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Preliminary Ecological  
Appraisal

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Parkhill Avenue, Crumpsall  
Ref: P.1957.24

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Date: March 2024  
(See revision dates below)

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| Rev | Date | Details |
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|                                 |                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Reference</b>                | P.1957.24                                                                              |
| <b>Site</b>                     | Parkhill Avenue, Crumpsall                                                             |
| <b>Client</b>                   | <b>Great Places Housing Group</b>                                                      |
| <b>Date</b>                     | March 2024                                                                             |
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Ascerta has been instructed by **Great Places Housing Group** to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the land at Parkhill Avenue, Crumpsall (hereafter referred to as **the site**).

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal comprised of a desk study and biological records search, as well as a site walkover survey in order to map habitat types. The survey was extended to assess the potential for protected species to use the site. The assessment provides baseline data regarding the current site conditions and where appropriate allows recommendations to be made in respect of further potential work in order to satisfy current UK wildlife legislation.

The site comprises an area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland, improved grassland, semi-natural mixed woodland, bramble scrub and species-poor hedgerows.

Assessed against the '*Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland*' 2nd edition (2018), the sites habitats range in ecological value from within the zone of influence to local

The site provides habitat for nesting birds, badger, hedgehog and bats. All habitats assessed are likely to be lost to the proposals. However, as the habitats to be lost to the proposals are small in area and not of high ecological value, it is considered that their loss can be mitigated for and the proposals will not adversely affect the ecological value of the wider area, provided the recommendations detailed below are followed.

Bat surveys are conducted in accordance with the Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists - Good Practice Guidelines, published 2023 (the Guidelines). Strict adherence to these is not necessary, but where practice deviates from them, clear reasons and rationale are required.

- If works have not begun by February 2026, an updated site visit will be required to assess the habitats within the site;
- A minimum of two nocturnal bat surveys on tree (TN2) and (TN3) (drawing P.1957.24.E01, Appendix 1) between May and August to determine if bats are using the trees as a roost;
- Deployment of static bat detectors (between April and October in suitable weather conditions) to assess the level of bat activity throughout the site;
- Production and implementation of a hedgehog RAMS to avoid any harm to this species during the proposed works;
- Production and implementation of a badger RAMS to avoid any harm to this species during the proposed works.
- Production of an invasive species method statement to avoid the spread of invasive species into the wider landscape during the proposed works;
- Precautionary check for badger prior to works commencing to assess if badgers are using the habitats within the site for shelter;
- Precautionary check for invasive prior to works commencing;
- Enhancing the site for species through appropriate landscape planting that includes native, species rich hedgerows, trees plus provision of integrated bat and bird features within newly constructed buildings;
- Production of the Defra Metric Biodiversity Net Gain Calculations to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity;

- Production of a Management Plan to ensure the long-term commitments to manage the planting, protection and enhancement of biodiversity in and around a new development site.; and
- Vegetation clearance or pruning should be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> August Inclusive) to avoid any impact on breeding birds. Or a nesting bird check undertaken by a suitably experienced ecologist should be undertaken immediately prior to works commencing.

## 1.0 Introduction

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Ascerta has been instructed by **Great Places Housing Group** to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the land at the site. The site OS grid reference is SD 84940 02726 and the What3Words reference is slot.sushi.suffer. The extent of the site is displayed in photograph 1.1 below.



**Photograph 1.1: Extent of the site.**

Our client seeks planning consent to construct residential dwellings, an apartment building, associated access road and parking.

The site was visited on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 by Alex Rose MSc CIEEM when a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, which includes an assessment of the potential for protected species to be using the site or surroundings, was carried out in accordance with the *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: A Technique for Environmental Audit* (JNCC, 2010). The report was prepared following methods detailed in the CIEEM 'Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland' (2018) and 'Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing' (2017).

The site comprises an area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland, improved grassland, semi-natural mixed woodland, bramble scrub and species-poor hedgerows.

This report presents the results of the survey including evaluation of habitats on site and potential for protected species to be using the site. The report includes recommendations for further actions where applicable, in order to satisfy current UK wildlife legislation and to achieve our client's objectives. Relevant legislation is detailed within Appendix 4.

Our client's objectives are to assess the potential ecological constraints of the proposed development site.

## 2.0 Objectives

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Our client's objectives are to assess the potential ecological constraints of the proposed development site.

Our objectives are as follows:

- Identify and evaluate any features of ecological value and the potential of the site to support protected species based on the walkover survey and biological records search;
- Identify designated sites within 2km of the site;
- Review protected species records within 2km of the site;
- Map the habitats within the site using JNCC (2010) methods;
- Provide recommendations for further species-specific surveys and mitigation measures where current legislation requires;
- Provide recommendations that seek to enhance the ecological value of the site;
- Provide recommendations to assist our clients in achieving their objectives whilst satisfying current UK wildlife legislation.

## 3.0 Survey Methods

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal involved the collection and review of data from a desk study and field survey, along with assessment of the value of the habitats following CIEEM guidelines.

### 3.1 Desk Study

A desk study was undertaken on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to identify protected and notable habitats and species, and nature conservation designations potentially relevant to the proposed development. The desk study was carried out using the sources detailed in Table 3.1 below. For the purposes of this report the protected species data has been limited to the previous ten years.

**Table 3.1. Desk Study Data Information**

| Source                                                          | Date Obtained                  | Data Obtained                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) | 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Statutory designated sites within 2km of the site</li><li>• Protected and Notable habitats within 2km of the site</li><li>• Ancient woodlands within 2km of the site</li><li>• European Protected Species Licenses within 2km of the site</li></ul> |
| Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU)                          | 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2024     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Non-statutory designated sites within 2km of the site</li><li>• Protected and notable species records within 2km of the site</li></ul>                                                                                                              |
| Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (GMBAP)             | 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Additional protections afforded to species/habitats</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                       |

### 3.2 Field Survey

A walkover survey of the site was conducted on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 by Alex Rose MSc CIEEM. The habitat types and features of ecological interest were identified and mapped in compliance with *the Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: A Technique for Environmental Audit* (JNCC, 2010). During the survey, weather conditions were recorded to ensure optimal surveying conditions according to guidelines. Any sub-optimal conditions will be discussed in the limitations.

This includes the identification of the main species present and examination of the potential for any protected species. Habitats were mapped (Appendix 1) and target notes (Appendix 2) made for any interesting features.

The surveys particularly focused on the following species and habitat features:

- Mammals (badgers, bats);
- Birds (including species potentially associated with 'European Sites');

- Reptiles;
- Hedgerows and boundaries;
- Invasive plant species; and
- Plant communities and trees.

### 3.3 Bat Survey Methods

The survey methods followed the guidelines set out by the Bat Conservation Trust's *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists Good Practice Guidelines – 4th Edition* (2023). Habitats, buildings and trees were assessed for suitability for use by bats and categorised independently using table 4.1 page 44 within the Bat Conservation Trust Guidelines (Collins, 2023).

#### ***Preliminary Ecological Appraisal for Bats***

Habitats on site were assessed for their suitability for bats to use them for roosting, commuting and foraging both on the site and surrounding area. Commuting and foraging habitat suitability was categorised **low** to **high**. Any commuting and foraging habitat valued as **moderate** or above may need further survey effort if lost to the proposals.

#### ***Preliminary Roost Assessment Trees***

All trees were inspected for Potential Roost Features (PRFs). Features searched for included: Natural or woodpecker holes, cracks/splits in major limbs, loose bark, hollows/cavities, dense epicormic growth, bird and bat boxes. Where such features were found they were investigated for scratches or staining, bat droppings and smoothing of surfaces around entry points. Trees assigned a suitability of **moderate** or above may require further inspection if they are to be lost to the development.

**Table 3.2: Guidelines for assessing potential suitability of proposed development sites for bats, based on the presence of habitat features within the landscape, to be applied using professional judgement. Guidelines taken from table 4.1 page 44 of the Bat Conservation Trust Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists Good Practice Guidelines – 4th Edition (2023).**

| Potential suitability                | Description                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                      | Roosting Habitats in structures                                                                                                                                                                      | Potential flight-paths and foraging habitats                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b><i>None</i></b>                   | <i>No habitat features on site likely to be used by any roosting bats at any time of the year (i.e. a complete absence of crevices/suitable shelter at all ground/underground levels).</i>           | <i>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).</i> |
| <b><i>Negligible<sup>a</sup></i></b> | <i>No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains as bats can use small and apparently unsuitable features on occasion.</i> | <i>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.</i>                                                                    |

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Low</b>      | <i>A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically at any time of the year. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions <sup>b</sup> and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity and not a classic cool/stable hibernation site, but could be used by individual hibernating bats <sup>c</sup>).</i> | <i>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. 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.</i>                                                                                                    |
| <b>Moderate</b> | <i>A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions<sup>b</sup> and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only, such as maternity or hibernation – the categorisation described in this table is made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).</i>                                                                  | <i>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. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>High</b>     | <i>A structure with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions <sup>b</sup> and surrounding habitat. These structures have the potential to support high conservation status roosts, e.g. maternity or classic cool/stable hibernation site.</i>                                                                                                      | <i>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. 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. Site is close to and connected to known roosts.</i> |

<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).

<sup>b</sup> For example, in terms of temperature, humidity, height above ground level, light levels or levels of disturbance.

<sup>c</sup> Evidence from the Netherlands shows mass swarming events of common pipistrelle bats in the autumn followed by mass hibernation in a diverse range of building types in urban environments (Korsten et al., 2016 and Jansen et al., 2022). Common pipistrelle swarming has been observed in the UK (Bell, 2022 and Tomlinson, 2020) and winter hibernation of this species has been detected at Seaton Delaval Hall in Northumberland (National Trust, 2018). This phenomenon requires some research in the UK, but ecologists should be aware of the potential for larger numbers of this species to be present during the autumn and winter in prominent buildings in the landscape, urban or otherwise.

### 3.4 Badger Survey Methods

The site was searched for setts and badger field signs including foraging areas, latrines and tracks. Attention was paid to the presence of the following field signs:

- Setts: single holes or a series of holes likely to be interconnected underground;
- Latrines: badgers usually deposit faeces in excavated pits;
- Paths and footprints;
- Scratching posts: at the base of trees;
- Snuffle holes: areas where badgers have searched for insects;
- Day nest: bundles of vegetation where badgers may sleep above ground; and
- Traces of hair.

Any setts recorded were categorised into sett types using the following criteria (Thornton, 1988):

- Main sett: Usually appearing well-used, well established and having a large number of holes with big spoil heaps, often with piles of old bedding outside;
- Annexe sett: Annexe setts are always close to the main sett and are usually connected by one or more obvious well-worn paths. They consist of several holes but are not necessarily in use the whole time, even if the main sett is very active;
- Subsidiary sett: Often these have very few holes, are usually at least 50m from the main sett and do not have an obvious path connecting them with another sett;
- Outlying sett: Usually comprising one or two holes with very little spoil outside (thus indicating that the tunnel system underground is not extensive), outlying setts have no obvious path connecting them with another sett and are used only sporadically.

### 3.5 Evaluation

Habitats and species on the site were evaluated following the '*Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland*' (2018). A geographical frame of reference is assigned to each habitat and species, with **International Value** being most important, then **National, Regional, County, District, Local** and lastly, within the immediate **Zone of Influence (Zoi)** of the proposals only.

Value judgements are based on characteristics that can be used to identify ecological resources or features likely to be important in terms of biodiversity. These include site designations such as SSSIs. For undesignated features, the size, conservation status (locally, nationally or internationally), and the quality of the ecological resource are considered. Ecological resource quality can refer to habitats (for instance if they are particularly diverse, or a good example of a specific habitat type), other features (such as wildlife corridors or mosaics of habitats) or species populations or assemblages.

The recommendations detailed within this report aim to meet requirements of the Environment Act and Statutory Biodiversity Metric as far as possible at this stage.

### 3.6 Limitations

The site visit was undertaken in February. Although this within the sub-optimal time of year for phase 1 habitat surveys, sufficient vegetation was present to enable habitat identification. It is not considered a limit to the conclusions of the report based on the habitats found within the site and the works proposed.

The absence of biological records does not necessarily mean the absence of species. This has been considered within the report conclusions.

The site was visited on only one occasion. This produces a snapshot of habitats and species on the site and others may be present at different times of the day or year. This limitation has been considered within this report.

## 4.0 Survey Results

### 4.1 Desk Study

#### **Statutory sites**

Two statutory designated sites were identified within a 2km radius of the proposed development site. These are listed in Table 4.1 below.

**Table 4.1 Statutory Designated Sites**

| Statutory Designated Site                  | Reason for Designation                                                              | Distance to Proposed Development |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Blackley Forest Local Nature Reserve (LNR) | Designated for its broadleaved woodland, grassland, marsh, lake and river habitats. | 800m north-west                  |
| Boggart Hole Clough (LNR)                  | Designated for its broadleaved woodland clough and ancient woodland.                | 900m east                        |

#### **Non-statutory sites**

Six non-statutory designated sites were identified within a 2km radius of the proposed development site. These are listed in Table 4.2 below

**Table 4.2 Statutory Designated Sites**

| Non-Statutory Designated Site                               | Distance to Proposed Development |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bowker Vale Reservoir SBI                                   | 780m west                        |
| Blackley Forest & Heaton Vale Reservoirs SBI                | 800m north-west                  |
| Boggart Hole Clough SBI                                     | 900m east                        |
| Bailey's Wood SBI                                           | 900m east                        |
| Reservoirs at Harpurhey Site of Biological Importance (SBI) | 980m south-east                  |
| Lakeside Woodland in Heaton Park SBI                        | 1.48km north-west                |

The full designations for each site are listed within Appendix 5.

The site does not lie within a relevant Natural England SSSI Impact Risk Zone.

#### **Priority Habitats**

##### **Woodland**

Two areas of Ancient Woodland were returned within 2km of the site, the closest being located 950m east.

Numerous areas of Priority Habitat Deciduous Woodland was returned within 2km of the site, the closest being located 10m north.

Two areas of Woodpasture and Parkland BAP Priority Habitat was returned within 2km of the site, the closest being located 1.5km northwest.

The site lies within a Conservation Target area for the following Priority Species:

- Lapwing
- Snipe

The site also falls within a breeding area for the following Grassland Assemblage Farmland Birds:

- Lapwing

### ***Priority Species***

Following a review of records held by GMEU, several priority species that have the potential to occur within the vicinity of the proposed development have been identified. These include birds, bats, badger, water vole and amphibians. The species records are summarised below, and the detailed records held by GMEU within 2km of the site are displayed within Appendix 5. Protected species legislation can be found within Appendix 4.

No species records were returned by Lern within the site boundary.

### ***Birds***

187 records were returned for bird species within 2km of the site. Species returned include barn owl, grey heron, bullfinch, house sparrow and dunnock. All species recorded within 2km are displayed within Appendix 5.

### ***Bats***

GMEU returned 25 records for bats within 2km of the site. Bat species include common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and unknown bat species, the closest of which were two 2021 records of common pipistrelle roosts located 400m south of the site. The most recent record was a 2022 record of roosting common pipistrelle located 1.4km west of the site.

### ***Amphibians***

No records for great crested newt were returned within 2km of the site.

Two records of common toad were returned within 2km of the site. The closest of which was a 2022 record of 1km north-west of the site.

### ***Reptiles***

No records for reptiles were returned within 2km of the site.

### ***Otter***

No records for otter were returned within 2km of the site.

### **Water vole**

One record of water vole was returned within 2km of the site. This was a 2015 record located 1.1km north-west of the site.

### **Badger**

One record of badger was returned within 2km of the site. This was a 2023 record located 1.8km away from the site.

### **Other mammals**

No records for other mammals were returned within 2km of the site.

### **European Protected Species Licences**

There were two European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) applications within 2km of the site since 2014. ESPL applications are detailed below (distance and direction from site):

- 2014-1364-EPS-BDX for common pipistrelle. Strat date: 01/10/2014, end date: 31/03/2015 (1.1km northwest); and
- 2014-1562-EPS-BDX for the impact and destruction of a breeding and resting site for common pipistrelle. Start date: 01/10/2014, end date: 31/03/2015 (1km northwest)

## **4.2 Habitat Survey**

A habitat survey was conducted on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 by Alex Rose MSc CIEEM for the site. The habitat types and features of ecological interest were identified and mapped in compliance with *The Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: A Technique for Environmental Audit* (JNCC, 2010). A list and a summary description of key habitats identified within the site is tabled below (see Table 4.3). Notes on the presence or potential presence of protected species are provided in Section 4.6. The Phase 1 Habitat map can be found in P.1957.24.E01 *Phase One Habitat Survey*, Appendix 1 and photographs within Appendix 3. The Target Notes (TN) and lists of species recorded during survey are presented in Appendix 2.

Weather conditions during the survey were mild (10°C), dry and overcast (6/8 cloud cover) with a F2 (Beaufort Scale) light breeze, therefore appropriate for this type of survey.

The site lies within Crumpsall, Manchester and is closed by residential dwellings to the west and south, woodland to the north and Delaunys Road to the east.

The site comprises an area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland, improved grassland, semi-natural mixed woodland, bramble scrub and species-poor hedgerows.

**Table 4.3. Habitats present on site including habitat alphanumeric code references from JNCC (2010).**

| <b>Habitat Description and JNCC Codes</b>                | <b>Site Description</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><i>Semi natural broadleaved woodland (A1.1.1)</i></b> | <p>The main habitat on site is an area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland. The canopy is dominated by sycamore with willow sp. and ash, the understorey consists of rose sp., sycamore, dogwood, pedunculate oak, buddleja and Japanese knotweed (TN1; drawing P.1957.24.E01, Appendix 1). The ground flora consists of ivy, bramble, bluebell, geranium sp., common nettle, cock's foot, perennial ryegrass, holly, dock sp., creeping buttercup, willowherb sp., red fescue, cow parsley and cleavers.</p> <p>The woodland canopy is open which provides areas of open space for light to penetrate to the ground layer. There is a thin leaf litter layer present within the woodland.</p> <p>This habitat is displayed in Photograph 1 – 2 within Appendix 3.</p> |
| <b><i>Improved grassland (B4)</i></b>                    | <p>A small area of improved grassland located within the south-west of the site consisting of cock's foot, dandelions, red fescue, dock sp., willowherb sp., and perennial ryegrass. The area of grassland is unmanaged with a varied sward height ranging from 5cm – 30cm.</p> <p>This habitat is displayed in Photograph 3 within Appendix 3.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b><i>Semi-natural mixed woodland (A1.1.3)</i></b>       | <p>A small area of semi-natural mixed woodland. The canopy consists of cypress sp., ash, cherry laurel and sycamore with an understorey of holly, honeysuckle sp., and ash and a ground flora consisting of ivy.</p> <p>The canopy of the woodland area is dense with no open space.</p> <p>This habitat is displayed in Photograph 4 – 5 within Appendix 3.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b><i>Dense/continuous scrub (A2.1)</i></b>              | <p>A small area of dense bramble scrub.</p> <p>This habitat is displayed in Photograph 6 within Appendix 3.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b><i>Defunct hedgerow (J2.2)</i></b>                    | <p>Two areas of species-poor hedgerow are present within the site located on the eastern and western boundaries.</p> <p>The hedgerows consist entirely of beech and are defunct. The hedgerows are relatively recently planted and unmanaged. The hedgerows are approximately 2m high and 1m wide.</p> <p>This habitat is displayed in Photograph 7 within Appendix 3.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

## 4.3 Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment of Trees

**Table 4.4. Preliminary bat roost assessment of trees within the site**

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tree (TN2)</b> | <b>Tree Description</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                   | Tree (TN2) (Appendix 3; Photographs 8 – 9) (see drawing P.1957.24.E01, Appendix 1) is a 15m tall multi-stemmed sycamore. Tree (TN2) has a dead stem with numerous gaps between the heartwood and bark on the eastern aspect. The gaps provide access to the stem of the tree for crevice dwelling bats.                                 |
|                   | <b>Assessment of TN2</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                   | The tree was assessed to have <b>negligible</b> hibernation potential for crevice and void dwelling bats and <b>moderate</b> potential for day and maternity roosts for crevice dwelling bats and <b>negligible</b> potential for void dwelling bats. Overall, the tree is classified as having <b>moderate</b> bat roosting potential. |
| <b>Tree (TN3)</b> | <b>Tree Description</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                   | Tree (TN3) (Appendix 3; Photograph 10) (see drawing P.1957.24.E01, Appendix 1) is a 15m tall single stemmed sycamore. Tree (TN3) has been damaged by lightning which has created a large split down the main stem. The damage has also caused a hole approximately 10m up the main stem.                                                |
|                   | <b>Assessment of TN3</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                   | The tree was assessed to have <b>negligible</b> hibernation potential for crevice and void dwelling bats and <b>moderate</b> potential for day and maternity roosts for crevice dwelling bats and <b>negligible</b> potential for void dwelling bats. Overall, the tree is classified as having <b>moderate</b> bat roosting potential. |

## 4.4 Protected and Notable Species

**Table 4.6: Habitat suitability for protected and notable species, including evidence, further survey information and reference to photographs/drawings where applicable.**

|              |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Birds</b> | <b>Habitat suitability</b>                                                                                                                                                  |
|              | Semi-natural broadleaved woodland, semi-natural mixed woodland and dense/continuous scrub. These provide suitable foraging and nesting opportunities for bird species.      |
|              | <b>Species seen / Evidence of presence / Features identified</b>                                                                                                            |
|              | No birds were identified during the survey. An old bird nest was identified within one tree within the semi-natural broadleaved woodland.                                   |
|              | <b>Further survey required</b>                                                                                                                                              |
|              | For any vegetation removal to be undertaken, a nesting bird survey will be required (section 5.2).                                                                          |
| <b>Bats</b>  | <b>Habitat suitability</b>                                                                                                                                                  |
|              | The trees on site offer <b>no</b> to <b>moderate</b> potential to support bat roosts as detailed above in section 4.3.                                                      |
|              | Semi-natural broadleaved woodland, semi-natural mixed woodland, and dense scrub provide suitable foraging habitat for bats.                                                 |
|              | <b>Species seen / Evidence of presence / Features identified</b>                                                                                                            |
|              | Evidence of bats was not identified within the site during the survey. Suitable features were identified within two trees within the site as detailed in Section 4.3 above. |

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                   | <b>Further survey required</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                   | Yes, Nocturnal surveys for Bats on trees with suitable bat roosting features that are due to be removed (see section 5.2).                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Badger</b>     | <b>Habitat suitability</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                   | Semi-natural broadleaved woodland and semi-natural mixed woodland the site provide limited foraging and shelter habitat for badger.                                                                                                                                 |
|                   | <b>Species seen / Evidence of presence / Features identified</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                   | No evidence of badger was identified within the site during the survey.                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                   | <b>Further survey required</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                   | No further survey effort of badger will be required; however Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) should be implemented (see section 5.2).                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Water vole</b> | <b>Habitat suitability</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                   | The site and adjacent areas provide no suitable habitats for water vole.                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                   | <b>Species seen / Evidence of presence / Features identified</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                   | No evidence of water vole was identified during the site visit.                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                   | <b>Further survey required</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                   | Water vole will not be impacted by the proposals within the site therefore, water vole do not require further consideration within this planning application and will not be discussed further within this report.                                                  |
| <b>Otter</b>      | <b>Habitat suitability</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                   | The site and adjacent areas provide no suitable habitats for otter.                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                   | <b>Species seen / Evidence of presence / Features identified</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                   | No evidence of water vole or otter were identified during the site visit.                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                   | <b>Further survey required</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                   | Water vole and otter will not be impacted by the proposals within the site therefore, water vole and otter do not require further consideration within this planning application and will not be discussed further within this report.                              |
| <b>Amphibians</b> | <b>Habitat suitability</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                   | The site and adjacent areas provide no suitable habitats for great crested newt or other amphibians.                                                                                                                                                                |
|                   | <b>Species seen / Evidence of presence / Features identified</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                   | No evidence of amphibians was identified within the site during the survey.                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                   | No ponds are located within 250m of the site.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                   | <b>Further survey required</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Reptiles</b>   | <b>Habitat suitability</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                   | The habitats within the site do not offer suitability to support reptiles. Ecotones are not present within the site and the habitats are scattered across the site with no suitable connectivity. The habitats within the site are prone to high human disturbance. |
|                   | <b>Species seen / Evidence of presence / Features identified</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                   | No evidence of reptiles was identified within the site during the survey.                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                   | <b>Further survey required</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                   | No further survey for reptile will be required. Reptiles do not required consideration within this planning application and will not be discussed further.                                                                                                          |

|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Invertebrates</b> | <b>Habitat suitability</b>                                                                                                                                                         |
|                      | The area of dense/continuous scrub and improved grassland provide some limited habitat suitability for invertebrates.                                                              |
|                      | <b>Species seen / Evidence of presence / Features identified</b>                                                                                                                   |
|                      | No evidence of invertebrates was identified within the site during the survey.                                                                                                     |
|                      | <b>Further survey required</b>                                                                                                                                                     |
|                      | No further survey for invertebrates will be required. Invertebrates do not required consideration within this planning application and will not be discussed further.              |
| <b>Small mammals</b> | <b>Habitat suitability</b>                                                                                                                                                         |
|                      | Semi-natural broadleaved woodland and semi-natural mixed woodland habitats within the site provide limited foraging and shelter habitat for small mammal species such as hedgehog. |
|                      | <b>Species seen / Evidence of presence / Features identified</b>                                                                                                                   |
|                      | No evidence of hedgehog was identified within the site during the survey.                                                                                                          |
|                      | <b>Further survey required</b>                                                                                                                                                     |
|                      | No further survey effort of other small mammals will be required; however Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) should be implemented (see section 5.2).                            |

### **Invasive species**

Non-native invasive species Japanese knotweed (target note 1) (Appendix 3; Photograph 11) was identified throughout the site. The locations of the non-native invasive species identified within the site are displayed on plan P.1957.24.E01 within Appendix 1.

## 5.0 Evaluation and Recommendations

---

### 5.1 Designated Sites and Habitats

Blackley Forest LNR and Boggart Hole Clough LNR lie 800m and 900m away from the site. These sites are unlikely to be impacted during the construction phase due to the separation distance from the site. There is unlikely to be a post-construction impact due to recreational activity on these sites due to the proposals being for twenty-four residential dwellings total and other recreational spaces being closer to the site.

There are no non-statutory protected sites within the vicinity of the proposals that are likely to be influenced by the proposals. It is considered that there will be no impact on any non-statutory sites in the vicinity as a result of the proposals.

The site does not fall within a relevant Natural England SSSI Impact Risk Zone.

#### ***Mitigation***

The habitats on site comprise semi-natural broadleaved woodland, semi-natural mixed woodland, improved grassland, dense/continuous scrub and defunct hedgerows. These habitats are considered to have an ecological value of local to the site or lower. The site contains no designated or priority habitats. Overall, the proposals are unlikely to adversely affect the ecological value of the area.

Whilst the site would result in the loss of a small area of woodland, woodland is a common habitat in the surrounding landscape and tree loss can be mitigated for through the planting of native trees within the development proposals.

The production of the Defra Metric Biodiversity Net Gain Calculations is recommended to minimise impacts of biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity and the production of a Management Plan to ensure the long-term commitments to manage the planting, protection and enhancement of biodiversity in and around the new development site.

### 5.2 Protected and Notable Species Recommendations

#### ***Birds***

The semi-natural broadleaved woodland, mixed broadleaved woodland, dense scrub and defunct hedgerows provide suitable habitat for nesting and foraging bird species. It is recommended that vegetation clearance should be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (**1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> August Inclusive**) to avoid any impact on breeding birds. If vegetation clearance cannot be undertaken outside of the breeding bird season, a nesting bird check undertaken by a suitably experienced ecologist should be undertaken immediately prior to works commencing. If an active birds' nest is identified a suitable buffer zone should be implemented where no works are to occur within until the young have fledged the nest.

## **Bats**

The habitats on site provide **moderate** suitability for commuting and foraging bats. It is not considered necessary to undertake transect surveys for bats within the site due to the relatively small size of the site, the better-quality habitat in the wider landscape, and because adequate information on bat activity will be collected during the nocturnal bat surveys for trees.

Static detector surveys are required to supplement the bat activity collected during the nocturnal bat surveys (five consecutive nights per month (April to October).

Drawing/Plan of trees on site can be found at P.1957.24.E01 in Appendix 1. The trees on site were assessed to provide **no to moderate** potential for bats. The trees were assessed as followed:

- **Moderate** potential – TN2 and TN3

The trees will be removed to accommodate the proposals within the site, therefore trees with **moderate** bat roost potential will require a **minimum of two nocturnal survey** undertaken between **May and August** to assess if bats are using the trees within the site as a roost and to inform further recommendations if required.

## **Badger**

The site provides good habitat for badger within the semi-natural broadleaved woodland and semi-natural mixed woodland.

As badgers are a mobile species is it recommended an **updated badger check of suitable habitats** (semi-natural broadleaved woodland and semi-natural mixed woodland) is undertaken prior to works commencing within the site to avoid harm to badger that may have moved into the habitats within the site. It is recommended that a **Badger Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) Method Statement** is implemented during the works to avoid harm to this species. The RAMS should include:

- Construction materials stored on pallets so as not to create a badger refuge area; and
- Existing refuge areas (bramble scrub) should be removed by hand so badgers within are not harmed during their removal.

## **Invasive species**

Japanese knotweed (TN1) has been identified within the site. To avoid the spread (complying with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, see Appendix 4) of these species within the site during site clearance, it is recommended that an **invasive species management plan** is produced and adhered to during the works. It is recommended that the management plan details suitable management of these species, biosecurity measures and avoidance measures where possible.

## **Small mammals**

The site provides limited habitat for hedgehog within the semi-natural broadleaved woodland and semi-natural mixed woodland.

These habitats are likely to be impacted by the proposals and therefore, it is recommended that a **Hedgehog Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) Method Statement** is implemented during the works to avoid harm to this species. The RAMS should include:

- Construction materials stored on pallets so as not to create a hedgehog refuge area; and
- Existing refuge areas (bramble scrub) should be removed by hand so hedgehogs within are not harmed during their removal.

To enable hedgehog continued use of the site it is advised that gaps of at least 13cm by 13cm are left under any new garden fences to enable hedgehog to roam freely within the area following development. To mitigate for the loss of habitat that could be used by hibernating hedgehogs it is recommended that a hedgehog hibernaculum is provided within the landscaping.

### 5.3 Enhancements

In order to meet requirements for biodiversity protection and enhancement outlined within the NPPF, it is recommended that ecological enhancements are included. These could include:

- Provision of 6 bird boxes (25mm and 32mm entrance hole box, house sparrow terrace, swift box), attached to or integrated within new buildings on site;
- Provision of 6 bat features (e.g. Vivara Pro WoodStone Bat box or similar) attached to a retained or new tree on site or provision of a bat box (e.g. Vivara bat bricks or '*bird brick houses*' bat boxes) integrated within new buildings; and
- Suitable landscaping incorporating species that provide a food or shelter resource to wildlife to include hawthorn, hazel, holly, blackthorn, field maple, dog rose and honeysuckle as hedgerow species and oak, alder, field maple, silver birch, crab apple, rowan and bird cherry as tree species.

## 6.0 Conclusions

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The site was subject to an extended phase one habitat survey and a preliminary bat roost assessment of all trees. During the survey and following review of historical species records, it is considered that an impact on birds, bats, badger and hedgehog are likely to occur in relation to the proposals for the site. The following recommendations have been made to avoid an impact on these species:

- If works have not begun by February 2026, an updated site visit will be required to assess the habitats within the site;
- A minimum of two nocturnal bat survey on tree (TN2) and (TN3) (drawing P.1957.24.E01, Appendix 1) between May and August to determine if bats are using the trees as a roost;
- Deployment of static bat detectors (between April and October in suitable weather conditions) to assess the level of bat activity throughout the site;
- Production and implementation of a hedgehog RAMS to avoid any harm to this species during the proposed works;
- Production and implementation of a badger RAMS to avoid any harm to this species during the proposed works.
- Production of an invasive species method statement to avoid the spread of invasive species into the wider landscape during the proposed works;
- Precautionary check for badger prior to works commencing to assess if badgers are using the habitats within the site for shelter;
- Precautionary check for invasive prior to works commencing;
- Enhancing the site for species through appropriate landscape planting that includes native, species rich hedgerows, trees plus provision of integrated bat and bird features within newly constructed buildings;
- Production of the Defra Metric Biodiversity Net Gain Calculations to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity;
- Production of a Management Plan to ensure the long-term commitments to manage the planting, protection and enhancement of biodiversity in and around a new development site.; and
- Vegetation clearance or pruning should be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> August Inclusive) to avoid any impact on breeding birds. Or a nesting bird check undertaken by a suitably experienced ecologist should be undertaken immediately prior to works commencing.

It is considered that there would be very limited impacts on the local ecology as a result of the proposals, provided the recommendations detailed within section 5.0 above are followed.

## 7.0 References

---

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# Appendix 1



- Key**
- Survey Area
  - A1.1.1 - Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural
  - A1.3.1 - Mixed woodland - semi-natural
  - A2.1 - Scrub - dense/continuous
  - B4 - Improved grassland
  - J2.2.2 - Defunct species-poor hedgerow

- Bat Roost Potential**
- Moderate bat roost potential
  - Target Notes

TN1 - Japanese knotweed  
TN2 - Moderate bat roost potential  
TN3 - Moderate bat roost potential

DO NOT SCALE.  
ALL COORDINATES RELATED TO LOCAL GRID.  
LOCATED TO NG BY BEST FIT TO DETAIL.  
EXTRACTED FROM OS DIGITAL DATA.

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CLIENT:  
Great Places Housing Group

PROJECT:  
Parkhill Avenue, Crumpsall

DRAWING TITLE:  
Phase 1 Habitat Survey

|                     |                 |                              |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| SCALE:<br>NTS@A3    | DRAWN BY:<br>AR | DRAWING No:<br>P.1957.24.E01 |
| DATE:<br>08/03/2024 | CHKD BY:<br>LK  | REV:<br>-                    |

# **Appendix 2**

## Appendix 2: Species Lists and Target Notes

**Table 1: Flora Species**

| English Name        | Scientific Name              |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Ash                 | <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>    |
| Beech               | <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>       |
| Bluebell sp.        | <i>Hyacinthoides sp.</i>     |
| Bramble             | <i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i> |
| Buddleja            | <i>Buddleja</i>              |
| Cherry laurel       | <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>   |
| Cleavers            | <i>Galium aparine</i>        |
| Cock's-foot         | <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>    |
| Common nettle       | <i>Urtica dioica</i>         |
| Cow parsley         | <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> |
| Cranes bill         | <i>Geranium sp.</i>          |
| Creeping buttercup  | <i>Ranunculus repens</i>     |
| Dandelion           | <i>Taraxacum agg.</i>        |
| Dock sp.            | <i>Rumex sp.</i>             |
| Dogwood             | <i>Cornus sanguinea</i>      |
| Honeysuckle sp.     | <i>Lonicera sp.</i>          |
| Holly               | <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>       |
| Ivy                 | <i>Hedera helix</i>          |
| Japanese knotweed * | <i>Fallopia japonica</i>     |
| Leyland cypress     | <i>Cupressus × leylandii</i> |
| Pedunculate Oak     | <i>Quercus robur</i>         |
| Perennial ryegrass  | <i>Lolium perenne</i>        |
| Red fescue          | <i>Festuca rubra</i>         |
| Rose sp.            | <i>Rosa sp.</i>              |
| Sycamore            | <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>   |
| Willowherb sp.      | <i>Epilobium sp.</i>         |
| Willow sp.          | <i>Salix sp.</i>             |

**\* invasive species**

**Table 2: Target Notes**

| Target Note Number | Description                  |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| TN1                | Japanese knotweed            |
| TN2                | Moderate bat roost potential |
| TN3                | Moderate bat roost potential |

# **Appendix 3**

## Appendix 3: Photographs

**Table 3: Photographs of the site**

|                                                                                     |                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    |    |
| Photograph 1: Semi-natural broadleaved woodland                                     | Photograph 2: Semi-natural broadleaved woodland                                      |
|   |   |
| Photograph 3: Improved grassland                                                    | Photograph 4: Semi-natural mixed woodland                                            |
|  |  |
| Photograph 5: Semi-natural mixed woodland                                           | Photograph 6: Bramble scrub                                                          |

|                                                                                    |                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   |   |
| <p>Photograph 7: Defunct hedgerow</p>                                              | <p>Photograph 8: Tree (TN2) – moderate bat roost potential</p>                      |
|  |  |
| <p>Photograph 9: Tree (TN2) – moderate bat roost potential</p>                     | <p>Photograph 10: Tree (TN3) – moderate bat roost potential</p>                     |



Photograph 11: TN1 – Japanese knotweed

# Appendix 4

## Appendix 4: Relevant Legislation

### European Legislation

The following Directives have been adopted by the European Union and provide protection for fauna and flora species of European importance and the habitats which support them:

- Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive);
- Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive).

### UK Legislation

The Habitats Directive has been transposed into national legislation through the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (The Habitats Regulations). This provides for the designation and protection of 'European Sites' (SPAs, SACs and Ramsar Sites, including proposed or potential European Sites) and the protection of 'European Protected Species'.

The key UK legislation relating to nature conservation is the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (W&C Act). This Act is supplemented, *inter alia*, by provision in the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000, and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act). Additional species and habitat specific UK legislation includes the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

The Environment Act sets out how the UK will maintain environmental standards following leaving of the EU. The Bill builds on the vision of the 25 Year Environment Plan, with the ambition from the government to leave the environment in a better state than it was when inherited.

The Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric is being implemented to work alongside the Environment Act. This tool calculates potential biodiversity impacts as a result of development and identifies mitigation and compensation requirements to ensure no net loss of biodiversity. In addition, it identifies measures that can be implemented in order to meet Biodiversity gain as a result of development. Defra released the Statutory biodiversity metric in November 2023. This metric is likely to be the default metric used by councils, with the most recent version to be submitted to support a planning application.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023 has been published to provide further planning guidance. Wildlife, biodiversity and ecological networks are referred to in Section 15 '*Conserving and enhancing the natural environment*'. The NPPF states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: protecting and enhancing valued landscapes and sites of biodiversity value, recognise the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services and minimising impacts on and provided net gains for biodiversity. Further guidance is provided within Government Circular 06/05: *Biodiversity and Geological Conservation - Statutory Obligations and Their Impact Within the Planning System*.

## Species and Habitats of Principal Importance

Species and Habitats of Principal Importance are listed under section 41 of the NERC Act and are a material consideration in planning decisions. Planners require relevant, up to date information from ecological surveys in order to assess the effects of a proposed development on biodiversity as Councils have a statutory obligation under section 40 of the NERC Act to consider biodiversity conservation in the determination of planning applications.

Background information about the lists of priority habitats and species (Species and Habitats of Principal Importance) can be found within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). Although this has been succeeded by the '*UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework*', many of UK BAP tools are still relevant. BAPs identify habitats and species of nature conservation priority on a UK (UK BAP) and Local (LBAP) scale. Most BAP priority habitats and species have Habitat Action Plans (HAP) and Species Action Plans (SAP) and there are also "grouped action plans" for groups of related species with similar conservation requirements. The LBAP relating to this site is the Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan.

(Additional, species specific legislation is detailed below and should be included/deleted as appropriate following survey. This list is not exhaustive, other species may need to be included if habitats on site may support them)

### **Badgers**

The legislation protecting badgers in England and Wales is the Protection of Badgers Act 1992.

Under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 it is an offence *inter alia* to:

- Wilfully kill, injure or take a badger, or to attempt to do so;
- Cruelly ill-treat a badger; or
- Intentionally or recklessly interfere with a badger sett by (a) damaging a sett or any part of one; (b) destroying a sett; (c) obstructing access to or any entrance of a sett; (d) causing a dog to enter a sett; or (e) disturbing a badger when it is occupying a sett.

The Badger Act 1992 defines a badger's sett as "*any structure or place which displays signs indicating current use by a badger*"

Natural England can issue licences to enable works to continue that may affect a protected species. In relation to disturbance of badgers, Natural England (2009) gives guidelines on disturbance which will require a licence. These includes: "*using very heavy machinery (generally tracked vehicles) within 30 metres of any entrance to an active sett; using lighter machinery (generally wheeled vehicles), particularly for any digging operation, within 20 metres; light work such as hand digging or scrub clearance within 10 metres. There are some activities which may cause disturbance at greater distances (such as using explosives or pile driving) and these should be given individual consideration.*"

## **Bats**

In England, all bats and their roosts are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Several species of bat are also highlighted as Priority Species under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and within the Local BAP.

Under the current legislation as summarised on pages 9 and 10 of the Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists Good Practice Guidelines – 4th Edition (2023) it is a criminal offence to:

*“To kill, capture, injure or take a wild bat;*

- *To damage or destroy a place used by a bat for breeding or resting. All offences of this nature are identified within the Habitats Regulations. This offence is unique in that it can be committed accidentally. No element of intentional, reckless or deliberate action needs to be evidenced;*
- *To disturb bats anywhere (roosts, flight lines or foraging areas) if levels of disturbance can be shown to impair their ability to survive, to breed or reproduce, to rear or nurture their young, to hibernate or migrate or to affect significantly local distribution or abundance;*
- *To intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat, whilst it is occupying a place of shelter or protection;*
- *To intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any place used by a bat for shelter or protection; and*
- *To be in possession or control of a bat alive or dead (or any part of a bat or anything derived from a bat, although bat droppings are generally considered to be acceptable), or to transport a bat, to sell or exchange a bat or to offer to sell or exchange a bat taken from the wild.”*

## **Breeding Birds**

Breeding Birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act which make it an offence to:

- *intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built;*
- *intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird;*
- *have in one's possession or control any wild bird, dead or alive, or any part of a wild bird (including eggs), which has been taken in contravention of the Act or the Protection of Birds Act 1954;*
- *intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.*

**It is a criminal offence to intentionally, wilfully kill, injure or take any of the aforementioned protected species or to destroy or disturb its habitat.**

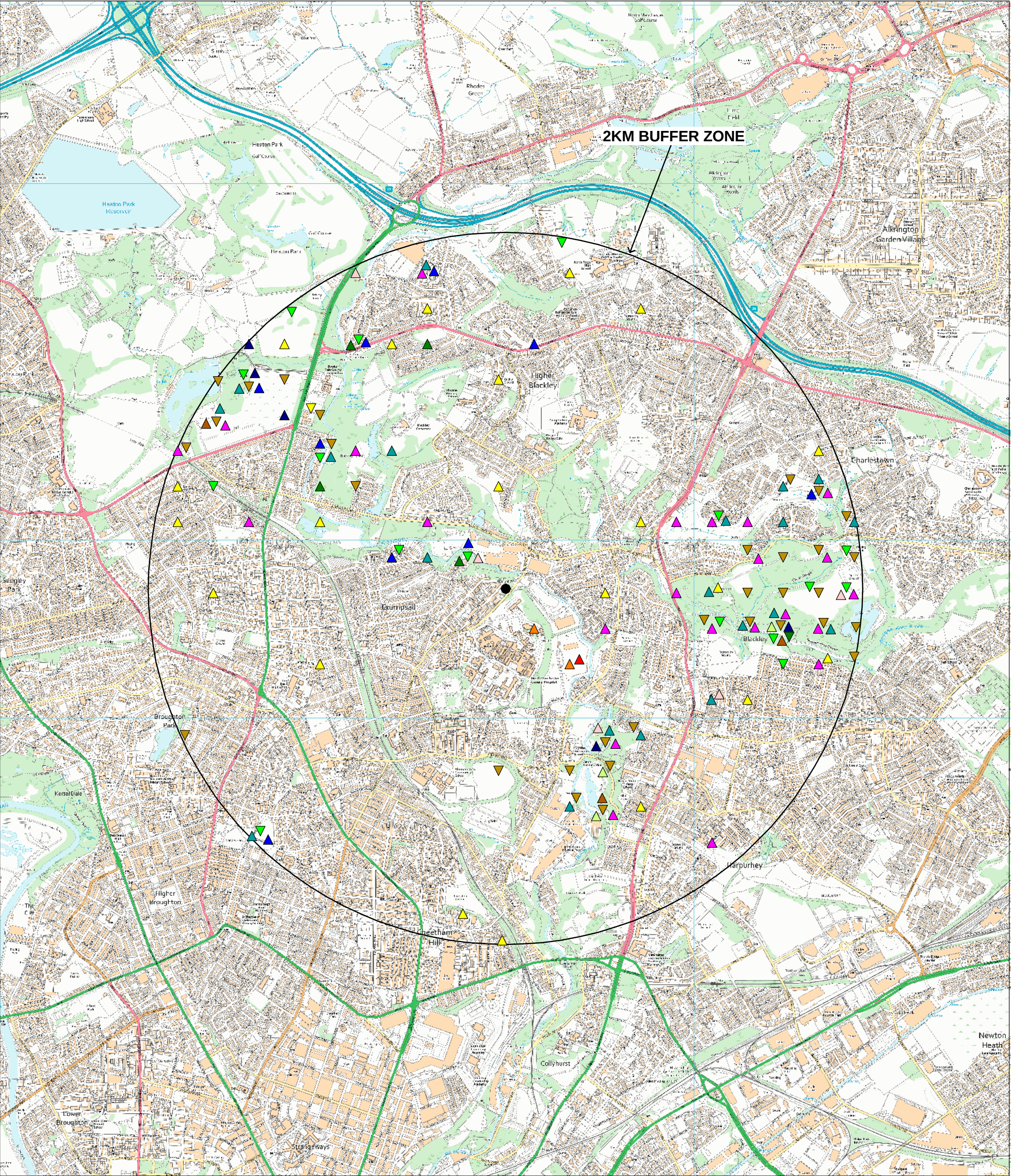
### ***Invasive Species***

It is an offence under Section 14(2) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to '*plant or otherwise cause to grow*' in the wild any plant in Schedule 9 Part II.

### **Local Policy**

The site lies within Crumpsall and is covered by the Manchester Local Plan 2012-2027 (adopted 11 July 2012) and extant policies within the Unitary Development Plan. The policy of relevance is EN 15 within the Core Strategy document.

# **Appendix 5**



**KEY**  
**SECTION 41 SPECIES**

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| ▲ BULLFINCH      | ▲ LINNET         |
| ▲ COMMON TOAD    | ▲ REED BUNTING   |
| ▲ DUNNOCK        | ▲ S41 MOTH       |
| ▲ HEDGEHOG       | ▲ SONG THRUSH    |
| ▲ HERRING GULL   | ▲ SP. FLYCATCHER |
| ▲ HOUSE SPARROW  | ▲ STARLING       |
| ▲ LAPWING        | ▲ YELLOW WAGTAIL |
| ▲ LESSER REDPOLL |                  |

**GREATER MANCHESTER ECOLOGY UNIT**  
**ECOLOGICAL SEARCH - SD 84940 02726**  
**PARKHILL AVENUE - MAP 5**

SCALE 1:20,000

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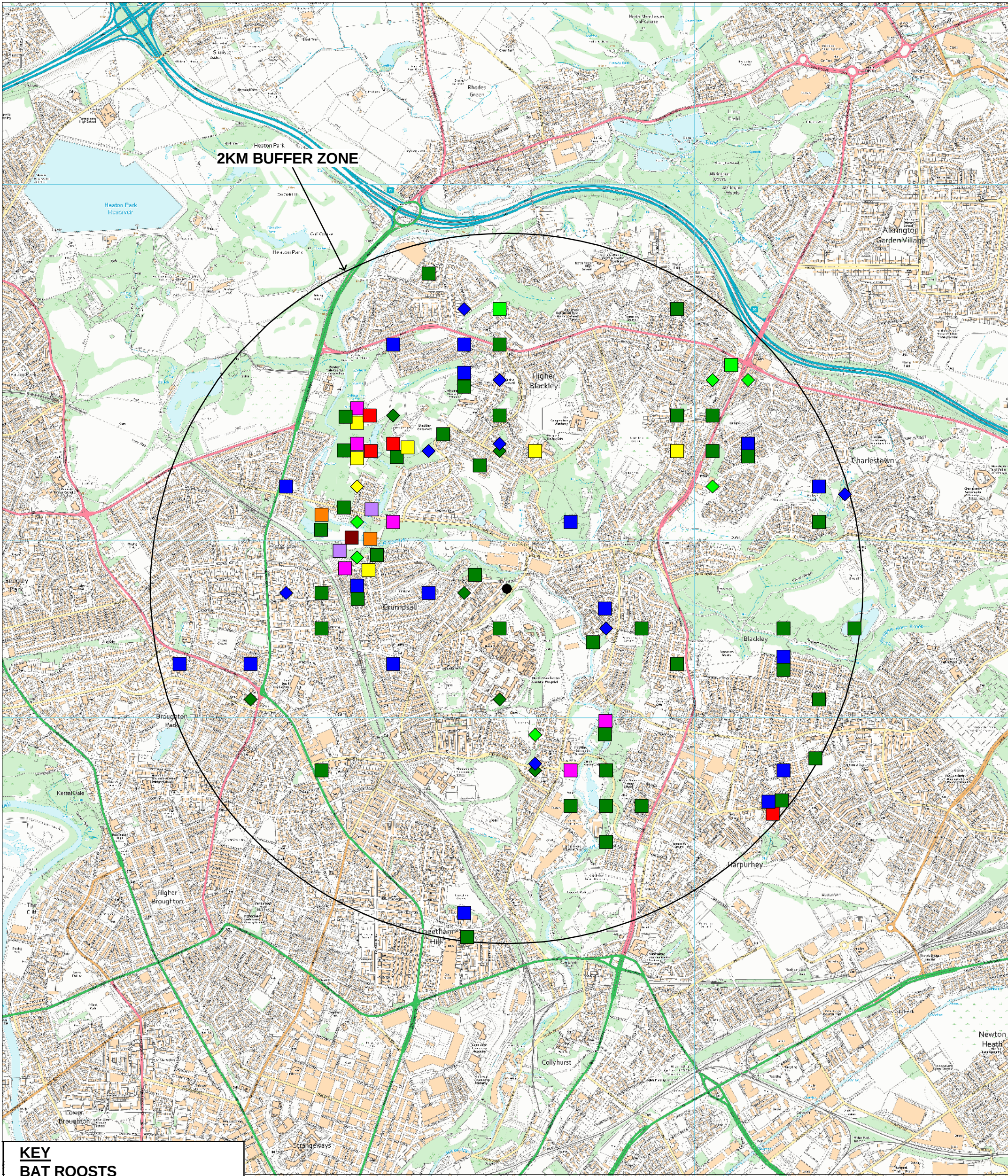
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**KEY**  
**BAT ROOSTS**

- ◆ BAT SP
- ◆ COMMON PIPISTRELLE
- ◆ PIPISTRELLE SP
- ◆ SOPRANO PIPISTRELLE

**BATS OTHER SIGNS**

- BAT SP
- BROWN LONG-EARED BAT
- COMMON PIPISTRELLE
- DAUBENTON'S BAT
- MYOTIS SP
- NATTERER'S BAT
- NOCTULE BAT
- PIPISTRELLE SP
- SOPRANO PIPISTRELLE

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**PARKHILL AVENUE - MAP 4**

**SCALE 1:20,000**

**BAT DATA COURTESY OF SOUTH LANCS BAT GROUP**

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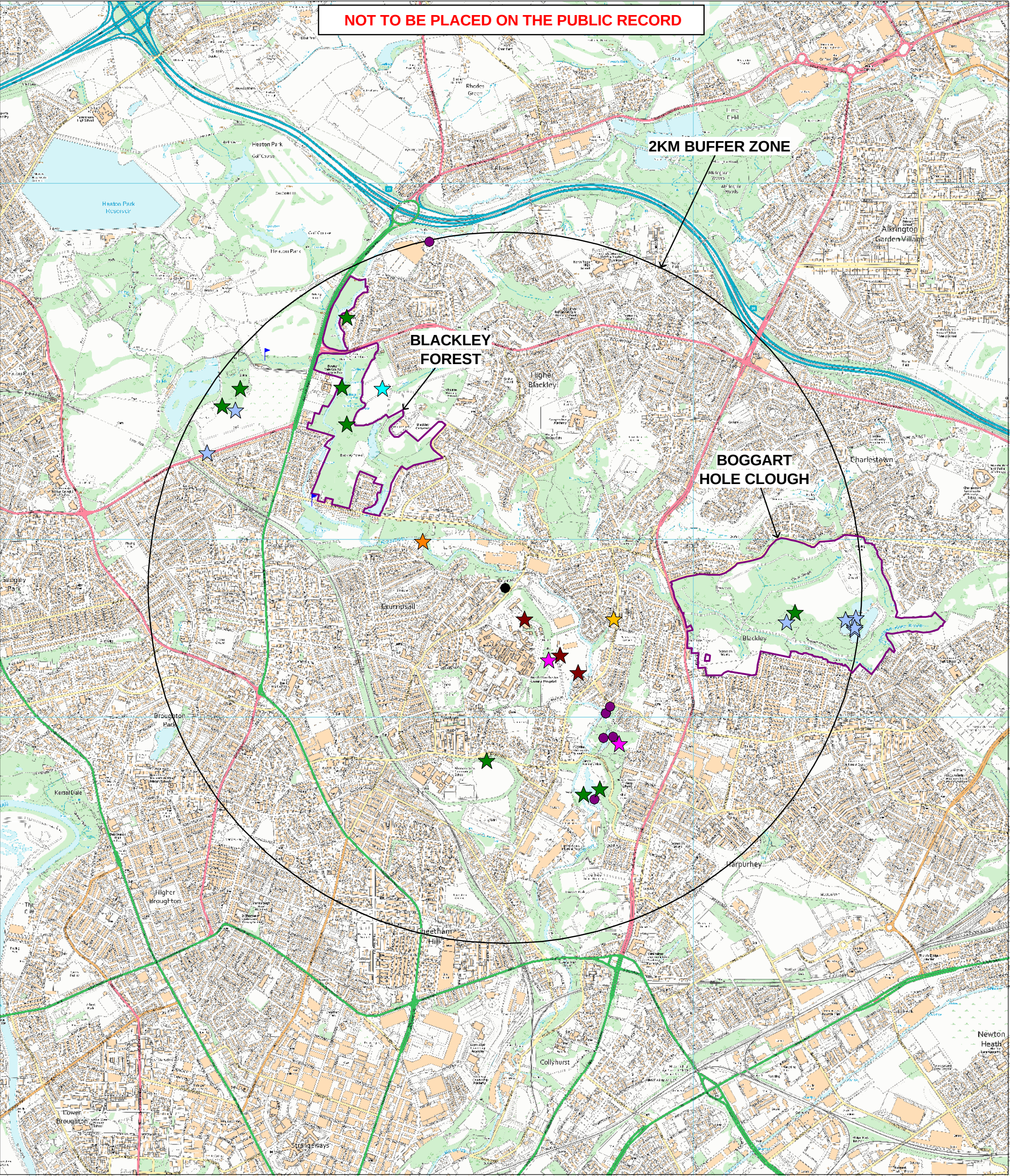
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**KEY**

**PROTECTED SPECIES**

- ▶ WATER VOLE
- GREAT CRESTED NEWT ABSENCE
- ★ BARN OWL
- ★ GREY HERON (HERONRY)
- ★ KINGFISHER
- ★ LITTLE RINGED PLOVER
- ★ OTTER
- ★ PEREGRINE
- ★ SLOW-WORM

**SITES**

- LOCAL NATURE RESERVES

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PARKHILL AVENUE - MAP 2

SCALE 1:20,000

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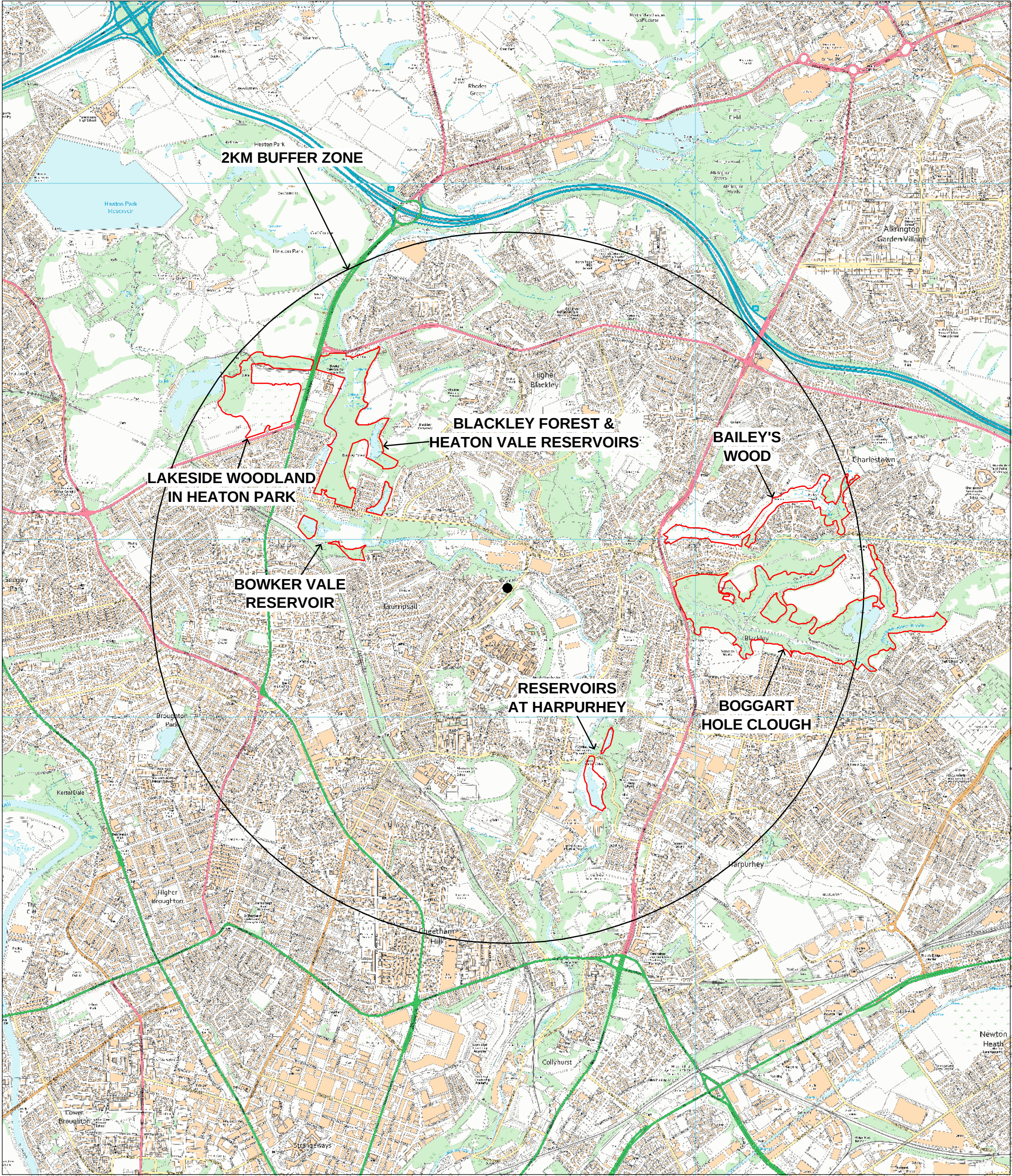
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**GREATER MANCHESTER ECOLOGY UNIT  
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PARKHILL AVENUE - MAP 1**

**SCALE 1:20,000**

**KEY**  
**SITE OF BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE**  
 **SBI BOUNDARY**

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