THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP

CHAIN ROAD, BLACKLEY

MANCHESTER

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

TEP
Genesis Centre
Birchwood Science Park
Warrington
WA3 7BH

Tel: 01925 844004
Email: tep@tep.uk.com
www.tep.uk.com

Offices in Warrington, Market Harborough, Gateshead, London and Cornwall

Document Title	Preliminary Ecological Assessment
Prepared for	Great Places Housing Group
Prepared by	TEP - Warrington
Document Ref	8990.001

Author	Danielle Langton
Date	August 2021
Checked	Emma Pickering
Approved	Emma Pickering

Amendment History					
Version	Date	Modified by	Check / Approved by	Reason(s) issue	Status
1.0	Aug 21	DL	EP	Original issue	Superseded
2.0	Sep 21	DL	KS	Client name updated	Live

CONTENTS PAGE

Executive Summary 1
1.0 Introduction 2
2.0 Methods 3
3.0 Results 6
4.0 Conclusions 13
5.0 Recommendations 16

TABLES PAGE

Table 1: Sources of ecological information 3
Table 2: Roost assessment criteria (from Table 4.1 of BCT Guidelines 2016) 4

FIGURES PAGE

Figure 1: Site location in wider landscape 2
Figure 2: Amenity grassland TN1 2
Figure 3: Amenity grassland TN1 at southern site boundary (Victoria Avenue) 2
Figure 4: Modified neutral grassland TN2 3
Figure 5: Ephemeral vegetation over hardstanding and scattered trees 3
Figure 6: Japanese rose 4
Figure 7: Dense/continuous scrub TN3 4
Figure 8: Scrub and scattered trees around site boundary 5
Figure 9: Northern site boundary (Chain Road) 5

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Site Photographs
APPENDIX B: Target Notes
APPENDIX C: Desk Study Report

DRAWINGS

Phase 1 Habitat Survey G8990.001

Executive Summary

1. TEP was commissioned in July 2021 by Bowker Sadler, on behalf of Great Places Housing Group, to carry out a preliminary ecological assessment of the site known as Chain Road, Blackley. This assessment has been requested to support a planning application for a residential development.

2. The site is dominated by hardstanding, amenity grassland, modified neutral grassland, dense scrub and scattered trees. All habitats within the site that will be lost to development are of negligible to low ecological value.

3. A single stand of the invasive non-native species Japanese rose (WCA9) was identified on site during the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey. An Invasive Species Method Statement should be produced to ensure that there is no spread of this species as a result of the proposed works.

4. Standard pollution prevention and dust control measures should be set out in a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and implemented during site clearance and works. The CEMP will ensure that indirect impacts on habitats adjacent to the site are reduced to a reasonable minimum.

5. A Root Protection Zone (RPZ) should be implemented around any retained trees. Replacement planting of trees unavoidably lost to development should be provided on site or, where this is not possible, in the local vicinity.

6. The scattered trees and dense scrub within the site offer suitable habitat for nesting birds. Any vegetation clearance/ soil stripping should be conducted outside of the bird breeding season (March-August) in order to avoid potential damage or destruction of an active nest. Where clearance is unavoidable during this period, a pre-clearance check should be made by an ecologist but where an active nest is identified, works will need to be postponed until the chicks have fledged.

7. A RAMMS should be implemented during site clearance to avoid impacts on protected and notable species potentially present on site, i.e. hedgehog.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Environment Partnership (TEP) Ltd was commissioned in July 2021 by Bowker Sadler, on behalf of Great Places housing Group, to carry out a preliminary ecological assessment of the site known as Chain Road, Blackley located in Manchester. This report has the following objectives:

- to describe the existing vegetation and give an overview of the habitats present on the site;
- to identify whether there are any features of conservation value such as legally protected species or habitats of biodiversity importance;
- to advise of further surveys or mitigation requirements that may be needed prior to development of the site; and
- to outline opportunities to provide biodiversity enhancement within site proposals.

1.2 The site is located at the junction between Chain Road and Victoria Avenue in Blackley and is approximately 0.5 ha in size. The site is centred on grid reference SD 85972 04169. The survey area and site context are shown in Figure 1 below.

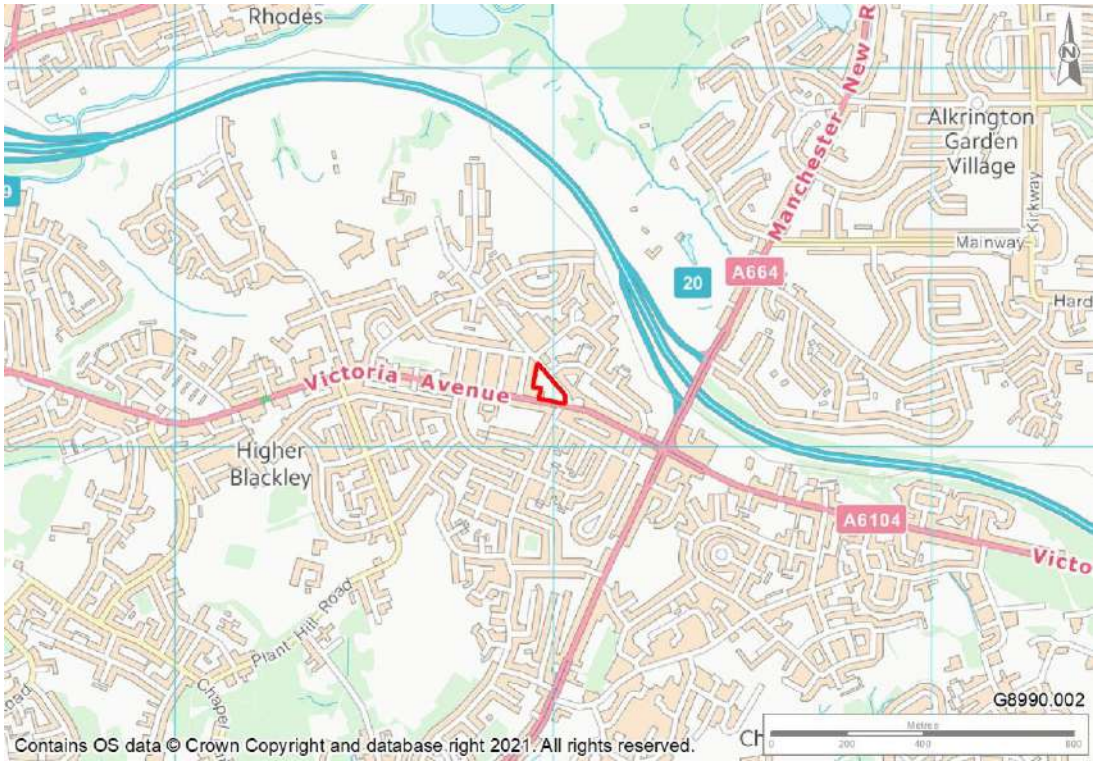


Figure 1: Site location in wider landscape

1.3 The site is surrounded by residential development and the Manchester Ring Road is approximately 250m to the north east.

2.0 Methods

Ecology Desk Study

2.1 Information regarding historic species records were obtained from within a 2km radius of the site from Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU). Records of internationally protected sites were obtained from within a 10km radius, nationally designated sites within 5km radius and locally protected sites within a 2km radius of the site were requested/gathered from the sources listed in Table 1. This collated data gives a useful indication of the distribution and abundance of ecological receptors at a given locale. It should, however, be noted that an absence of records does not indicate the absence of protected species from the search area. Our survey work has sought to identify the potential for any protected species on site or within influencing distance of the site.

Table 1: Sources of ecological information

Source of Information	Nature of Information
Where's the Path	Satellite & OS imagery
Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) Map	Statutory protected sites and habitat inventory
Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU)	Protected species records and designated sites
Manchester Core Strategy 2012 - 2027 (Adopted 11th July 2021)	Land allocations and relevant policies

Habitats and Flora

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

2.2 The Phase 1 habitat survey was carried out by TEP ecologist Stephanie Davies, (FISC Level 3) on 28th July 2021. The survey was carried out in accordance with the Phase 1 habitat assessment methods (JNCC 2010[1]) and the Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM 2017[2]).

Limitations

2.3 The survey was undertaken during the recommended season to undertake Phase 1 habitat surveys (from mid-April to early October) and full access was available to the site. No limitations were encountered during the Phase 1 habitat survey.

[1] JNCC 2010. Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: A technique for environmental audit.
[2] CIEEM 2017. Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.

Fauna

2.4 The Phase 1 survey method was extended through the additional recording of specific features indicating the presence, or likely presence, of protected species or other species of nature conservation significance, including invasive species, broadly in accordance with Guidelines for Preliminary Baseline Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM, 2017).

Bats

Preliminary Daytime Bat Roost Assessment

2.5 The ecological appraisal included a ground-based assessment of the trees within and adjacent to the site boundary for bat roosting potential. The preliminary daytime bat roost assessment was carried out by Stephanie Davies (licence ref: 2020-44415-CLS-CLS) at the same time as the Phase 1 habitat survey. The habitats on site and surrounding the site were also assessed for potential to support roosting, foraging and commuting bats.

2.6 The criteria for preliminary roost assessment are based upon the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) Guidelines (2016[3]) as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Roost assessment criteria (from Table 4.1 of BCT Guidelines 2016)

Roost Suitability	Description of roosting habitat	Commuting and foraging habitats
Negligible	Negligible habitat features on site to be used by roosting bats.	Negligible habitat features on site to be used by commuting and foraging bats.
Low	A tree of sufficient size and age to contain potential roost features (PRFs) but with none seen from the ground or features seen with only very limited roosting potential.	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of commuting bats (e.g. a gappy hedgerow or an un-vegetated stream) or foraging bats (e.g. a lone tree or small patch of scrub) but which is isolated from the surrounding countryside by other habitat.
Moderate	A tree with one or more potential roost features that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat, but which is unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (maternity or hibernation).	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for commuting (e.g. lines of trees or scrub or linked back gardens), or foraging bats (e.g. trees, scrub, water, grassland).

[3] BCT 2016. Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines. Bat Conservation Trust 3rd Ed.

Roost Suitability	Description of roosting habitat	Commuting and foraging habitats
High Potential	A tree with one or more potential roost features that are suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time, due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat.	Continuous high quality habitat that is strongly connected with the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by commuting bats (e.g. river valley, vegetated stream, woodland edge, hedgerows with trees) or foraging bats (e.g. broadleaved woodland, grazed parkland, tree-lined watercourses or ponds).

Limitations

2.7 There are no seasonal constraints for undertaking preliminary bat roost assessments of structures or trees. However, the optimal period to undertake this survey of trees is between December and March when trees are out of leaf. This survey was undertaken in July when there is significant leaf cover. In cases where visibility was limited due to leaf cover, a precautionary assessment was made.

3.0 Results

Ecology Desk Study

3.1 A summary of the results of the ecology desk study are set out below. Further details, including maps, are provided in Appendix A.

Relevant Planning Policies and Guidance

3.2 The following policies from the Manchester Core Strategy (adopted 11th July 2012) are most relevant to this assessment:

- Policy EN9 Green infrastructure
- Policy EN15 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation

Designated Sites

3.3 There is one internationally designated site for nature conservation within 10km of the development boundary. The Rochdale Canal SAC site lies approximately 2.9km west of the proposed site at the nearest point and is designated for supporting a botanically diverse waterplant community, including a significant population of floating water plantain *Luronium* natans and a wide range of pondweeds *Potamogeton spp..*

3.4 There is one nationally designated site for nature conservation within 5km of the site. The Rochdale canal SSSI site lies approximately 2.9km west of the proposed site at the nearest point and is designated for its submerged aquatic plant and emergent vegetation communities, including extensive colonies of *Luronium natans*.

3.5 The site is located within the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) for the Rochdale Canal SSSI site. The IRZ covers the interest features and sensitivities of European sites, which are underpinned by the SSSI designation. Residential development is not listed as a risk category with regard to this SSSI.

3.6 There are three statutory locally designated sites for nature conservation (Local Nature Reserves) within 2km of the proposed development site: Alkrington Woods (600m northeast); Boggart Hole Clough (1.2km southeast); and Blackley Forest (1.5km southwest).

3.7 There are six non-statutory locally designated sites for nature conservation (Site of Biological Importance) within 2km of the site. The closest SBIs are Boardman Brook, and Alkrington Woods and Rhodes Lodges which are both located approximately 600m northeast of the proposed development site.

Section 41 Habitats

3.8 No records of Section 41 (S41) Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC) habitats of principal importance were returned within the site or adjacent to the site.

Protected Species Records

3.9 A number of species spread over a 2km search radius were identified through the GMEU desktop search. Species include those listed under any of the following:

- European Protected Species (EPS);
- Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA1);
- Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA5);
- Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA8);
- Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA9);
- Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (PBA);
- Species of principal importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (S41); and
- Red and Amber listed Birds of Conservation Concern (BRd/BAm);
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan species (LBAP).

Amphibians

3.10 The desktop search returned records of amphibians within 2km of the site.

3.11 The nearest record of great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* (EPS, WCA5, S41, LBAP) is approximately 2km northwest of the site. The nearest record of common toad *Bufo bufo* (S41) is 1km northwest of the site, beyond the M60.

Bats

3.12 There are a number of records of bats within 2km of the site:

- Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (EPS, WCA5, LBAP);
- Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii* (EPS, WCA5);
- Myotis *spp. Myotis spp.* (EPS, WCA5)
- Noctule bat *Nyctalus noctula* (EPS, WCA5, S41, LBAP);
- Pipistrelle *spp. Pipistrellus spp.* (EPS, WCA5, S41, LBAP); and
- Soprano *pipistrelle Pipistrellus pygmaeus* (EPS, WCA5, S41, LBAP).

Badger

3.13 There are several records of badger *Meles Meles* (PBA) within 2km of the site.

Birds

3.14 There are a number of desktop records of birds within 2km of the site:

- Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* (S41, BAm, LBAP);
- Dunnock *Prunella modularis* (S41, BAm);
- Grasshopper warbler *Locustella naevia* (S41, BRd);
- Herring gull *Larus argentatus* (S41 BRd);
- Hobby *Falco subbuteo* (WCA1);
- House sparrow *Passer domesticus* (S41, BRd);
- Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* (WCA1, BAm);
- Lawping *Vanellus vanellus* (S41, BRd, LBAP);
- Lesser redpoll *Acanthis cabaret* (S41, BRd);
- Linnet *Linaria cannabina* (S41, BRd, LBAP);
- Little ringed plover *Charadrius dubius* (WCA1);
- Reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* (S41, BRm, LBAP);
- Song thrush *Turdus philomelos* (S41, BRd, LBAP);
- Spotted flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* (S41, BRd, LBAP);

- Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (S41, BRd, LBAP);
- Swallow *Hirundo rustica* (BAm); and
- Yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava* (S41, BRd).

Reptiles

3.15 Slow-worm (WCA5, S41) have been recorded 1.8km southwest of the site.

Water Vole and Otter

3.16 There is one record of otter *Lutra lutra* (EPS, WCA5, S41) within 2km of the site. The nearest record is approximately 1.9km southwest of the site.

3.17 There are no records of water vole *Arvicola amphibius* (WCA5, S41) within 2km of the site.

Hedgehog

3.18 There are 16 records of hedgehog (S41) within 2km of the site. The nearest record is approximately 600m north of the site, beyond the M60.

Invertebrates

3.19 Two S41 moth species, cinnabar *Tyria jacobaeae* and buff ermine *Spilosoma luteumis,* have been recorded approximately 900m north and 1.9km southwest of the site, respectively.

Protected and invasive Plant Species

3.20 Yellow bird's-nest (S41) has been recorded approximately 1.2km north of the site.

3.21 There are no records of any invasive plant species within 2km of the site.

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

3.22 The results of the Phase 1 habitat survey are illustrated in Drawing G8990.001. Detailed Target Notes (TN) are presented in Appendix B. The habitats present within the development site or adjacent to the site are listed below, along with brief descriptions:

- Amenity grassland;
- Modified neutral grassland;
- Scattered broadleaved trees;
- Dense/continuous scrub;
- Tall ruderal vegetation; and
- Ephemeral vegetation over hardstanding.

Amenity grassland

3.23 Amenity grassland was present in the eastern corner of the site, surrounded on all sides by public walkways. The dominant species here were white clover *Trifolium repens,* perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne* and Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*. Creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens* and dandelion *Taraxacum agg.* are abundant. The full species list can be found under TN1 in Appendix B.

Modified Neutral Grassland

3.24 This type of grassland[4] is present in the centre of the site and extends from the northern to southern boundaries. Rosebay willowherb *Chamaenerion angustifolium*, great willowherb *Epilobium* hirsutum, ribwort plantain *Plantago* lanceolata, white clover and red clover *Trifolium repens* were abundant within this habitat type. Field horsetail *Equisetum arvense* was also abundant towards the north of the site. The full species list can be found under TN2 in Appendix B.

Scattered Broad-leaved Trees

3.25 Scattered trees are present across the site in all areas excluding the amenity grassland. Several trees line the public paved areas adjacent to Chain Road and Victoria Avenue. Species include ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, alder *Alnus glutinosa*, plum *Prunus spp.*, hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*, wych elm *Ulmus glabra*, lime *Tilia spp.*, cherry *Prunus spp.*, and wild privet *Ligustrum vulgare* and field maple *Acer campestre*.

Dense/continuous Scrub

3.26 A large area of scrub is present in the south west corner of the site. It is dominated by bramble *Rubus fruticosus agg*, with occasional young goat willow *Salix caprea* and apple *Malus domestica* trees and saplings. Rosebay willowherb and nettle *Urtica dioica* are abundant. Full species list can be found under TN3 in Appendix B.

3.27 Scrub is also present along the edges of the hardstanding in the north west of the site, bordering Chain Road and the alley way between the site and adjacent houses.

Tall Ruderal Vegetation

3.28 Small strips of tall ruderal vegetation is present bordering the alley way between the site and adjacent houses, and also alongside the scrub to the north. Species include field horsetail, nettle, buddleia *Buddleia davidii*, willowherb *Epilobium spp.*, geranium *Geranium spp.* and lady's mantle *Alchemilla spp..*

Ephemeral vegetation over hardstanding

3.29 Hardstanding is present within the site as public walkways adjacent to Chain Road and Victoria Avenue, and also dominates the north western section of the site.

3.30 A small area of ephemeral vegetation is present over hardstanding in the inner section of the site. This patch is dominated by moss and other species present include common ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*, black medick *Medicago lupulina*, dandelion, fescue *spp*., bramble and timothy *Phleum pratense*.

[4] 4 The neutral grassland categories detailed within the Phase 1 Habitat Survey Handbook are concentrated on grassland associated with rural situations (pastures and meadows), as such it was agreed with JNCC in 2005 (P. Gateley, pers. comm.) that neutral grassland habitats that don't easily fit within these categories, usually within urban or industrial areas, can be referred to as modified neutral grassland – 'Modified neutral grassland is not derived from agricultural grassland and the terms semi-improved and improved do not apply. Some modified neutral grassland may be species-rich but many swards are dense, coarse and species-poor. Modified neutral grassland naturally regenerates on disturbed ground and is unmanaged. It most commonly occurs in urban areas and on post-industrial land'.

Protected and Invasive Plant Species

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

3.32 A single stand of Japanese rose (WCA9) was recorded within the site during the survey, along the northern boundary adjacent to Chain Road. No other invasive non-native species were noted during the survey.

Connectivity with the Wider Landscape

3.33 The site has poor connectivity to the wider landscape as it is surrounded by residential developments, with the Manchester Outer Ring Road (M60) situated approximately 250m north east.

Fauna

Amphibians

3.34 Common toad and GCN have been recorded within 2km of the site boundary. The scrub and grassland habitats within the site provide suitable terrestrial habitats for ranging, foraging and hibernating common amphibians.

3.35 There is no suitable breeding habitat for amphibians present within the site boundary. The nearest pond is approximately 400m north east of the site boundary, beyond the M60 which is considered to be a barrier to dispersal of great crested newts and other common amphibians.

Bats

3.36 There are several records of bats within 2km of the site, the nearest being common pipistrelle (220m northwest) and pipistrelle spp. (230m east).

3.37 None of the trees both within and adjacent to the site were considered to have potential to support roosting bats, all classified as offer negligible potential in line with BCT Guidelines.

3.38 The scattered trees and scrub habitats provide some suitability for commuting and foraging bats but the habitat is limited in extent and does not form clear linear routes.

Badger

3.39 The desk study returned records for badger within 1km of the site boundary, however due to the confidential nature of badger records the proximity to site has not been reported.

3.40 The site offers suitable habitat for sett excavation, foraging and commuting. No evidence of badger was recorded at the time of the survey from within the site or immediately adjacent.

Birds

3.41 Numerous records were returned for protected and notable bird species within 2km of the site boundary. Records of WCA1 species include kingfisher, hobby and little ringed plover, although the habitats within the site are not suitable to support these species. The nearest records of protected and notable bird species are located approximately 600m from the site, beyond the M60.

3.42 The scattered trees and dense scrub within the site provides suitable nesting opportunities for a variety of common bird species associated with these habitat types.

Otter

3.43 There is one record of otter approximately 1.9km from the proposed site.

3.44 Otters require primarily riparian habitats for foraging and commuting with wetlands or woodland in close proximity for shelter. There are no suitable habitats on site or within 30m of the site suitable to support otters.

Water Vole

3.45 The desk study did not return any records of water vole within 2km of the site.

3.46 Water vole require primarily riparian habitats for foraging, commuting and shelter. There are no suitable habitats on site or within 30m of the site suitable to support water vole.

Reptiles

3.47 The desk study returned one records of slow-worm approximately 1.8km south west of the site.

3.48 Reptiles favour a range of habitat types and varying topography to provide a combination of necessary conditions required for shelter, foraging and basking. The habitats on site are limited in extent, dominated by grassland, hardstanding and scrub. Small areas of scrub on site offer limited potential for reptiles, however the site is isolated from the surrounding area.

Hedgehog

3.49 Numerous records of hedgehog were returned within 2km of the site and the nearest record was 610m northeast of the site beyond the M60.

3.50 The scrub within the site provides suitable nesting and hibernating habitat for hedgehog albeit of a limited extent. The grassland provides limited suitable commuting and foraging habitat.

Invertebrates

3.51 The desk study returned three records of cinnabar moth (S41) 890m north of the site, beyond the M60. A cinnabar moth larvae was recorded on ragwort within the site during the survey.

3.52 There are some suitable habitats of value for invertebrates on site including scrub, trees, grassland and tall ruderal vegetation. It is considered that a limited range of common and widespread invertebrates only are likely to be supported by the site as there is a lack of nectar-rich species present.

4.0 Conclusions

4.1 This section concludes the potential impacts on the ecological receptors in and around the application site as a result of the proposed residential development.

4.2 Proposals for the site require all existing habitats to be lost. Following clearance of the existing habitats on-site it is proposed that the site will be developed to deliver new residential development.

Relevant Planning Policies and Guidance

4.3 Local policies within the Manchester Core Strategy (adopted 11th July 2012) address potential ecological issues with regard to potential developments and aim to maintain, protect and enhance biodiversity and the ecological network in the local area.

Designated Sites

4.4 There is one internationally designated sites for nature conservation within 10km of the development boundary. Rochdale Canal SAC lies 2.9km west of the site and is designated for supporting a significant population of floating water plantain. Rochdale Canal is also a SSSI and is designated for its submerged aquatic plant communities. Given the distance of the site to Rochdale Canal SAC/SSI, the lack of hydrological connection and the small size of the development, there are no direct or indirect impacts anticipated as a result of development proposals.

4.5 There are no other nationally designated sites within 5km of the proposed development site.

4.6 The site is located within Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) for Rochdale Canal SSSI, however residential development is not listed as a risk category with regard to this SSSI. Therefore, consultation with Natural England is not necessary with regard to impacts of the development on this SSSI.

4.7 There are three statutory locally designated sites with 2km of the proposed site. The nearest is Alkrington Woods LNR which is located approximately 600m northeast of the site and is designated as it is the largest woodland clough in Manchester containing ancient woodland. The M60 located approximately 250m northeast of the site is considered to be a barrier to wildlife dispersal. Given the distance of the site to Alkrington Woods across the M60 barrier, the lack of hydrological connection and the small size of the development, there are no direct or indirect impacts anticipated as a result of development proposals.

4.8 There are six non-statutory locally designated sites within 2km of the proposed development site. The nearest sites are Boardman Brook SBI and Alkrington Woods and Rhodes Lodges SBI, located approximately 600m northeast of the site. Given the distance of the locally designated sites from the proposed site across the M60 barrier, there will be no direct impacts associated with the development proposals. No indirect impacts associated with pollution from construction activities are anticipated given the distance of the designated sites, the small size of the development and given none of the locally designated sites are hydrologically connected to the proposed site.

Habitats & Plants

4.9 The hardstanding, amenity grassland and tall ruderal vegetation are considered to be of negligible ecological value and the scattered tress, scrub and unmanaged grassland are considered to be of low ecological value. Furthermore the habitats within the site offer limited ecological connectivity or function for faunal species within the local area.

4.10 Loss of these habitats is unlikely to result in a significant decrease in the ecological value of the site whilst it is recommended that any residential proposals brought forward on the site should implement a new soft landscaping strategy to compensate for any small habitat losses.

Notable Habitats

4.11 There are no S41 priority or LBAP habitats present within the site.

Protected and Invasive plant species

4.12 The invasive species Japanese rose (WCA9) was identified during the extended Phase 1 habitat survey. A single stand is present within the dense scrub strip in the north west of the site. It is an offence to cause, or allow, the spread of this species in the wild. Japanese rose should be eradicated from the site if possible. If not, as a minimum, measures will need to be put in place to ensure no spread of this species during future site clearance and construction works and it will need to be disposed of in a suitable manner.

Fauna

Amphibians

4.13 The nearest desktop records of common toad and GCN from the proposed site are 1km and 2km, respectively. There are no ponds within the site and the nearest pond is 400m north east across the Manchester Ringroad (M60). Given that there is limited connectivity of suitable habitats within the site to the wider landscape and the M60 is considered to act as a barrier to common amphibian dispersal, there are no implications for the proposed development with regard to amphibians, including GCN.

Bats

4.14 None of the trees on or adjacent to the site were assessed as having suitability for roosting bats. As such there are no implications for the development with regard to roosting bats in trees.

4.15 The scattered tree and scrub habitats on site provide some suitability for commuting and foraging bats however the extent of these habitats within the site is limited. Habitats of greater suitability for commuting and foraging bats are present within the wider landscape. Given this and the lack of connection of the site to the wider landscape, loss of these habitats within the proposed site is unlikely to significantly impact foraging and commuting bats.

Badger

4.16 The scrub and grassland within the site offers badgers suitable habitat for sett excavation, foraging and commuting, although no evidence of badger was recorded at the time of the survey. Given the limited extent of these habitats within the site and the lack of connection to suitable habitats within the wider landscape, the site is considered to have low suitability to support badgers. Any loss of habitats within the site is unlikely to have a significant impact on any local badger populations, if present in the area.

Birds

4.17 Habitats within and adjacent to the development site provide suitable nesting habitat for a range of common and widespread species in the area. The trees and scrub provide suitable nesting habitat for a range of bird species. Loss of or damage to these habitats would reduce nesting opportunities and risks damage and destruction of active nests.

Otter and water vole

4.18 There are no suitable habitats on site or within 30m of the site suitable to support otter or water vole. There are no implications for the proposed development with regard to these species.

Reptiles

4.19 The habitats on site and adjacent provide sub-optimal habitat for reptiles. Given the site is surrounded by urban development, there is a lack of connectivity to suitable habitat within the wider landscape, there is a lack of historic evidence of reptiles in the area and the habitats within the site are sub-optimal, no impacts on reptiles are anticipated as a result of the proposed development.

Hedgehog

4.20 Hedgehogs are listed as a S41 priority species. The habitats on site provide suitable foraging, commuting and hibernating habitat for hedgehog, however as the site is surrounded by urban development it is considered that the site has low potential to support hedgehog. As development proposals include clearance of these habitats prior to construction there is potential for harm or injury to hedgehog to occur.

Invertebrates

4.21 There are some habitats of value for invertebrates on site including the scattered trees, grassland, scrub and tall ruderal vegetation. The site lacks any significant abundance of suitable food sources that could support an important invertebrate assemblage despite a single cinnabar moth larvae (S41) being recorded on ragwort within the site during the survey. Due to the small scale nature of suitable habitat it is not envisioned that the site will support a diverse and abundant terrestrial invertebrate population. There are therefore no implications to the development with regard to invertebrates.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 It is considered that the ecological features present within the site do not preclude development of the site for the proposed residential development. However, a number of potential ecological constraints require further consideration so as to ensure that development does not result in either an offence being committed in respect of protected species.

5.2 Under the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), developments should aim to minimise impacts on biodiversity and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity. To comply with this national planning policy a Biodiversity Impact Assessment calculation may be requested by the LPA.

Habitats

5.3 Standard pollution prevention and dust control measures should be set out in a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and implemented during site clearance and construction works. The CEMP will identify measures to ensure the potential for indirect impacts on nearby habitats, are reduced to a reasonable minimum.

5.4 A Root Protection Zone (RPZ) should be implemented around retained trees, their roots and overhanging canopies. Replacement planting of trees unavoidably lost to development should be provided on site or, where this is not possible, in the local vicinity.

<u>Invasive plant species</u>

5.5 An invasive non-native species method statement should be produced to manage the removal of Japanese rose and prevent the plants being spread as a result of development works.

5.6 The method statement will likely include the following measures:

- Fencing out the INNS infestations prior to the start of works;
- Biosecurity measures included in all site inductions;
- Excavation or cutting down of infestations as appropriate, and treatment within the works areas;
- Vehicle and boot washing facilities installed in the site compound;
- Appropriate treatment or control of invasive species within the application area prior to the start of works.

Fauna

Badger

5.7 There is the potential for badger setts, or more likely fox dens to be present within dense scrub areas on site, although no field signs were evident during the survey. Vegetation clearance outside the bird nesting season should be undertaken to expose these areas for a preconstruction survey to ascertain whether any mammal burrows are present. A suitably qualified ecologist should oversee vegetation clearance and identify any burrows and species likely to be in occupation revealed during the clearance. In the unlikely event that an active badger sett is located, a licence from Natural England will be required before development can proceed.

Birds

5.8 To ensure compliance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), it is recommended that all vegetation clearance/soil stripping and building demolition avoids the core breeding bird season, March to August inclusive; although, it should be noted that bird nesting can take place outside this period.

5.9 If clearance works, are necessary during the core breeding bird season, or at any time when bird nesting is suspected, a nesting bird check of the affected area by an experienced ecologist will be undertaken. The nesting bird check will take place no more than 24 hours prior to the clearance works. In the event that an active nest is found the ecologist will provide advice on setting up a suitable protection area around the nest until the young have fledged. The extent of the exclusion zone will depend upon the bird species concerned and its location within the development. Extensive clearance of potential bird nesting habitat is not always practical during the core breeding season and development programmes will take this constraint into account.

Hedgehog

5.10 Precautionary working measures should be set out within a Reasonable Avoidance Measures Method Statement (RAMMS) to be implemented during vegetation clearance works. The working measures outlined within the RAMMS will ensure no harm or injury to hedgehog or other small mammals, if present on site during the works.

APPENDIX A: Site Photographs

Figure 2: Amenity grassland TN1

Figure 3: Amenity grassland TN1 at southern site boundary (Victoria Avenue)

Figure 4: Modified neutral grassland TN2

Figure 5: Ephemeral vegetation over hardstanding and scattered trees

Figure 6: Japanese rose

Figure 7: Dense/continuous scrub TN3

Figure 8: Scrub and scattered trees around site boundary

Figure 9: Northern site boundary (Chain Road)

APPENDIX B: Target Notes

Target Notes Report

Target Note TN1

Amenity grassland

Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire-fog	D
Lolium perenne	Perennial Ryegrass	D
Trifolium repens	White Clover	D
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	A
Taraxacum sp.	Dandelion species	A
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	F
Poa annua	Annual Meadow-grass	F
Rumex crispus	Curled Dock	F
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	F
Medicago lupulina	Black Medick	O
Plantago major	Greater Plantain	O
Capsella bursa-pastoris	Shepherd's-purse	R
Cerastium fontanum	Common Mouse-ear	R
Jacobaea vulgaris	Common Ragwort	R
Matricaria discoidea	Pineapple-weed	R
Sisymbrium officinale	Hedge Mustard	R
Vicia cracca	Tufted Vetch	R

Target Note TN2

Modified neutral grassland

Chamaenerion angustifolium	Rosebay Willowherb	A
Epilobium hirsutum	Great Willowherb	A
Equisetum arvense	Field Horsetail	A
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	A
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	A
Trifolium repens	White Clover	A
Jacobaea vulgaris	Common Ragwort	F
Lolium perenne	Perennial Ryegrass	F
Taraxacum sp.	Dandelion species	F
Urtica dioica	Nettle	F
Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oat-grass	O
Artemisia vulgaris	Mugwort	O
Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle	O
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	O
Elymus repens	Common Couch	O
Foeniculum vulgare	Fennel	O
Geum urbanum	Wood Avens	O
Brassica napus	Rape	R
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle	R
Convolvulus arvensis	Field Bindweed	R
Geranium robertianum	Herb-Robert	R
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	R
Prunus sp., Understorey	Cherry species	R
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	R

Target Note TN3

Dense/continuous scrub with scattered trees and saplings

Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	D
Chamaenerion angustifolium	Rosebay Willowherb	A
Urtica dioica	Nettle	A
Convolvulus arvensis	Field Bindweed	F
Geum urbanum	Wood Avens	O
Malus domestica, Understorey	Apple	O
Poa trivialis	Rough Meadow-grass	O
Salix caprea, Understorey	Goat Willow	O

KEY - D = Dominant, A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare

APPENDIX C: Desk Study Report

THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP

CHAIN ROAD, BLACKLEY
MANCHESTER
ECOLOGY DESK STUDY

TEP
Genesis Centre
Birchwood Science Park
Warrington
WA3 7BH

Tel: 01925 844004
Email: tep@tep.uk.com
www.tep.uk.com

Offices in Warrington, Market Harborough, Gateshead, London and Cornwall

Document Title	Ecology Desk Study
Prepared for	Great Places Housing Group
Prepared by	TEP - Warrington
Document Ref	8990.002

Author	Poppy Parker
Date	August 2021
Checked	Emma Pickering
Approved	Emma Pickering

Amendment History					
Version	Date	Modified by	Check / Approved by	Reason(s) issue	Status
1.0	Aug 21	PP	EP	Original issue	Superseded
2.0	Sep 21	DL	KS	Client name updated	Live

CONTENTS PAGE

1.0 Introduction 4
2.0 Method 5
3.0 Legislation and Planning Policy 7
4.0 Site Designations 12
5.0 Habitats 23
6.0 Species 24

TABLES PAGE

Table 1: Sources of Ecological Information 5
Table 2: Details of Internationally Designated Wildlife Sites within 10km of the Site 12
Table 3: Details of Nationally Designated Wildlife Sites within 5km of the Site 14
Table 4: Likely Impacts of Development Proposals on the Rochdale Canal SSSI. 16
Table 5: Details of Statutory Locally Designated Wildlife Sites within 2km of the Site 18
Table 6: Details of Non-statutory Locally Designated Wildlife Sites within 2km of the Site .. 20
Table 7: Notable Species Records within 2km of the Site 24
Table 8: Natural England Mitigation Licences within 2km of the Site 31

FIGURES PAGE

Figure 1: Site Location Plan 4
Figure 2: Internationally Designated Wildlife Sites within 10km of the Site 13
Figure 3: Nationally Designated Wildlife Sites within 5km of the Site 15
Figure 4: SSSI IRZ within the Site 17
Figure 5: Statutory Locally Designated Wildlife Sites within 2km of the Site 19
Figure 6: Non-statutory Locally Designated Wildlife Sites within 2km of the Site 22
Figure 7: Notable Habitats within and adjacent to the Site 23
Figure 8: Protected Species Records within 2km of the Site 28
Figure 9: Section 41 Species Records within 2km of the Site 29
Figure 10: Bat Records within 2km of the Site 30

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Species Records within 2km of the Site

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Environment Partnership (TEP) was commissioned by Bowker Sadler in July 2021, on behalf of Great Places Housing Group, to complete an ecology desk based assessment of land known as Chain Road in Blackley, Manchester (hereafter referred to as 'the site'). This assessment is required to inform and support planning applications for the proposed residential development at this site.

1.2 The central grid reference of the site is SD 85972 04169 and the location of the site is shown in Figure 1 below.

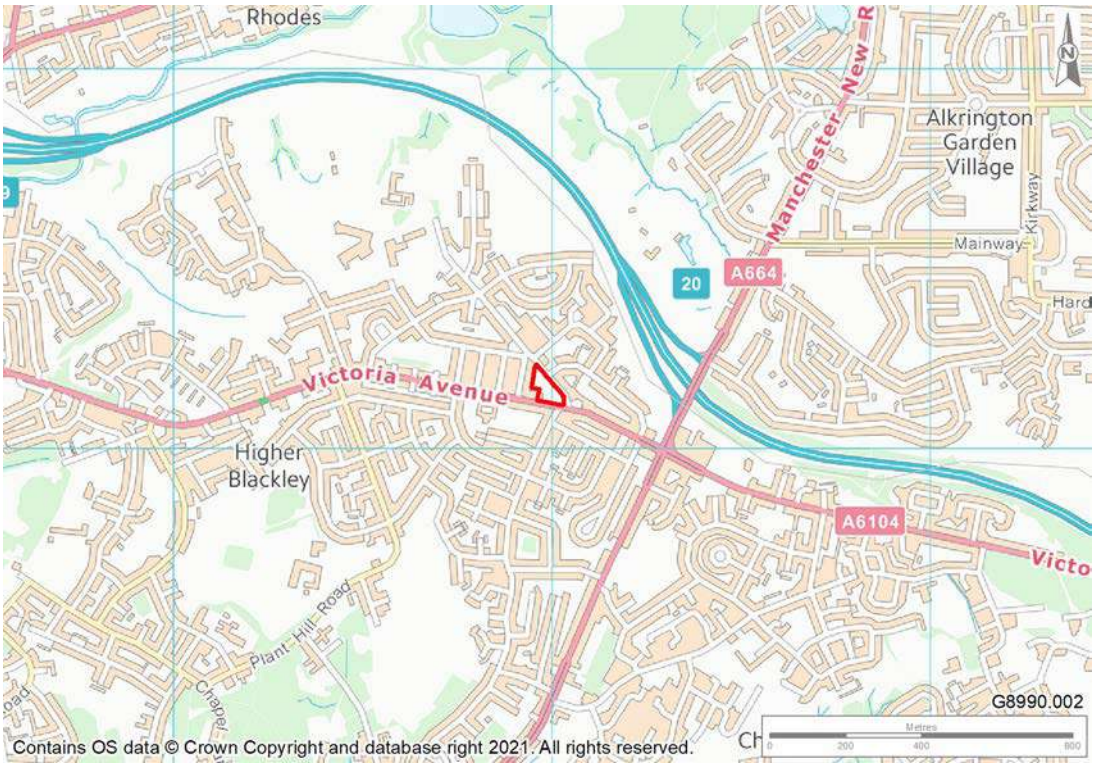


Figure 1: Site Location Plan

2.0 Method

2.1 Information regarding historic species records and protected sites was requested/gathered from the sources listed in Table 1. This collated data gives a useful indication of the distribution and abundance of ecological receptors at a given locale. An absence of records does not indicate the absence of protected species from the search area.

Table 1: Sources of Ecological Information

Source of Information	Nature of Information
Magic Map	Statutory designated wildlife sites of international importance within 10km Statutory designated wildlife sites of national importance within 5km Statutory designated wildlife sites of local importance within 2km Natural England licences within 2km of the site Habitats of value to biodiversity within and adjacent to the site Great crested newt survey pond records 2017 - 2019 within 2km of the site
Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU)	Protected species records within 2km Non-statutory designated wildlife sites of local importance within 2km
Manchester City Council	Land allocations and relevant policies
ArcMap10	Ordnance & Aerial survey mapping

2.2 Statutory designated wildlife sites of international importance may include:

- Ramsar sites;
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC); and
- Special Protection Areas (SPA).

2.3 Statutory designated wildlife sites of national importance may include:

- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);
- National Nature Reserve (NNR);
- Marine Nature Reserve (MNR); and
- Area of Outstanding National Beauty (AONB).

2.4 Statutory designated wildlife sites of local importance refers to Local Nature Reserves (LNR).

2.5 Non-statutory designated wildlife sites of local importance may include:

- Local Wildlife Site (LWS);
- Site of Biological Importance (SBI); and
- Biological Heritage Site (BHS).

2.6 Habitats of value may include those listed under any of the following:

- Ancient woodland;
- Main rivers[1];
- Habitats of principal importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (S41); and
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats (LBAP).

2.7 Protected species records may include those listed under any of the following:

- European Protected Species (EPS);
- Protected bird species under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA1);
- Protected animal species under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA5);
- Protected plant species under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA8);
- Invasive non-native plant species under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA9);
- Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019 (IAS);
- Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (PBA);
- Species of principal importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (S41);
- Red and Amber listed Birds of Conservation Concern (BRd/BAm); and
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan Species (LBAP).

[1] Main rivers are statutory watercourses designated by the Environment Agency (in England). 'Main rivers' are usually larger streams and rivers, but some of them are small watercourses of significance. Works within 8m of main rivers are generally prohibited or require permission as there could be flood risk implications.

3.0 Legislation and Planning Policy

3.1 This section details legislation and planning policy which may have relevance to the site. Only legislation and policy relevant to biodiversity are included.

International Planning Policy

Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019

Protected Species

3.2 European Protected Species (EPS) and their breeding sites or resting places are protected under Regulation 41 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 which makes it illegal to:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill any such animal or to deliberately take or destroy their eggs;
- Deliberately disturb such an animal; and
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal.

3.3 European Protected Species (EPS) licenses can be granted by Natural England in respect of development to permit activities that would otherwise be unlawful under the Conservation Regulations, providing that the following 3 tests (set out in the EC Habitats Directive) are passed, namely:

- The development is for reasons of overriding public interest;
- There is no satisfactory alternative; and
- The favourable conservation status of the species concerned will be maintained and/or enhanced.

3.4 Under Regulation 9(5) of the Conservation Regulations, Planning Authorities have a duty to 'have regard to the requirements of the EC Habitats Directive' i.e. LPA's must consider the above 3 'tests' when determining whether Planning Permission should be granted for developments likely to cause an offence under the Conservation Regulations.

Protected Sites

3.5 The Regulations also deal with the assessment of potential impacts on sites of European nature conservation importance. Requirements are set out within Regulations 63 and 64 of the Habitats Regulations, where a series of steps and tests are followed for plans or projects that could potentially affect a European site. The steps and tests set out within Regulations 63 and 64 are commonly referred to as the 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' process.

3.6 All plans and projects (including planning applications) which are not directly connected with, or necessary for, the conservation management of a habitat site, require consideration of whether the plan or project is likely to have significant effects on that site. This consideration should take into account the potential effects both of the plan/project itself and in combination with other plans or projects. Where an adverse effect on the site's integrity cannot be ruled out, and where there are no alternative solutions, the plan or project can only proceed if there are imperative reasons of over-riding public interest and if the necessary compensatory measures can be secured.

National Planning Policy

National Planning Policy Framework 2019

3.7 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF19) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied at a local level in development plans and how developers should address them. The Framework places great emphasis on plans and developments contributing to sustainable development.

3.8 The NPPF19 states:

3.9 When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

- if significant harm resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
- development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
- development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and;
- development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements in and around developments should be encouraged, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity;
- The following should be given the same protection as habitats sites:
- a) potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;
- b) listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and

- c) sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

3.10 Animal species listed under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and as amended) receive full protection which makes it illegal (subject to certain exceptions) to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any such animal;
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct any place used for shelter or protection by any such animal; and
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb such animals while they occupy a place used for shelter or protection.

3.11 Some species receive partial protection under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000), which provide protection against intentional killing or injury of any such animal.

3.12 All wild birds (as defined by the act) are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and as amended), which makes it illegal (subject to exceptions) to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- Take, damage or destroy the nest (whilst being built or in use) or eggs of any wild bird.

3.13 Additional protection is provided to birds listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and as amended). In addition to the offences detailed above relating to all wild birds, it is illegal to:

- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any bird listed on Schedule 1, or their dependent young while nesting.

3.14 Plant species listed under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and as amended) are protected from unauthorised intentional picking, uprooting and destruction.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

3.15 Section 40 of the NERC Act places a duty to conserve biodiversity on public authorities in England. It requires local authorities and government departments to have regard to the purposes of conserving biodiversity in a manner that is consistent with the exercise of their normal functions such as policy and decision-making. 'Conserving biodiversity' may include enhancing, restoring or protecting a population or a habitat.

3.16 Section 41 requires the Secretary of State to publish and maintain lists of species and types of habitats which are regarded by Natural England to be of "principal importance" for the purposes of conserving biodiversity in England. These 56 priority habitats and 943 species are drawn from earlier lists of United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species and Habitats. The Section 41 lists are needed by decision-makers in local and regional authorities when carrying out their duties under Section 40 of the Act.

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

3.17 The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 makes it an offence to kill, injure or take a badger from the wild. It is also an offence to disturb, damage or interfere with a sett unless a licence is obtained from a statutory authority.

Local Planning Policy

Manchester's Local Development Framework Core Strategy Development Plan (adopted 11th July 2012)

3.18 The Manchester Local Plan guides development within Manchester. It was previously known the Local Development Framework.

3.19 The interactive policies map for the Local Plan Core Strategy can be viewed by following the link: https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=565a33eaba904b2dabf4c3dd8685db80

3.20 Neither the site nor adjacent land is allocated for biodiversity purposes.

3.21 The Core Strategy document can be viewed by following the link: https://www.manchester.gov.uk/downloads/download/4964/core_strategy_development_plan

3.22 The following policies relate to biodiversity and nature conservation:

- Policy EN9 Green infrastructure
- Policy EN15 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation

Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP)

3.23 The LBAP document for Greater Manchester can be viewed by following the link: http://www.wildaboutmanchester.info/www/images/stories/pdfs/mbs.pdf

3.24 The following habitats are identified within LBAPs for Greater Manchester:

- Acid grassland;
- Ancient and/or species-rich hedgerows;
- Wet woodlands;
- Lowland broadleaved woodland;
- Lowland heathland;
- Lowland meadows;
- Unimproved neutral grassland;
- Marshy grassland;
- Managed greenspace;

- Rivers;
- Canals; and
- Ponds and lodges.

3.25 The following species are identified within LBAPs for Greater Manchester:

- Great crested newt;
- Water vole;
- Brown hare;
- Pipistrelle bat;
- Skylark;
- Linnet;
- Reed bunting;
- Spotted flycatcher;
- Tree sparrow;
- Grey partridge;
- Bullfinch;
- Song thrush;
- Floating water plantain;
- Grass-wrack pondweed; and
- Manchester poplar.

4.0 Site Designations

Statutory Designated Wildlife Sites of International Importance

4.1 There is one internationally designated wildlife site within 10km of the site (Figure 2). This site is detailed in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Details of Internationally Designated Wildlife Sites within 10km of the Site

Name of Designation	Type of Designation	Location of Designation in Relation to Site	Reason for Site Designation
Rochdale Canal	SAC	Approximately 2.9km west at the nearest point, beyond the M60, the A664 and a railway.	Rochdale Canal supports a significant population of floating water-plantain *Luronium natans* in a botanically diverse waterplant community which also holds a wide range of pondweeds *Potamogeton* spp.

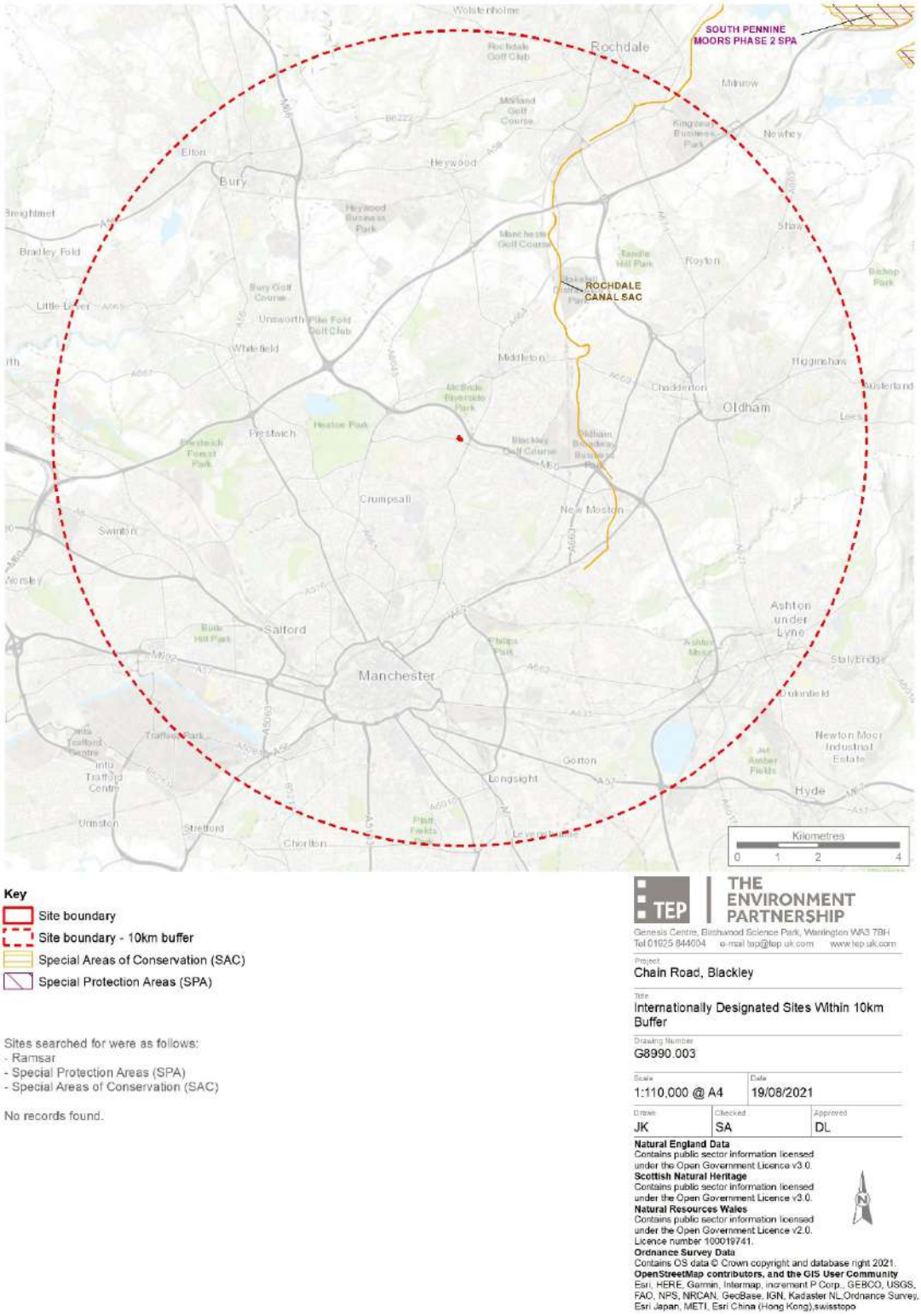


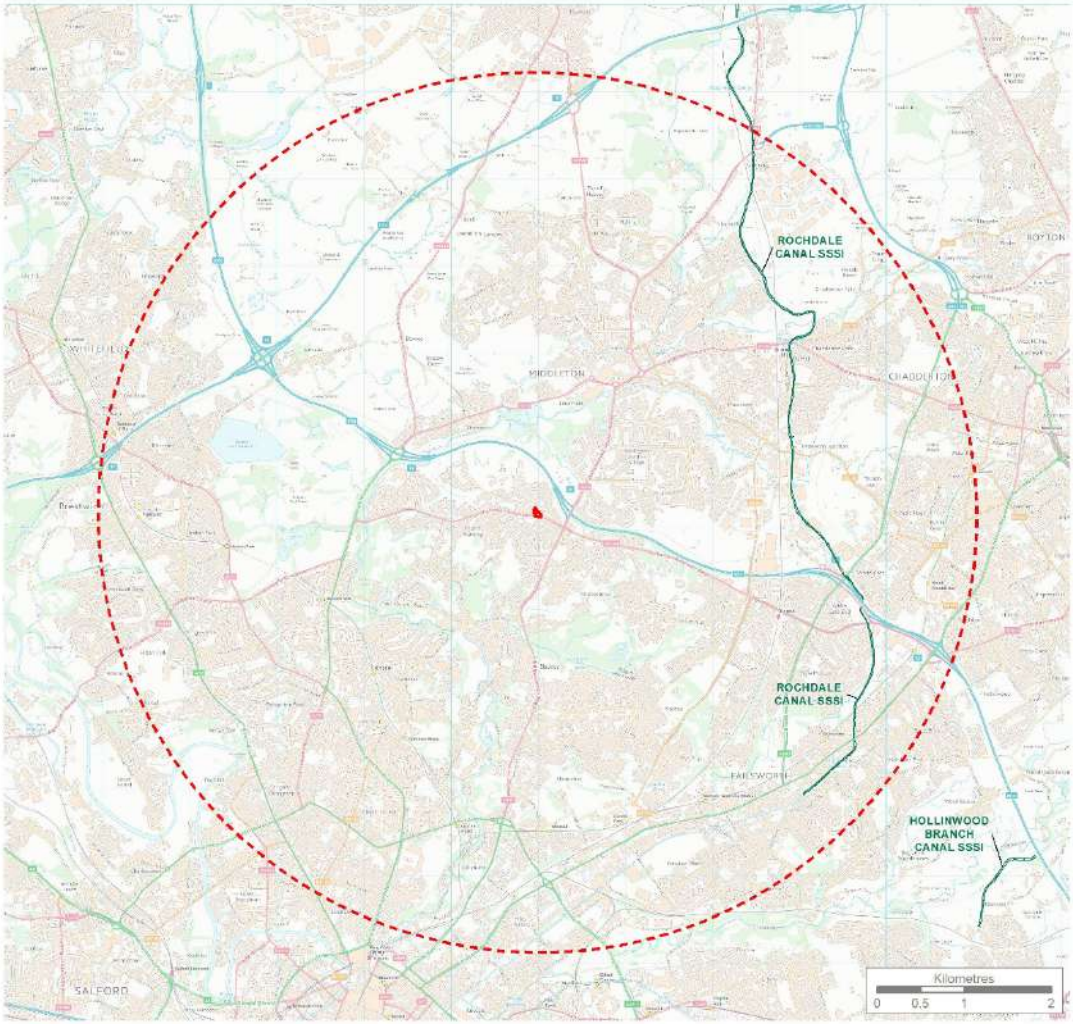
Figure 2: Internationally Designated Wildlife Sites within 10km of the Site

Statutory Designated Wildlife Sites of National Importance

4.2 There is one nationally designated wildlife site within 5km of the site (Figure 3). This site is detailed in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Details of Nationally Designated Wildlife Sites within 5km of the Site

Name of Designation	Type of Designation	Location of Designation in Relation to Site	Reason for Site Designation
Rochdale Canal	SSSI	Approximately 2.9km west at the nearest point, beyond the M60, the A664 and a railway.	The Rochdale Canal contains important habitats for submerged aquatic plants and emergent vegetation, including extensive colonies of the nationally scarce SAC species floating water plantain *Luronium natans.* Unfavourable Recovering condition.



Key

- Site boundary
- Site boundary - 5km buffer
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Sites searched for were as follows:
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- National Nature Reserve (NNR)
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP
Genesis Centre, Birchwood Science Park, Warrington WA3 7BH
Tel 01925 844004 e-mail tep@tep.uk.com www.tep.uk.com

Project: Chain Road, Blackley

Title: Nationally Designated Sites Within 5km Buffer

Drawing Number: G8990.004

Scale	Date	
1:60,000 @ A4	19/08/2021	
Drawn	Checked	Approved
JK	SA	DL

Natural England Data
Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.
Scottish Natural Heritage
Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.
Natural Resources Wales
Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v2.0.
Licence number 100019741.
Ordnance Survey Data
Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2021.

Figure 3: Nationally Designated Wildlife Sites within 5km of the Site

4.3 The site falls within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) for the Rochdale Canal SSSI. This is shown in Figure 4.

4.4 Residential development is not listed as a risk category with regard to this SSSI. The Local Authority is not required to consult with Natural England with regard to potential impacts on the SSSI as a result of the residential development. Table 4 provides information on the likely impacts of development proposals on the SSSI.

Table 4: Likely Impacts of Development Proposals on the Rochdale Canal SSSI.

Planning Proposal Categories	LPA Should Consult Natural England on Likely Risks from the Following:
All planning applications	Assessed as unlikely to impact the SSSI.
Infrastructure	Airports, helipads and other aviation proposals.
Wind and solar energy	Assessed as unlikely to impact the SSSI.
Minerals, oil and gas	Planning applications for quarries, including: new proposals, Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMP), extensions, variations to conditions etc. Oil & gas exploration/extraction.
Rural non-residential	Assessed as unlikely to impact the SSSI.
Residential	Assessed as unlikely to impact the SSSI.
Rural residential	Assessed as unlikely to impact the SSSI.
Air pollution	Any industrial/agricultural development that could cause air pollution (incl: industrial processes, livestock & poultry units with floorspace > 500m², slurry lagoons > 750m² & manure stores > 3500t).
Combustion	General combustion processes >50MW energy input. Incl: energy from waste incineration, other incineration, landfill gas generation plant, pyrolysis/gasification, anaerobic digestion, sewage treatment works, other incineration/ combustion.
Waste	Assessed as unlikely to impact the SSSI.
Composting	Assessed as unlikely to impact the SSSI.
Discharges	Assessed as unlikely to impact the SSSI.
Water supply	Assessed as unlikely to impact the SSSI.

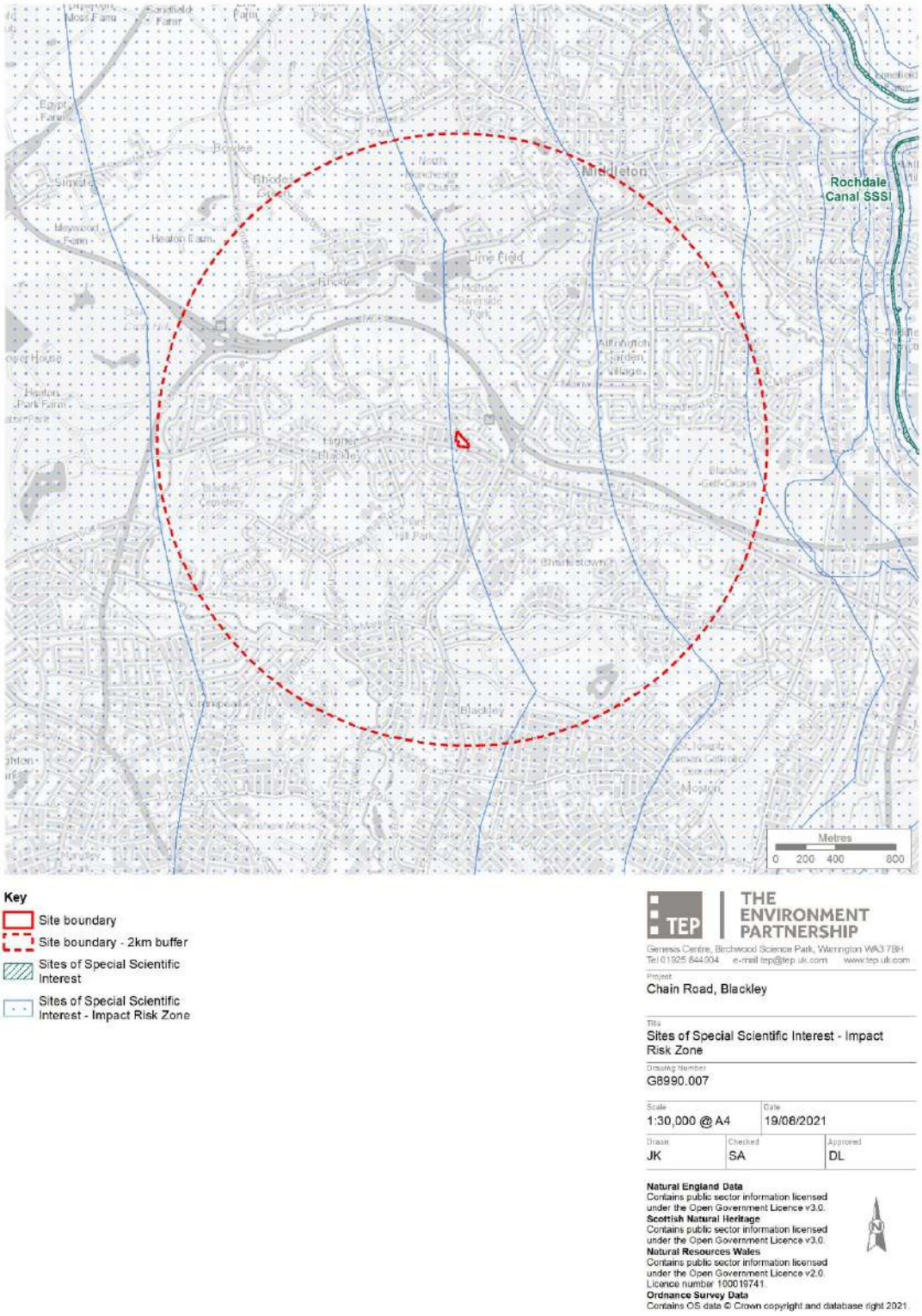


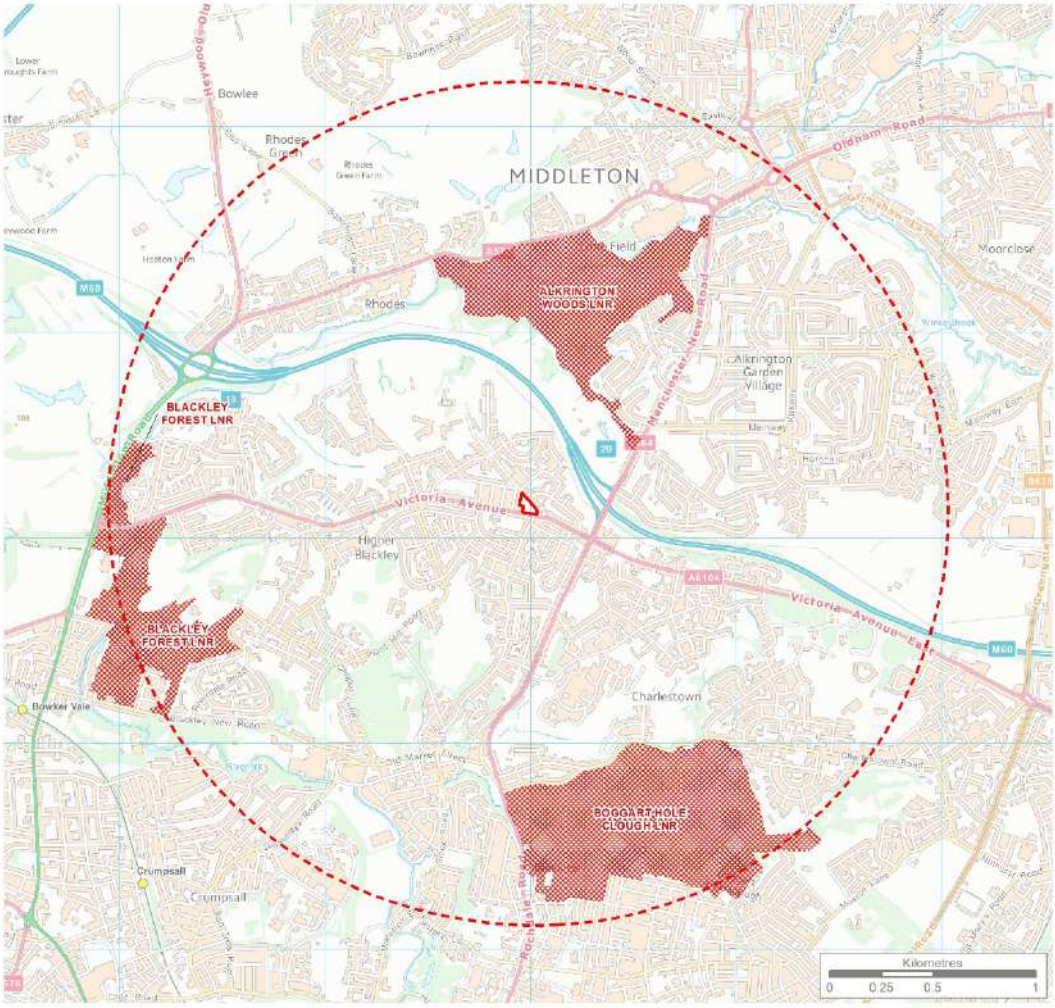
Figure 4: SSSI IRZ within the Site

Statutory Designated Wildlife Sites of Local Importance

4.5 There are three statutory locally designated wildlife sites within 2km of the site (Figure 5). These are detailed in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Details of Statutory Locally Designated Wildlife Sites within 2km of the Site

Name of Designation	Type of Designation	Location of Designation in Relation to Site	Reason for Site Designation
Alkrington Woods	LNR	Approximately 600m northeast, beyond the M60.	The site is the largest woodland clough in Manchester and part is ancient woodland.
Boggart Hole Clough	LNR	Approximately 1.2km southeast, beyond the A6104 and the A664.	The reserve contains broadleaved and plantation woodland, grassland and lake and marsh habitats. The River Irk also flows through the park.
Blackley Forest	LNR	Approximately 1.5km southwest, beyond the A6104.	Habitats include woodland, grassland, marsh, standing water and amenity areas.



Key

- Site boundary
- Site boundary - 2km buffer
- Local Nature Reserve

Sites searched for were as follows:
- Local Nature Reserves

THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP
Genesis Centre, Birchwood Science Park, Warrington WA3 7BH
Tel 01925 844004 e-mail tep@tep.uk.com www.tep.uk.com

Project: Chain Road, Blackley

Title: Statutory Locally Designated Sites Within 2km Buffer

Drawing Number: G8990.005

Scale	Date
1:25,000 @ A4	19/08/2021

Drawn	Checked	Approved
JK	SA	DL

Natural England Data
Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.
Scottish Natural Heritage
Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.
Natural Resources Wales
Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v2.0. Licence number 100019741.
Ordnance Survey Data
Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2021.

Figure 5: Statutory Locally Designated Wildlife Sites within 2km of the Site

Non-statutory Designated Wildlife Sites of Local Importance

4.6 There are six non-statutory locally designated wildlife sites within 2km of the site (Figure 6). These are detailed in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Details of Non-statutory Locally Designated Wildlife Sites within 2km of the Site

Name of Designation	Type of Designation	Location of Designation in Relation to Site	Reason for Site Designation
Boardman Brook	SBI	Approximately 600m northeast, beyond the M60.	Small valley supporting a mosaic of habitats including woodland, scrub, marsh, swamp and a stream.
Alkrington Woods and Rhodes Lodges	SBI	Approximately 600m northeast, beyond the M60.	Local nature reserve containing mature woodland, meadows, a stretch of the River Irk and a lake.
Bailey's Wood	SBI	Approximately 1.0km southeast, beyond the A6104 and the A664.	Semi-natural broadleaved woodland, much of which is ancient, dominated by sessile oak with abundant ash and sycamore.
Boggart Hole Clough	SBI	Approximately 1.2km southeast, beyond the A6104 and the A664.	The wooded clough provides a very valuable refuge for animal life. Birds include breeding song thrush, blackbird, wren, and robin.

Name of Designation	Type of Designation	Location of Designation in Relation to Site	Reason for Site Designation
Blackley Forest & Heaton Vale Reservoirs	SBI	Approximately 1.5km southwest, beyond the A6104.	Small steep-sided valley supporting acid grassland and scrub with flushes and marsh communities along the valley bottom.
Streams and Flushes near Bradley Hall Farm	SBI	Approximately 1.7km northwest, beyond the M60, the A576 and the River Irk.	Streams and flushes.

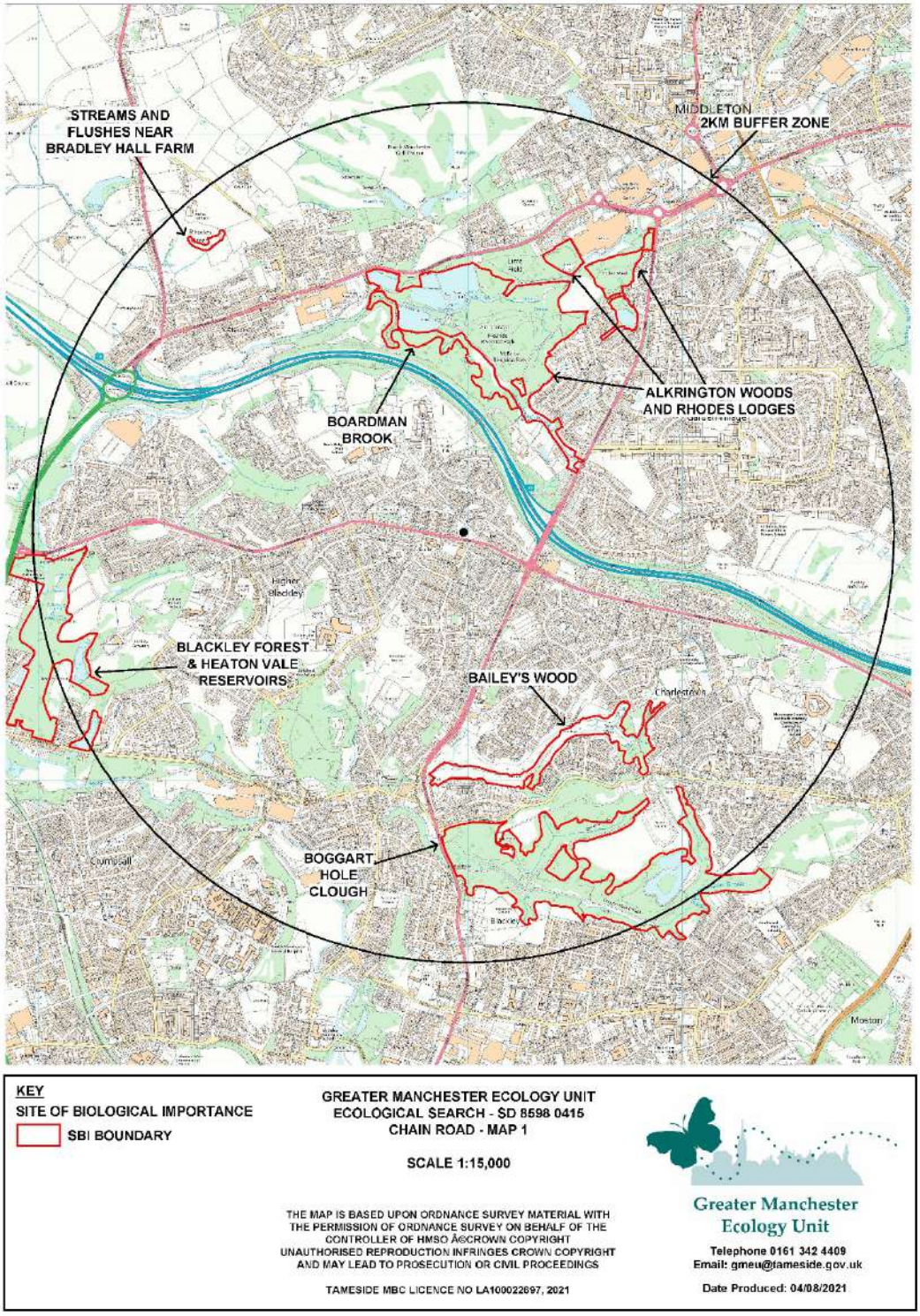


Figure 6: Non-statutory Locally Designated Wildlife Sites within 2km of the Site

5.0 Habitats

5.1 There are no notable habitats within or adjacent to the site (Figure 7).

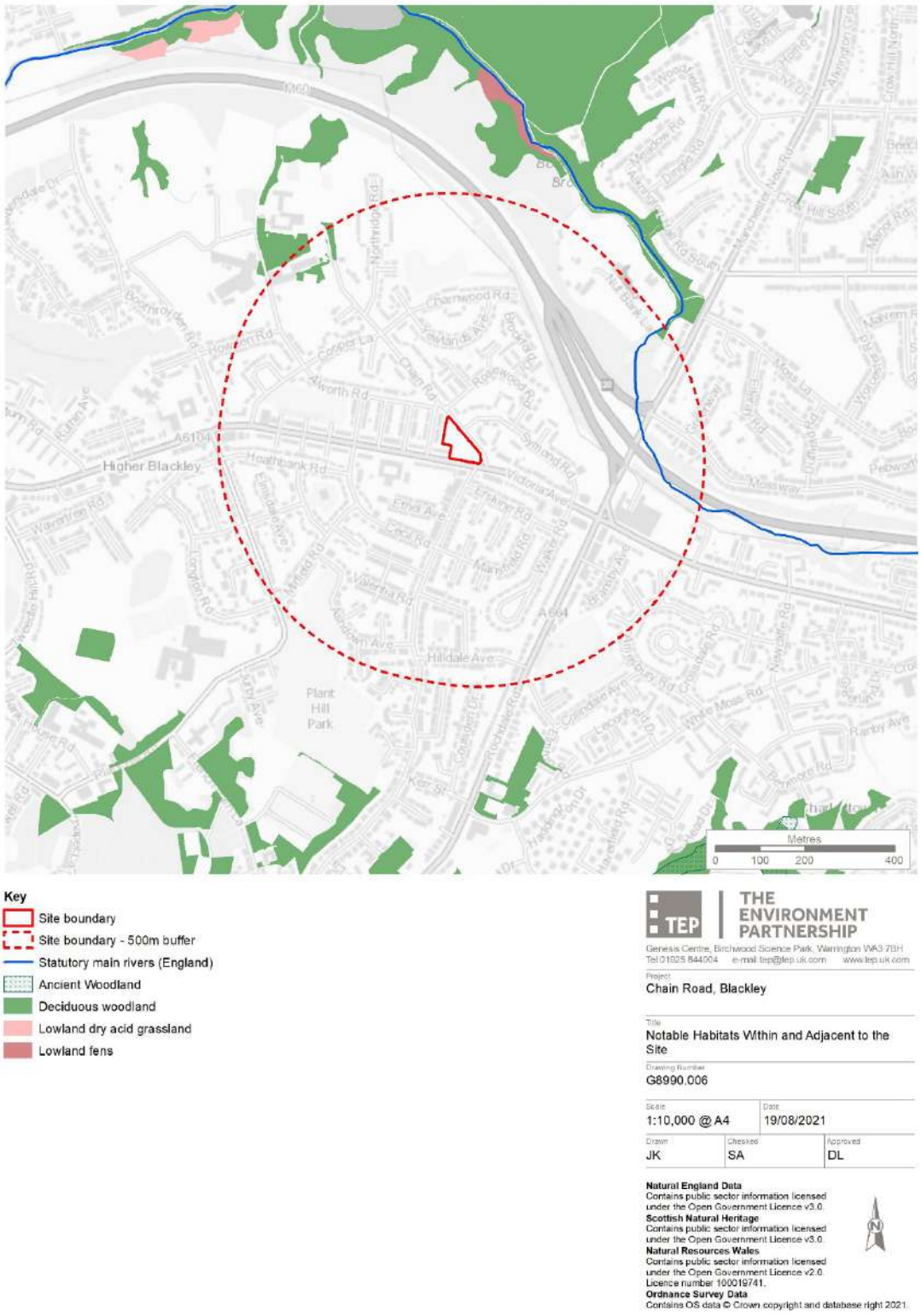


Figure 7: Notable Habitats within and adjacent to the Site

6.0 Species

6.1 604 species records were returned from Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) for within 2km of the site. These are shown in Table 7 and Figures 8 to 10.

6.2 A review of Magic Maps did not return any class licence returns or pond survey data for great crested newts between 2017 and 2019 within 2km of the site.

Table 7: Notable Species Records within 2km of the Site

Name of Species	Legislation	Number of Records Returned	Closest Record to Site
Amphibians			
Common toad	S41	10	1km north, beyond the M60.
Great crested newt	EPS, WCA5, S41, LBAP	1	2km northwest, beyond the M60, the A576, the A6045 and the River Irk.
Birds			
Bullfinch	S41, BAm, LBAP	51	600m north, beyond the M60.
Song thrush	S41, BRd, LBAP	64	860m north, beyond the M60.
Dunnock	S41, BAm	57	890m north, beyond the M60.
House sparrow	S41, BRd	64	890m north, beyond the M60.
Kingfisher	WCA1, BAm	60	890m north, beyond the M60.
Starling	S41, BRd	26	890m north, beyond the M60.
Herring gull	S41, BRd	3	960m north, beyond the M60.
Lesser redpoll	S41, BRd	7	960m north, beyond the M60.

Name of Species	Legislation	Number of Records Returned	Closest Record to Site
Yellow wagtail	S41, BRd	1	970m north, beyond the M60.
Lapwing	S41, BRd	32	1.2km northwest, beyond the M60 and the River Irk.
Reed bunting	S41, BAm, LBAP	6	1.2km north beyond the M60 and the River Irk.
Hobby	WCA1	1	1.3km northwest, beyond the M60.
Linnet	S41, BRd, LBAP	3	1.7km northeast, beyond the M60 and the A664.
Spotted flycatcher	S41, BRd, LBAP	6	1.8km northeast, beyond the M60 and the A664.
Ring ouzel	S41, BRd	1	1.8km northeast, beyond the M60, the A576 and the River Irk.
Grasshopper warbler	S41, BRd	1	2km southwest, beyond the A6104 and the River Irk.
Little ringed plover	WCA1	7	2km southwest, beyond the A6104 and the River Irk.
Fish			
European eel	S41	1	2km southeast, beyond the A6104 and the A664.
Invertebrates			
Cinnabar	S41	3	890m north, beyond the M60.

Name of Species	Legislation	Number of Records Returned	Closest Record to Site
Buff ermine	S41	2	2km southwest, beyond the A6104 and the River Irk.
Mammals			
Common pipistrelle	EPS, WCA5, LBAP	56	220m northwest.
Unidentified pipistrelle	EPS, WCA5, LBAP	59	230m east.
Unidentified bat	EPS, WCA5	9	330m southeast, beyond the A6104.
Hedgehog	S41	16	590m northeast, beyond the M60.
Eurasian badger	PBA	8	600 from the site
Soprano pipistrelle	EPS, WCA5, LBAP	4	670m south, beyond the A6104.
Unidentified myotis	EPS, WCA5	1	930m north, beyond the M60.
Daubenton's bat	EPS, WCA5	4	1.6km north, beyond the M60, the A576 and the River Irk.
Noctule bat	EPS, WCA5, S41	2	1.8km southwest, beyond the A6104.
European otter	EPS, WCA5, S41	1	1.9km southwest, beyond the A6104.
Plants			
Yellow bird's-nest	S41	1	1.2km north beyond the M60 and the River Irk.
Reptiles			

Name of Species	Legislation	Number of Records Returned	Closest Record to Site
Slow-worm	WCA5, S41	1	1.8km southwest, beyond the A6104.

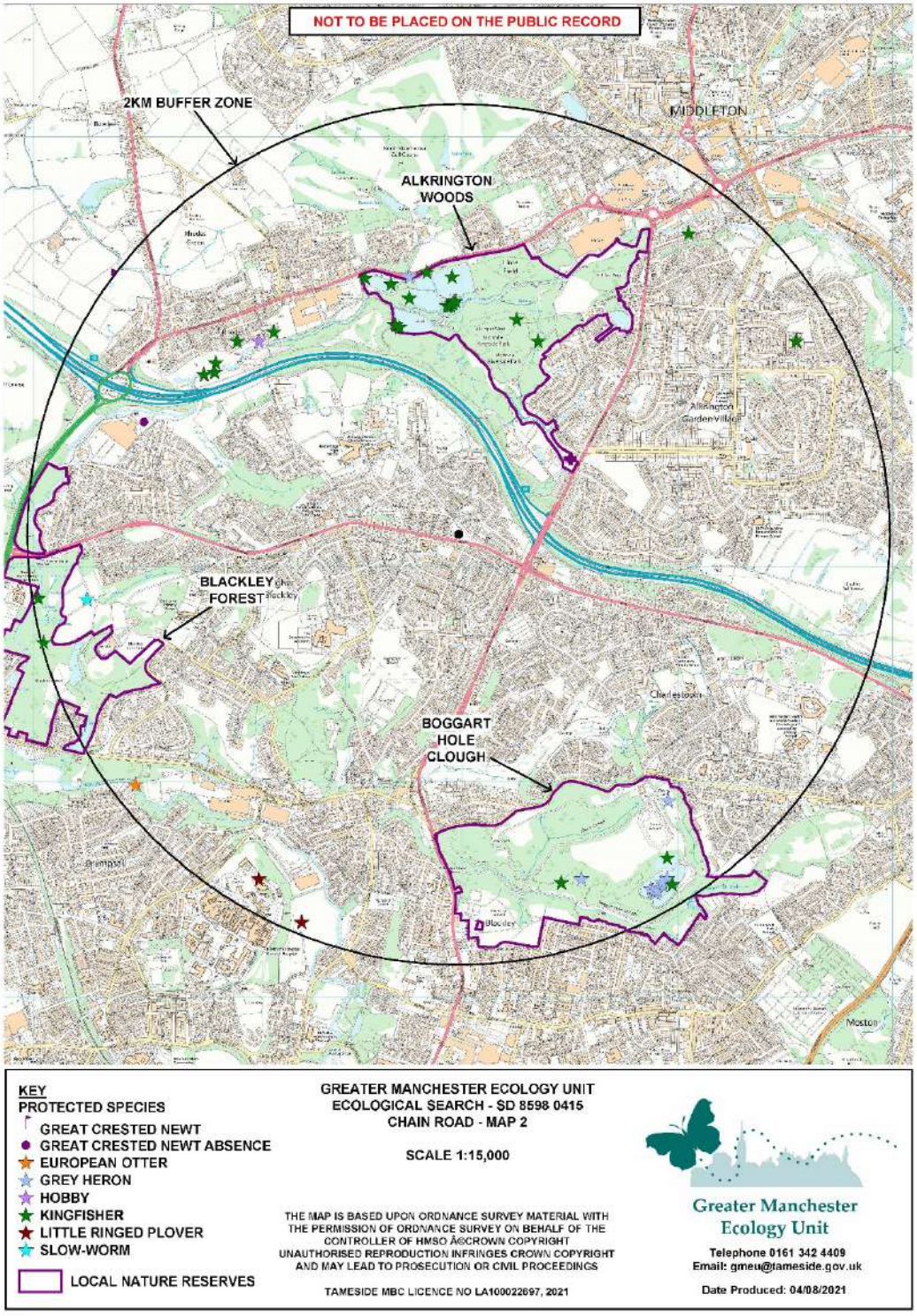


Figure 8: Protected Species Records within 2km of the Site

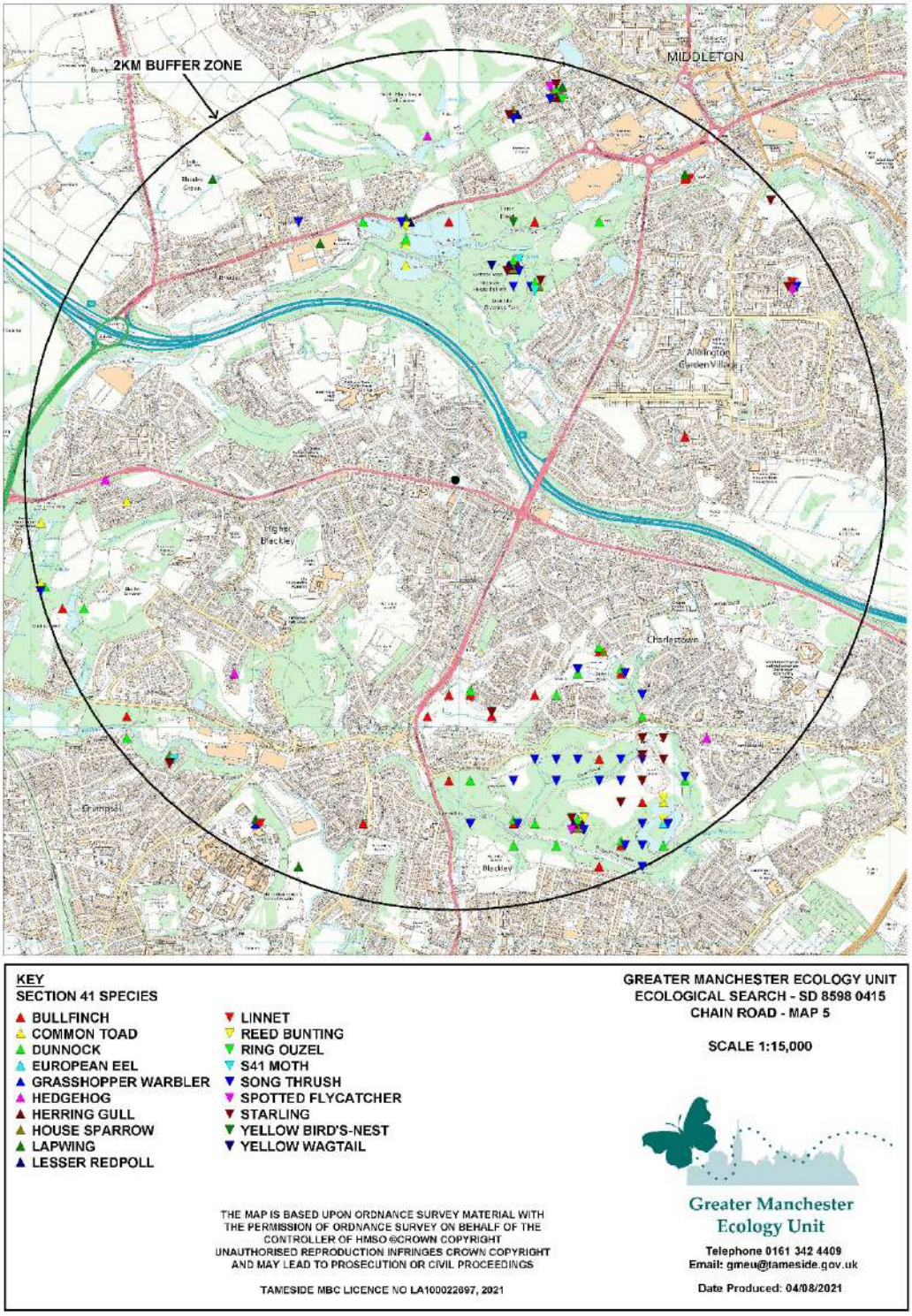


Figure 9: Section 41 Species Records within 2km of the Site

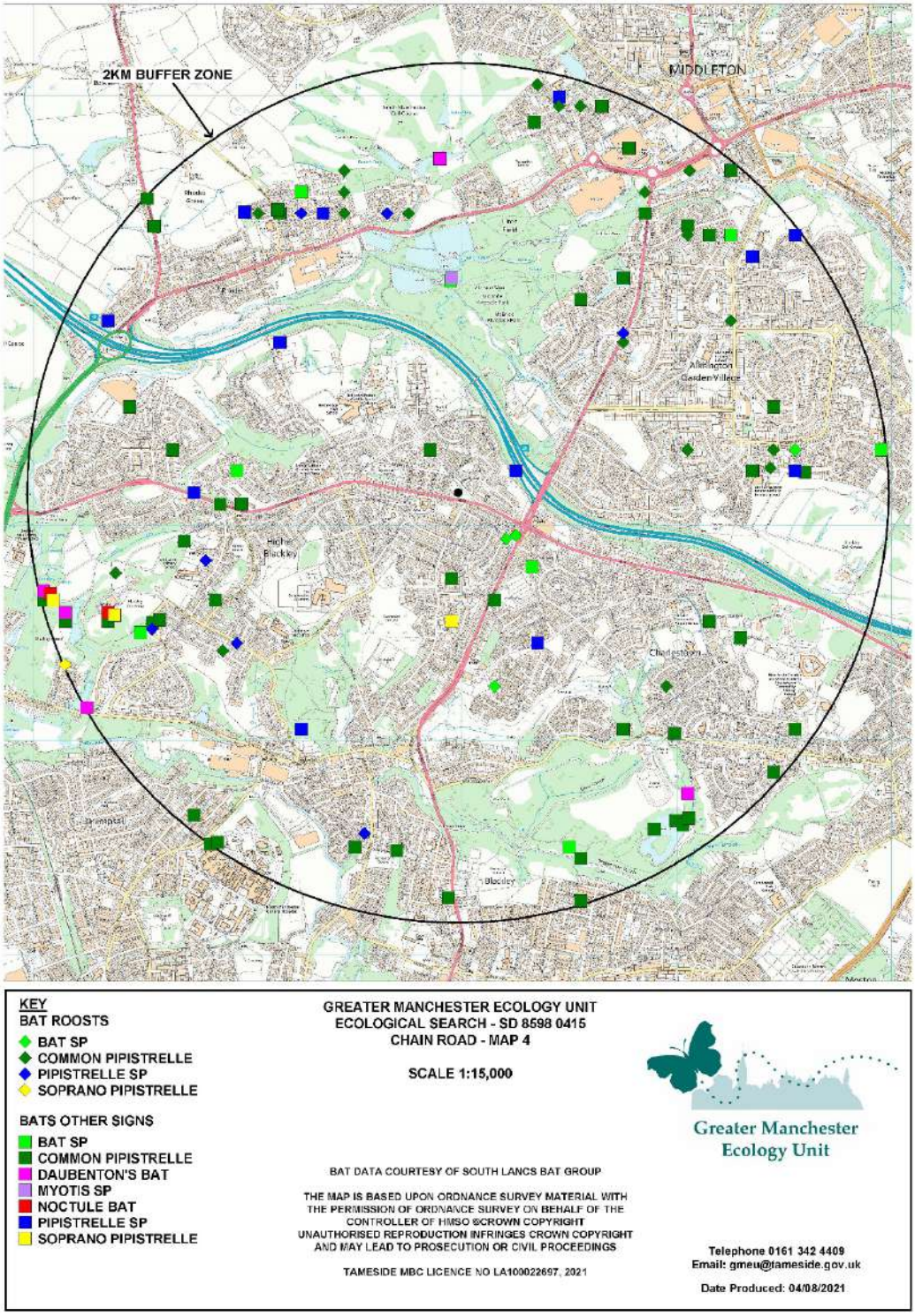


Figure 10: Bat Records within 2km of the Site

Natural England Mitigation Licences

6.3 Three Natural England bat mitigation licences have been identified within 2km of the site. These are detailed in Table 8 below.

Table 8: Natural England Mitigation Licences within 2km of the Site

Licence Number	Dates	Licensable Activities
2014-1364-EPS-BDX Common Pipistrelle	01/10/2014 to 31/03/2015	Impact on a breeding site
2014-1562-EPS-BDX Common Pipistrelle	01/10/2014 to 31/03/2015	Destruction of a breeding site and destruction of a resting place
2014-2836-EPS-BDX Common Pipistrelle	25/08/2014 to 25/09/2014	Damage and destruction of a breeding site

THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP

HEAD OFFICE

Genesis Centre,
Birchwood Science Park,
Warrington
WA3 7BH

Tel: 01925 844004
E-mail: tep@tep.uk.com

MARKET HARBOROUGH

No. 1 The Chambers,
Bowden Business Village,
Market Harborough,
Leicestershire,
LE16 7SA

Tel: 01858 383120
E-mail: mh@tep.uk.com

GATESHEAD

Office 26, Gateshead
International Business
Centre,
Mulgrave Terrace,
Gateshead
NE8 1AN

Tel: 0191 605 3340
E-mail: gateshead@tep.uk.com

LONDON

8 Trinity Street,
London,
SE1 1DB

Tel: 020 3096 6050
E-mail: london@tep.uk.com

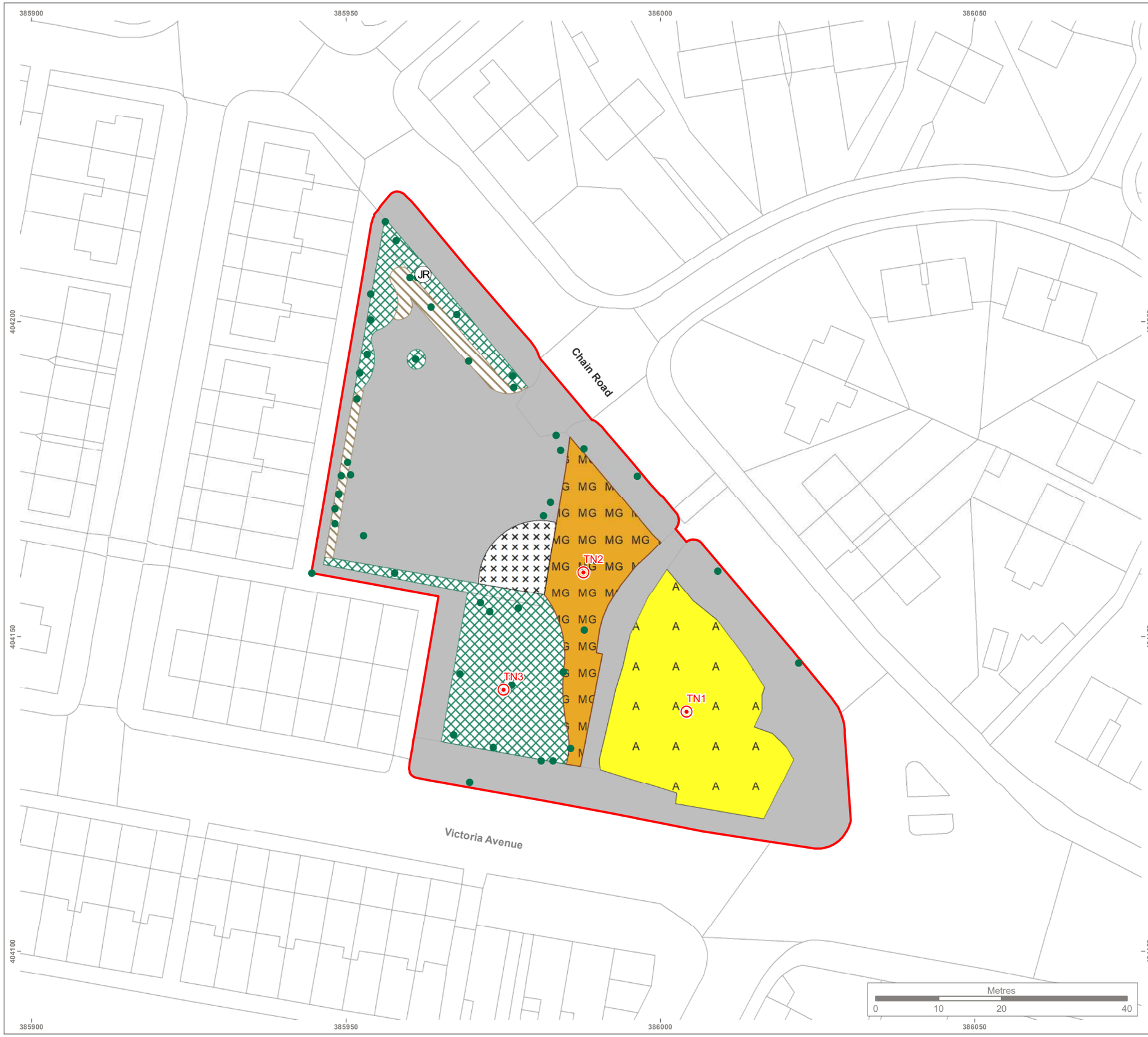
CORNWALL

4 Park Noweth,
Churchtown,
Cury,
Helston
Cornwall
TR12 7BW

Tel: 01326 240081
E-mail: cornwall@tep.uk.com

DRAWINGS

Phase 1 Habitat Survey G8990.001



KEY

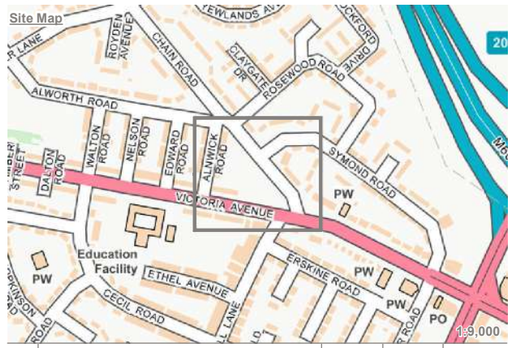
- Site boundary
- Target note
- Scattered broad-leaved tree
- Japanese rose
- Dense/continuous scrub
- Modified neutral grassland
- Tall ruderal
- Amenity grassland
- Dense/continuous ephemeral/short perennial
- Hardstanding

Note:
The locations of habitats and habitat features are indicative.

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2021. All rights reserved. License number 0100057890.

Site Map



Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP

Genesis Centre, Birchwood Science Park, Warrington WA3 7BH
Tel 01925 844004 e-mail tep@tep.uk.com www.tep.uk.com

Project
Chain Road, Blackley

Title
Phase 1 Habitat Survey

Drawing Number
G8990.001

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
JK	CW	DL	1:600 @ A3	13/08/2021

THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP

HEAD OFFICE

Genesis Centre,
Birchwood Science Park,
Warrington
WA3 7BH

Tel: 01925 844004
E-mail: tep@tep.uk.com

MARKET HARBOROUGH

Harborough Innovation Centre,
Airfield Business Park,
Leicester Road,
Market Harborough
Leicestershire
LE16 7WB

Tel: 01858 383120
E-mail: mh@tep.uk.com

GATESHEAD

Office 26, Gateshead International Business Centre,
Mulgrave Terrace,
Gateshead
NE8 1AN

Tel: 0191 605 3340
E-mail: gateshead@tep.uk.com

LONDON

8 Trinity Street,
London,
SE1 1DB

Tel: 020 3096 6050
E-mail: london@tep.uk.com

CORNWALL

4 Park Noweth,
Churchtown,
Cury,
Helston
Cornwall
TR12 7BW

Tel: 01326 240081
E-mail: cornwall@tep.uk.com