these species to grow in the wild.	Any contaminated soil or plant material is classified as controlled waste and should be disposed of in a suitably licensed landfill site, accompanied by appropriate Waste Transfer documentation, and must comply with section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Guidance documents: <i>The Knotweed Code of Practice</i> (Environment Agency, 2013 version 3) <i>Managing Invasive Non-native Plants</i> (Environment Agency 2010) <i>Guidance on Section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981</i> (Defra 2010)

Site Designation	Legislation	Protection	Guidance
Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Special Protection Area (SPA) Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar site)	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat 1971 (the Ramsar Convention).	Assessment of the implications of plans and projects is effected through Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (in particular Regs 61 – 69). The legislation for the Site of Special Scientific Interest which will underpin each designation also applies. These sites are given protection through policies in the Local Development Plan.	Formal Appropriate Assessment is required to be undertaken by the competent authority before undertaking, or giving consent, permission or other authorisation for a plan or project which is likely to have a significant effect on such a site. Guidance documents: <i>The National Planning Policy Framework</i> (Department for Communities and Local Government, February 2019), with particular reference to Policy 15. The Government Circular: <i>Biodiversity and Geological Conservation - Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System</i> (ODPM Circular 6/2005 & Defra Circular 01/2005) (the joint Circular).
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	It is an offence to carry out or permit to be carried out any potentially damaging operation. SSSIs are given protection through policies in the Local Development Plan.	Owners, occupiers, public bodies and statutory undertakers must give notice and obtain the appropriate consent under S.28 before undertaking operations likely to damage a SSSI. S.28G places a duty on all public bodies to further the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs.

			Guidance documents: The <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> (Department for Communities and Local Government, July 2021), with particular reference to Policy 15, and the joint Circular. <i>Sites of Special Scientific Interest: England's special wildlife and geological sites</i> (Natural England, 2008)
Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 S.21	LNRs are given protection through policies in the Local Development Plan.	LNRs are generally owned and managed by local authorities. Development proposals that would potentially affect a LNR would need to provide a detailed justification for the work, an assessment of likely impacts, together with proposals for mitigation and restoration of habitats lost or damaged. Guidance documents: The <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> (Department for Communities and Local Government, July 2021), with particular reference to Policy 15, and the joint Circular.
Local Sites (e.g. County Wildlife Sites, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation)	There is no statutory designation for local sites.	Local sites are given protection through policies in the Local Development Plan.	Development proposals that would potentially affect a local site would need to provide a detailed justification for the work, an assessment of likely impacts, together with proposals for mitigation and restoration of habitats lost or damaged. Guidance documents: The <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> (Department for Communities and Local Government, July 2021), with particular reference to Policy 15, and the joint Circular.

Habitats & Species	Legislation	Guidance
Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Habitats & Species	No specific legislation, unless it is also a species or habitat of principal importance as described above.	The Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is the UK's initiative to maintain and enhance biodiversity in response to the Convention on Biological Diversity signed in 1992. The UK BAP was used to draw up the 'England Biodiversity List' and has been succeeded by the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework in 2012, due to a change in government strategy by all UK countries, focussing on managing the environment as a whole rather than dealing with different aspects of biodiversity and environment separately. However, the UK BAP list of priority habitats and species continue to be regarded as conservation priorities in the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (JNCC & Defra 2012).

Appendix D. Site-specific Species List

English name	Scientific name	DAFOR	Comments
Common feather-moss	<i>Kindbergia praelonga</i>	O	
Pointed spear-moss	<i>Calliergonella cuspidata</i>	O	
Rough-stalked feather-moss	<i>Brachythecium rutabulum</i>	O	
Field horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	R	
a bramble	<i>Rubus</i> ser. <i>Rhamnifolii</i>	R	
a dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i> sect. <i>Taraxacum</i>	F	
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	R	
Amphibious bistort	<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>	R	
Atlantic ivy	<i>Hedera hibernica</i>	O	
Bindweed sp.	<i>Calystegia</i> sp.	R	
Black medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	R	
Buddleja	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	R	
Cherry sp.	<i>Prunus</i> sp.	R	
Clustered dock	<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i>	R	
Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	O	
Common bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	F	
Common couch	<i>Elymus repens</i>	R	
Common field speedwell	<i>Veronica persica</i>	R	
Common groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	O	
Common lime	<i>Tilia x vulgaris</i>	R	
Common mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	R	
Common ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	F	
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	R	
Common vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	R	
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	F	
Creeping cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	R	
Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	O	
Curled dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	O	
Dog rose agg.	<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	R	
False oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	R	
Franchet's cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster franchetii</i>	R	
Garden privet	<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	R	
Great willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	R	
Hairy sedge	<i>Carex hirta</i>	O	
Hairy tare	<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	R	
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	R	
Himalayan cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster simonsii</i>	R	Sched. 9 INNS
Himalayan giant	<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>	R	

Hybrid willow	<i>Salix x fragilis</i>	R	
Lesser trefoil	<i>Trifolium duium</i>	R	
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	O	
Montbretia	<i>Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora</i>	R	Sched. 9 INNS
Norway maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	O	
Oregon grape	<i>Mahonia aquilinum</i>	R	
Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	R	
Pendulous sedge	<i>Carex pendula</i>	R	
Perennial rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	F	
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	O	
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	F	
Shepherd's purse	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	R	
Silverweed	<i>Argentina anserina</i>	R	
Slender rush	<i>Juncus tenuis</i>	R	
Sweet vernal-grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	R	
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	O	
Tall fescue	<i>Schedonorus arundinaceus</i>	R	
Tufted hair-grass	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	R	
Tufted vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	R	
Wall cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	R	Sched. 9 INNS
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	F	
Wild cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	R	
Wood avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	R	
Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	O	

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