



ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING CONSULTANTS

Extended Phase One Habitat Survey (Preliminary Ecological Appraisal)

Version One. 17.02.2022
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Document Ref: FS0766-ATC-XX-XX-T-F-0002-063PEA-S5-P01

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background to the project

The client is proposing the re development of the Manchester Olive site Bignor Street Park, Manchester.

1.2 Site location, context and main habitats

The site is located within the area of Manchester known as Cheetham Hill in an urban environment and enclosed by existing residential and commercial land uses. The habitats on site comprises of scattered tree and amenity grassland.

1.3 Report purpose

To prepare a Preliminary Ecological Assessment or Extended Phase One Habitat Survey for the development site following CIEEM guidelines (*Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, April 2013*). The purpose of the report is to provide information relating to the location, extent and distribution and impact on the conservation of wild plants and animals and natural and semi natural habitats affected by development. This report sets out the methods, results and recommendations arising from the above work.

1.3.1 Surveyor information

Simon Brain has attained a Post Graduate Certificate in Biological Recording and has attended residential FSC Field Courses for Land mammal, Songbird Barn Owls (CIEEM) and Advanced Bird Survey Techniques. He holds a NE Class 2 bat license (17334-CLS).

2. Desk Study

2.1 Methodology

The desk study collated information on designated statutory and non-statutory wildlife sites within 1km search radii around the proposed development site.

Information on statutory and non-statutory designated sites and legally protected/notable species records were obtained from <http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx> and contained in section 2.2 below.

2.2 Designated sites, species and habitats - Results Overview

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website (<http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx>) has confirmed no statutory designations apply to the site and the site boundaries.

The site is located within SSSI Impact Zone for Rochdale Canal SSSI and 4.7km from site. The development proposal does not conform to those development types that require the LPA to consult Natural England on the likely risks.

The Cliff / Kersal Dale Local Nature Reserve (LNR) are 1600m west of site, Boggart Hole Clough LNR is 2.4 miles to the north east, Blackley Forest LNR is 2.3m to the north and Clayton Vale LNR is located 3.8m to the east. The site is located within Community Forest

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside website and LRC data has confirmed the following habitats and species apply to the site and its immediate locality:

- Priority Habitat Inventory - Deciduous Woodland (England) exists adjacent to site
- There are numerous areas of listed woodland within the 1km

- There are some areas of Open Mosaic on previously developed land within the 1km
- The site area is covered by the countryside stewardship priority area for lapwing, curlew, tree sparrow and yellow wagtail species
- There are no Important Bird Areas, Seabird considerations, or water and wetland considerations in respect of avian species.
- The closest granted European Protected Species (EPS) license application by Natural England was for bat species approximately 1050m south east of site for common and soprano pipistrelle species.

3. Extended Phase One Habitat Survey

3.1 Methodology and survey results

The site was visited on the 16TH February 2022 and a survey of the site was conducted using the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey 2010. Distinct habitats were identified and any features of nature conservation interest or habitat areas that were too small to map were subject to a more detailed description in a Target Note (T1 etc) and contained in Appendix 1 – Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Mapping and Appendix 2 – Vascular Plant Site List. Habitat coding identified within the survey are listed below and shown on the Habitat Plan.

3.1.2. Vascular Plants and Habitat

Table 1: Site habitats

Habitat Code	Dominant species	Less frequent species
A.3.3 Scattered trees	Fraxinus excelsior Tilia x europaea	Acer platanoides Acer pseudoplatanus
J.2 Amenities grassland	Festuca rubra Trifolium repens Poa annua	Plantago lanceolata Ranunculus repens

Target Notes None recorded

3.1.3 Protected and Notable Species (Mammals)

Water Voles

The habitat on the site does not contain running water habitat suitable for the species.

Bat species

Bats are comprehensively protected under UK and European legislation. MAGIC confirmed there are pipistrelle licenses granted within 1.5km of site. Bats are ubiquitous and there is green infrastructure linking the site to wider landscape.

Badgers and Hedgehog

Badgers are protected under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which prohibits deliberate interference with the animal or its sett. A standard badger survey was undertaken making checks site and in the immediate site margins. For example, up to 15m+ from site was checked for signs for field signs of Badger (hair, tracks, prints, dropping or latrines) and no field signs of badger were found. Equally no field signs were found for hedgehog, however suitable foraging habitat does exist due to the presence of scrub and the urban nature of the site.

3.1.4 Amphibians

The desktop and field survey exercises indicate no field ponds are located within 250m of the site. There is no aquatic breeding habitat associated with the site itself and sub optimal foraging, dispersal or hibernating habitat for amphibians to be present. In addition, the site is heavily landlocked.

3.1.5 Birds

All birds with only minor exceptions are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), as amended. It is also an offence to disturb birds whilst nesting or displaying breeding behaviour, during the breeding season.

The area forms part of the Bird Conservation Targeting Project for arable assemblages of bird species including lapwing. The habitats on site are suitable for the breeding bird species due to the presence of areas of scrub (scattered and dense). Although no specific bird survey was undertaken the site is unlikely to support a significant amount of grassland and /or farmland birds due to urban nature of the habitats present. Urban birds are more likely to use the site such as house sparrow and starling.

3.1.6 Vascular Plants

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 section 13 1(b) affords some wild flowers protection from uprooting. No other IUCN listed, BAP or other notable plants were identified. No non-native invasive (WCA Schedule 9) vascular plants were found.

3.1.7 Reptiles

All native reptile species in the UK are protected under law from killing or sale. Some habitat exists on the site (hard standing).

3.2. Constraints to the Surveys

The timing of the site visit was suboptimal for all species and habitats to be identified within the framework of a Phase 1 survey.

4. Summary and Impact

4.1 Summary – Protected habitats

The surveys have confirmed that the site does not support a habitat protected under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (*NERC*) Act 2006 - Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England. There are no hedgerows on the site.

Summary - Protected species

No other evidence of protected species was found during the site walkover.

Summary – Protected sites

There are no statutory or non-statutory designated sites within the boundaries of the development site or within the site margins.

Impact – General

The development proposal is currently unknown.

Impact - Species

The full extent of protected species that may reside on this site will require confirmation following further surveys as recommended in section 4.2. The following general impacts are considered to apply:

Bat species. The existing trees to be removed may contain bat roosts.

Badger / hedgehog. Currently no evidence of badger, hedgehog has low potential to be present on site as no low scrub exists.

Amphibians. Low level impact

Birds. Loss of breeding habitat and disturbance during the breeding season.

Vascular Plants. Loss of vascular plant habitat identified on site is a low-level impact and no protected plants were identified.

Reptiles. Low-level impact due to site being landlocked and largely inaccessible to reptiles.

4.2 Recommendations for protected species

4.2.1 Mammals

Bat species

A Bat Roost Assessment of all trees to be removed is required. The Bat Roost Assessment may recommend the need for a summer emergence survey/s on the identified roost features in trees.

Badgers / hedgehog

No evidence of these species was found but a pre start check shall be made to ensure no badger activity has developed since this walkover survey. Measures are required to incorporate hedgehog into the development plans such as hedging.

4.2.2 Amphibians

No other further surveys are required for these species.

4.2.3 Avian

A breeding bird appraisal / survey will be required prior to any tree to removal ascertain the importance of the site to breeding birds at that time. This may require hand searching and dawn observations depending upon the time of year.

4.2.4 Vascular Plants

No other further surveys are required for vascular plants.

4.2.5 Reptiles

No further surveys are required for these species.

5. Mitigation and enhancement measures

5.1 Mitigation and enhancement measures

Mitigation applies to works required to comply with legislation when developing land where protected species reside or protected habitats are being lost. Enhancement relates to biodiversity improvements often made under the National Planning Policy Framework.

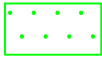
At present there is no evidence of protected species on the site which could be affected by development. Other protected species that may be present on site include bats and badger/hedgehog.

The extent of protected species requires the surveys referred to in section 4.1 and 4.2 to be complete before mitigation can be proposed to support this development. Upon completion of these surveys mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures can be provided and confirmed.

Appendix 1 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Map and proposed development



PHASE ONE HABITAT MAP
KEY

-  A.3.1 Broadleaf scattered trees
-  J.4 Amenity grassland

Client:		
Mott Macdonald		
Project:		
Olive Manchester		
Detail:		
Phase One Habitat Map		
Drawn By:	Date:	Scale:
SB	17.02.2022	NTS
Drg No:		Revision:
TR-01		V1