

**Ecological Appraisal
at
Gas Works, 112-114 Bradford Rd, Manchester M40 7AS
for
Erith Contractors**

Icení Ecology Ltd.



January 2022

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Drusilla Hall is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and is a Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv). The code of professional conduct is subscribed to for all work.

Project	Author	Status	Date
Gas Works Ref: 21 0104	Drusilla Hall BSc (Hons) MCIEEM CEnv  Bat Licence: 2015-10742-CLS-CLS (Level 2). Dormouse Licence: 2016-20740-CLS-CLS. Great Crested Newt Licence: 2015-18908-CLS-CLS (Level 2).	V1.0	January 2022

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INTRODUCTION

Instruction and background

Iceni Ecology Ltd. was instructed by Erith Contractors, 'the Client', to undertake an Ecological Appraisal at Gas Works, 112-114 Bradford Rd, Manchester M40 7AS, referred to as 'the site' hereafter.

The site is a former gas works site comprising a gas holder with associated buildings and infrastructure and limited soft estate. The client proposes some site clearance and demolition works to the gas holder and buildings.

Atkins prepared a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) for the site in May 2020¹, this report has been reviewed as part of the desk study element of this Appraisal.

NB: The 2020 report states that the walkover survey and desk study was undertaken in 2021, so it is assumed that the report is incorrectly dated and should be May 2021.

The Ecological Appraisal assesses the site for potential protected species and habitats based upon the information provided by Atkins and an updated site visit undertaken in January 2022 by Iceni Ecology Limited.

The Ecological Appraisal has the following objectives:

- Identify any features of ecological significance within the site.
- Assess the potential for the presence or likely absence of protected species, including bats; and species or habitats of principal importance, within the site.
- Assess the likely impacts of the proposed demolition and clearance works on key receptors.
- Recommend if further surveys are required.
- Provide an early indication of any likely mitigation or compensation requirements.

Location and description of site

The site is located off Bradford Road, Manchester M40 7AS, centred on Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid Reference SJ 86308 98943 (Figure 1).

The site is in an urban, predominantly residential area, of Miles Platting, north-east of Manchester. To the north is the Bradford Road, beyond which is residential housing with some small areas of greenspace; to the north-east is light industrial with the Etihad stadium and carpark to the east; to the south is the Ashton Canal and park; and to the west, further residential housing.

¹ Atkins (May, 2020). Saxon Street Gasholder Demolition Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report. National Grid.

The redline boundary of the site is shown as Figure 2.

Figure 1: Location of site, centred on red marker.

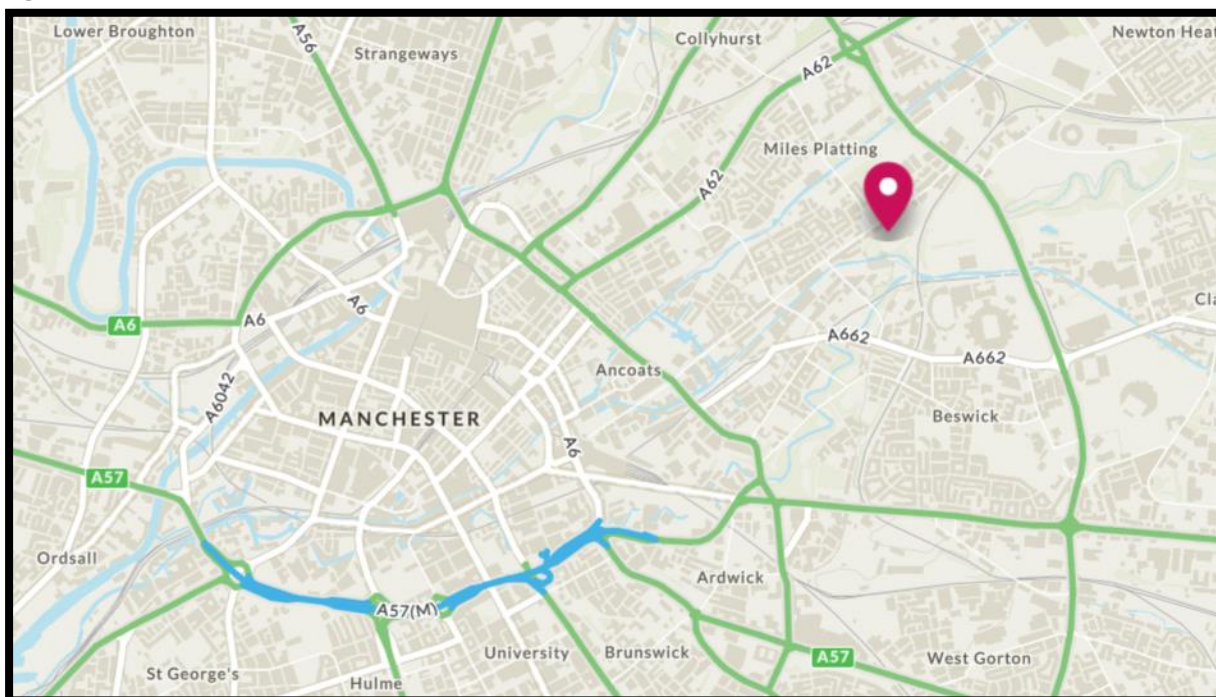
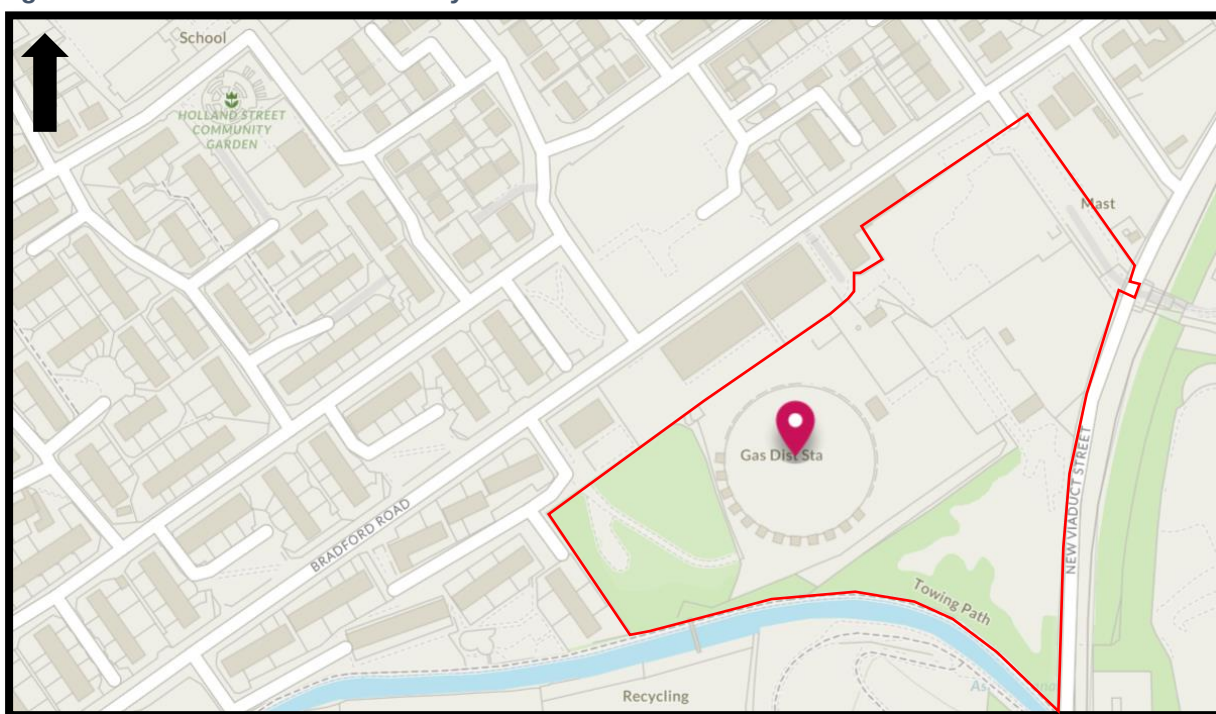


Figure 2: Indicative redline boundary.



Relevant wildlife legislation

Certain habitats and species are protected under legislation. The principal legislation relevant to the proposed development is as follows:

- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) ['The Habitats Regulations']. The Habitats Regulations implement The Habitats Directive 1992 [92/43/EEC] into English Law.
- European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2018 (as amended).
- Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA).
- The Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC).
- The Countryside & Rights of Way Act (2000) (CRoW).
- The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (The Badgers Act).
- The Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996.
- The Hedgerows Regulations 2007.

Species and Habitats of Principal Importance

Under NERC, 56 habitats and 943 species respectively, of Principal Importance ('Priority Species / Habitats') are listed in Section 41 (S41) of the Act. The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under Section 40 of NERC, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Desk study

Atkins PEA report

The Atkins PEA report¹ was reviewed and the relevant findings summarised.

Walkover survey

A walkover survey was undertaken of the site by Kerry Rhodes BSc (Hons) MCMIEEM on behalf of Icen Ecology Ltd. on 5th January 2022.

General habitats and protected species

Habitats on the site and their potential to support protected species were noted.

Bats (Preliminary Roost Assessment)

An assessment for bat roost potential was undertaken of buildings and trees in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust's (BCT's) Good Practice Guidelines².

Buildings and trees are categorised in terms of their 'suitability' to support a roost or provide suitable habitat, as per 'Table 4.1' from the Guidelines (see below).

The assessment entails a detailed inspection of a structure to look for features that bats could use for entry/exit and roosting and to search for bats and any signs of use by bats. The loft spaces of the property were inspected during the walkover survey.

Table 4.1 Guidelines for assessing the potential suitability of proposed development sites for bats, based on the presence of habitat features within the landscape, to be applied using professional judgement.

Suitability	Description Roosting habitats	Commuting and foraging habitats
Negligible	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats.	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by commuting or foraging bats.
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions ^a 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 or hibernation ^b). A tree of sufficient size and age to contain PRFs but with none seen from the ground or features seen with only very limited roosting potential. ^c	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of commuting bats 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.
Moderate	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions ^a and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only – the assessments in this table are made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for commuting 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.
High	A structure or tree 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 ^a and surrounding habitat.	Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by commuting bats 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.

^a For example, in terms of temperature, humidity, height above ground level, light levels or levels of disturbance.

^b 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.*, 2015). 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 large buildings in highly urbanised environments.

^c This system of categorisation aligns with BS 8596:2015 Surveying for bats in trees and woodland (BSI, 2015).

Limitations

There were no limitations to the walkover survey.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Desk study results – Atkins PEA

Statutory and non-statutory designated wildlife areas

The following statutory wildlife areas were identified within 2km:

- Clayton Vale Local Nature Reserve (LNR), 1km east. A reclaimed landfill, now forming a valley with the River Medlock.

The following non- statutory wildlife areas were identified within 1km:

- Ashton Canal Site of Biological Interest (SBI) immediately adjacent south of the site.
- Rochdale Canal, Stotts Lane – Ducie Street Basin SBI, 370m north.
- Bank Bridge Meadow SBI, 870m east. An area of woodland and grassland associated with the River Medlock.

Due to the distance of the designated areas from the site, adverse impacts were not anticipated except for potentially the Ashton Canal, immediately adjacent south and the following recommendations were made:

- Standard pollution prevention measures, Guidance on pollution prevention (GPPs)³ and Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA)⁴ guidance, should be adhered to.
- If night-time working is required, lighting should be kept to the minimum required for the task and directed away from adjacent habitats suitable for foraging and commuting bats, otter and other crepuscular species (in particular the Ashton Canal).

On-site habitats

The Atkins walkover survey of the site in 22/04/21 identified the following habitats: Buildings and hardstanding, immature secondary broadleaved woodland, a small area of swamp dominated by common reed *Phragmites australis*, scattered young trees (predominantly silver birch *Betula pendula* with lesser amounts of alder *Alnus glutinosa* and grey willow *Salix cinerea*), and ephemeral and short perennial vegetation.

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

⁴ The CIRIA documents are a series of publications developed by the Construction Industry Research and Information Association. Each document is targeted at a particular type of business or activity and covers environmental good practice to minimise pollution.

Parts of the site conform to 'Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land' within ephemeral and short perennial habitat. This is classed as 'Priority Habitat' under NERC and categorised by disturbance.

It was concluded that clearance works proposed by the client would only result in temporary impacts and thus not adversely impact the status of the habitat; the following recommendations were made:

- Efforts should be made to apply the mitigation hierarchy to open mosaic habitat on previously developed land, i.e. implement measures to avoid, mitigate or compensate for damage and disturbance to habitats. If this is not possible, impacts should be minimised as far as practicable.

Protected species

Bats

The Greater Manchester Local Records Centre (GMLRC) provided eight records of bat roosts within 2 km of the site and 20 records of bat sightings within 2 km of the site. The closest record was for a transitional pipistrelle *Pipistrellus sp.* roost located 375 m south of the site. Species recorded included common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* and *Myotis* species.

MAGIC returned eleven European Protected Species (EPS) licences for bats within 2 km of the site; the closest was at 1.1 km to the west for the destruction of a common pipistrelle resting place.

The walkover survey identified three buildings (referenced B1, B2 and B3) within the site as having 'Low' potential to support a bat roost, although concluded that the urbanised area of the site reduced the likelihood of roosting bats.

The habitats within the site were assessed as having 'Low' suitability for foraging/commuting bats, given the site's small size, urban location and lack of vegetation.

It was recommended that a single emergence (dusk) survey for bats should be undertaken on buildings B1, B2 and B3 to ascertain if they support a bat roost, prior to demolition.

Badger

The GMLRC provided six records of badger setts within 1 km of the Site, along with 16 recorded sightings; the closest sett record was 400m east of the site and for sightings, 560m south.

There were no signs of badger on the site during the walkover survey and it was concluded that this species was not a constraint to the proposed works.

Birds

The GMLRC provided 295 records of birds within 1 km of the site; the closest record was of a peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus* located within the site in 2019 and juveniles were also recorded at a later date, also within the site.

No evidence of peregrines was seen during the 2021 ecological walkover survey, although two ravens *Corvus corax* were present nesting in the gasholder structure.

The following precautions were recommended:

- To undertake a nesting bird survey prior to the proposed works.
- Works should take place outside the nesting bird season (deemed March to August, inclusive). If this cannot be achieved, a nesting bird check should be undertaken prior to works and vegetation / structures removed only when the 'all clear' is given. If nests are found, then they must be left in situ until chicks have fledged.

Amphibians

The GMLRC provided no records of amphibians within 1km of the site.

No European Protected Species (EPS) Licences for great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* with returned within 1 km of the site by MAGIC.

No suitable waterbodies were identified within 500 m of the site.

It was concluded that GCN are unlikely to be adversely impacted by the proposed works.

Reptiles

The GMLRC provided no records of reptiles within 1 km of the Site.

In 2021, basking habitats within the site were assessed as suitable to support commoner species of reptiles, such as slow worm *Anguis fragilis* and common lizard *Zootoca vivipara*. No suitable hibernacula was identified, although it was concluded that presence could not be ruled out.

The following precautionary measures were recommended:

- If works are scheduled during the hibernation period (October to February), then hibernacula should be left undisturbed. **NB: this contradicts the previous statement that no hibernacula was identified on the site.**
- During the active season (March to mid-October), vegetation should be cut to 150mm, then hand searches undertaken for reptiles, then cut to ground level. **NB: this method will be revised based upon the 2022 walkover survey findings.**

Invasive non-native flora

The GMLRC returned no records of invasive non-native flora (INNF) within 1 km of the site.

No INNF species were identified during the 2021 walkover survey, although it was concluded that April was a suboptimal month for identification. ***NB: This is not typically the case.*** As such the following recommendations were made:

- A pre-works check for the presence of INNF species should be carried out prior to works commencing. If found, a specialist contractor should be consulted for advice on the management.

Walkover survey 2022

The walkover survey undertaken by Icen Ecology Limited in 2022 identified the following habitats and potential for protected species. Comparisons have been made with the Atkins walkover results.

Habitats

The habitats remain unchanged on the site since 2021.

Protected species

The habitats and site were considered with respect to their potential to support protected species.

Mammals - bats

Two on-site buildings are earmarked for removal – B1 and B2. The bat roost assessment for these two buildings is shown in Table 1 below. The gas holder itself has no suitable bat roost features.

Table 1: Bat roost assessment – buildings/structures

Ref:	Description and comments	Cross reference with Atkins 2021 results
B1	Located to the south-eastern extent of the site adjacent to Ashton Canal. Brick built, flat roofed structure with doors to the north-eastern and south-western facing walls. Minor gaps in brickwork, but no evidence of bat activity in the form of droppings or staining. Internally there are no suitable crevices for roosting bats. Assessed as having 'Negligible' bat roost potential due to the lack of conducive features and evidence. No further surveys recommended.  	Referred to as B1 and TN1 with 'Low' bat roost potential. Electrical kiosk.

B2	Located in the centre of the site in close proximity to the gas holder. A double height brick-built structure with pitched roof facing north-east and south-west covered in slate tiles. A number of crevices have developed in the brickwork where Buddleia has taken root in the north-eastern wall. At the south-eastern gable end a gap has developed between the end tiles. No evidence of bat activity noted. The external crevices are only likely to be able to support low numbers of crevice roosting bats. Internally the building is open to the roof with the underside of the roof covered in timber cladding. No crevices suitable for roosting were noted within the interior of this building and no evidence of bat activity. Assessed as having 'Low' bat roost potential. A single emergence survey is recommended from May to August prior to demolition. If a bat roost is discovered, then a European Protected Species Licence from Natural England will be necessary to proceed and additional surveys are likely to be necessary to provide enough data for the licence application.  	Referred to as TN13 with 'Low' bat roost potential. Booster house.
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None of the trees on site were assessed as having bat roost potential due to the lack of conducive features such as splits, cracks, holes, loose bark or dense ivy cover.

The site has limited foraging and commuting potential by bats due to the habitats present.

Mammals - badger

There were no signs of badger activity observed on the site. Signs of badger activity typically include setts, hair, latrines, footprints, mammal runs and snuffle holes (where badgers are searching for food).

No further surveys recommended.

Birds

Three ravens were perched on the gas holder structure during the walkover survey and flew off once disturbed. There was no evidence of nesting peregrine. This structure is earmarked for demolition in spring 2023.

None of the other buildings on the site had evidence of nesting birds. The trees on the site have some bird nesting potential.

Further surveys recommended / precautionary measures.

Reptiles

The habitats on the site are assessed as having limited potential to support reptile species.

No further surveys recommended. Precautionary measures recommended.

Amphibians

The Atkins assessment is considered to remain valid.

No further surveys recommended.

Invertebrates

The limited habitats on the site are unlikely to support a diverse assemblage of invertebrates.

No further surveys recommended.

Flora

No rare or protected flora was identified during the walkover survey.

There were no invasive plant species identified on the site.

EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Table 2 below includes an evaluation of the desk study and walkover survey, together with precautionary measures and recommendations for further survey.

Table 2: Ecological appraisal summary

Ecological Receptor	Evaluation	Precautionary Measures / Recommendations / Comments
Designated wildlife areas	From the desk study the following statutory designated wildlife area was identified within 2km of the site: Clayton Vale LNR, 1km east. For non- statutory wildlife areas within 1km of the site, the following were identified: Ashton Canal SBI (adjacent south); Rochdale Canal, Stotts Lane – Ducie Street Basin SBI, 370m north and Bank Bridge Meadow SBI, 870m east. Recommendations to protect the adjacent Ashton Canal were made by Atkins in 2021. These are considered to remain valid. <u>Legislation/Policy</u> • RAMSARs: Convention on Wetlands of International Importance 1971. • SACs: EC Habitats Directive 1992. • SPAs: EC Birds Directive 2009. • SSSIs: WCA, CRoW Act (Schedule 9).	Precautionary measures: (1) Standard pollution prevention measures, Guidance on pollution prevention (GPPs) and Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) guidance, should be adhered to. (2) If night-time working is required, lighting should be kept to the minimum required for the task and directed away from adjacent habitats suitable for foraging and commuting bats, otter and other crepuscular species (in particular the Ashton Canal).
Habitats	The habitats remain the same on the site for 2022: Buildings and hardstanding, immature secondary broadleaved woodland, a small area of swamp, scattered young trees and ephemeral and short perennial vegetation. Parts of the site conform to 'Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land' within ephemeral and short perennial habitat. This is classed as 'Priority Habitat' under NERC and categorised by disturbance. It was concluded in 2021 that clearance works proposed by the client would only result in temporary impacts and thus not adversely impact the status of the habitat; the recommendations made remain valid in 2022.	Precautionary measures: Efforts should be made to apply the mitigation hierarchy to open mosaic habitat on previously developed land, i.e. implement measures to avoid, mitigate or compensate for damage and disturbance to habitats. If this is not possible, impacts should be minimised as far as practicable.

Ecological Receptor	Evaluation	Precautionary Measures / Recommendations / Comments
	<u>Legislation/Policy</u> • NERC. Section 41 Habitats of Principal Importance. The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers in implementing their duty under Section 40 of NERC, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions.	
Mammals - badger	There were no signs of badger observed on the site in 2021 or 2022. <u>Legislation / Policy</u> • Badgers and their setts are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Protection also extends to include disturbance. • Schedule 6 WCA: illegal to capture badgers with certain methods listed. • IUCN Red Data Book List: Least Concern.	No further surveys recommended.
Mammals – bats	The Atkins 2021 PEA surveyed a number of buildings. Three buildings (referenced B1, B2 and B3) were earmarked as having 'Low' bat roost potential and further surveys recommended. The 2022 walkover survey focused on two of the buildings B1 and B2, since these are the only buildings earmarked for removal by the client. B1 is now assessed as having 'Negligible' potential to support a bat roost due to the lack of conducive bat roosting features and evidence. B2 remains to be assessed as having 'Low' potential to support a bat roost due to cracks in brickwork. The scattered trees on the site were assessed as having 'Negligible' bat roost potential due to the lack of conducive features such as splits, cracks, holes, loose bark or dense ivy cover. The site has limited foraging and commuting potential due to the habitats present.	B1: No further surveys recommended. B2: A single emergence (dusk) bat survey is recommended prior to removal. The bat survey season runs from May to August. If a bat roost is discovered, then a licence from Natural England will be required prior to works. Additional surveys are likely to be necessary to provide enough data for the licence application. If no bats are discovered, works can proceed.

Ecological Receptor	Evaluation	Precautionary Measures / Recommendations / Comments
	<u>Legislation / Policy</u> • All bats: Schedule 2 Habitats Regulations 2017. • All bats: Schedule 5 WCA (full protection). • All bats: Section 41 NERC (species of Principal Importance). • All bats: Wild Mammals (Protection) Act, 1996. • All bats: EUROBATS Agreement. • Habitats Directive Annex II: Horseshoe bats (<i>Rhinolophidae</i>), Barbastelle <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i> and Bechstein's bat <i>Myotis bechsteinii</i> • IUCN Red Data Book List: Varies. Bechstein's bat: Near Threatened. Bats are classed as 'European Protected Species' (EPS) and mitigation will typically be undertaken under the auspices of an EPS licence from Natural England.	
Birds	The desk study identified biological records for a nesting peregrine falcon on the gas holder in 2019, and juveniles at a later date. No evidence of nesting peregrine falcon was observed during 2021 or 2022. During the Atkins 2021 walkover survey, two ravens were observed nesting in the gasholder structure. During the 2022 walkover survey, three ravens were perched on the gas holder structure and flew off once disturbed. This structure is earmarked for demolition in spring 2023. None of the other buildings on the site had evidence of nesting birds. The trees on the site have some bird nesting potential. All wild birds whilst actively nesting are afforded legal protection under the WCA. Special protection is also afforded to birds listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA which makes it an offence to disturb these species at nest or the dependent young.	Precautionary measures: Vegetation / building clearance is undertaken outside of the nesting season. The nesting season is deemed to be from mid-March to mid-August, although these times can be temperature and species dependent. If this timing is not possible then a nesting bird check must be carried out by a suitably experienced person prior to demolition/clearance. If the 'all clear' is given, then works can commence. If birds are found to be nesting, then no works should be undertaken within at least 7m of the nest until the chicks have fledged and the area must be demarcated.

Ecological Receptor	Evaluation	Precautionary Measures / Recommendations / Comments
	<u>Legislation / Policy</u> • The Birds Directive 2009. • WCA (all species, with exceptions). • Section 41 NERC (some species are of Principal Importance). • Birds of Conservation Concern: Varies. • IUCN Red Data Book: Varies. Combined legislation means that all birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law and it is an offence, with certain exceptions, to: a) intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird; b) intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built; c) intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird; d) have in one's possession or control any wild bird (dead or alive), part of a wild bird or egg of a wild bird; e) intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building or is in, on or near a nest with eggs or young; or disturb the dependent young of such a bird f) have in one's possession or control any birds of a species listed on Schedule 4 of the Act unless registered in accordance with the Secretary of State's regulations.	
Reptiles	In 2021 Atkins concluded that basking habitats were present within the site suitable to support species of reptiles such as slow worm and common lizard. No suitable hibernacula was identified, although it was concluded that presence could not be ruled out. Precautionary measures were recommended which have now been revised. In 2022 the site was also assessed as having some, albeit, limited potential to support reptiles. <u>Legislation / Policy</u> • Schedule 2 Habitats Regulations 2017 (smooth snake <i>Acipenser sturio</i> and sand lizard <i>Lacerta agilis</i>, only). • Schedule 5 WCA (intentional killing and injuring; and trade) – all native reptile species.	No further surveys recommended. Precautionary measures recommended: (1) Keep vegetation clearance to a minimum. (2) March – October: Any long vegetation clearance to be strimmed to 15cm, left for 5 days and then cut to ground level allowing any reptiles to move out of the way. (3) November to February: Avoid tracking over any long vegetation.

Ecological Receptor	Evaluation	Precautionary Measures / Recommendations / Comments
	• Section 41 NERC (species of Principal Importance) - all native reptile species. • IUCN Red Data Book: Least Concern.	
Amphibians, particularly GCN	The desk study did not identify any ponds within 500m of the site. <u>Legislation / Policy</u> • Schedule 2 Habitats Regulations 2017. • Schedule 5 WCA (full protection) • Section 41 NERC (species of Principal Importance). • IUCN Red Data Book: Least Concern. GCN is classed as 'European Protected Species' (EPS) and mitigation will typically be undertaken under the auspices of an EPS licence from Natural England.	No further surveys recommended.
Invertebrates	The limited habitats on the site are unlikely to support a diverse assemblage of invertebrate species. <u>Legislation/Policy</u> • Schedule 2 Habitats Regulations 2017 (large blue butterfly <i>Maculinea arion</i>, Fisher's Estuarine moth <i>Gortyna borellii lunata</i>, and lesser whirlpool ram's-horn snail <i>Anisus vorticulus</i>). • Schedule 5 WCA (varying protection). • Section 41 NERC (species of Principal Importance) – some species. • IUCN Red Data Book: Varies.	No further surveys recommended.
Flora	No rare or protected flora were identified during the walkover surveys. No non-native invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of the WCA were identified during the walkover surveys. <u>Legislation/Policy – native species</u> • Schedule 5 Habitats Regulations 2017 (9 species). • Schedule 8 WCA. Prohibits unauthorised uprooting or destruction of plants listed on	No further surveys recommended. No requirements for invasive species removal are currently recommended.

Ecological Receptor	Evaluation	Precautionary Measures / Recommendations / Comments
	Schedule 8; also prohibits sale/possession etc. of any plant listed on Schedule 8 or parts or derivatives of these plants. • Section 41 NERC (species of Principal Importance) – some species. • IUCN Red Data Book: Varies. <u>Non-native plant species</u> Section 14 WCA, Schedule 9. • Section 33 Environmental Protection Act, 1990. Section 14 prohibits the release to the wild of animals and plants listed in Part II of Schedule 9 or otherwise causing them to grow there. Negligent or reckless behaviour such as inappropriate disposal, resulting in the plant becoming established in the wild also constitutes an offence. Depositing unauthorised 'controlled waste is also likely to be a breach of Section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act, 1990. In the recent Court of Appeal decision in the case of <i>Network Rail Infrastructure Limited v Williams and Another</i> [2018], a landowner/occupier can be liable for failing to act reasonably to remove any Japanese knotweed after becoming aware of it and where it is foreseeable that it would damage neighbouring land.	