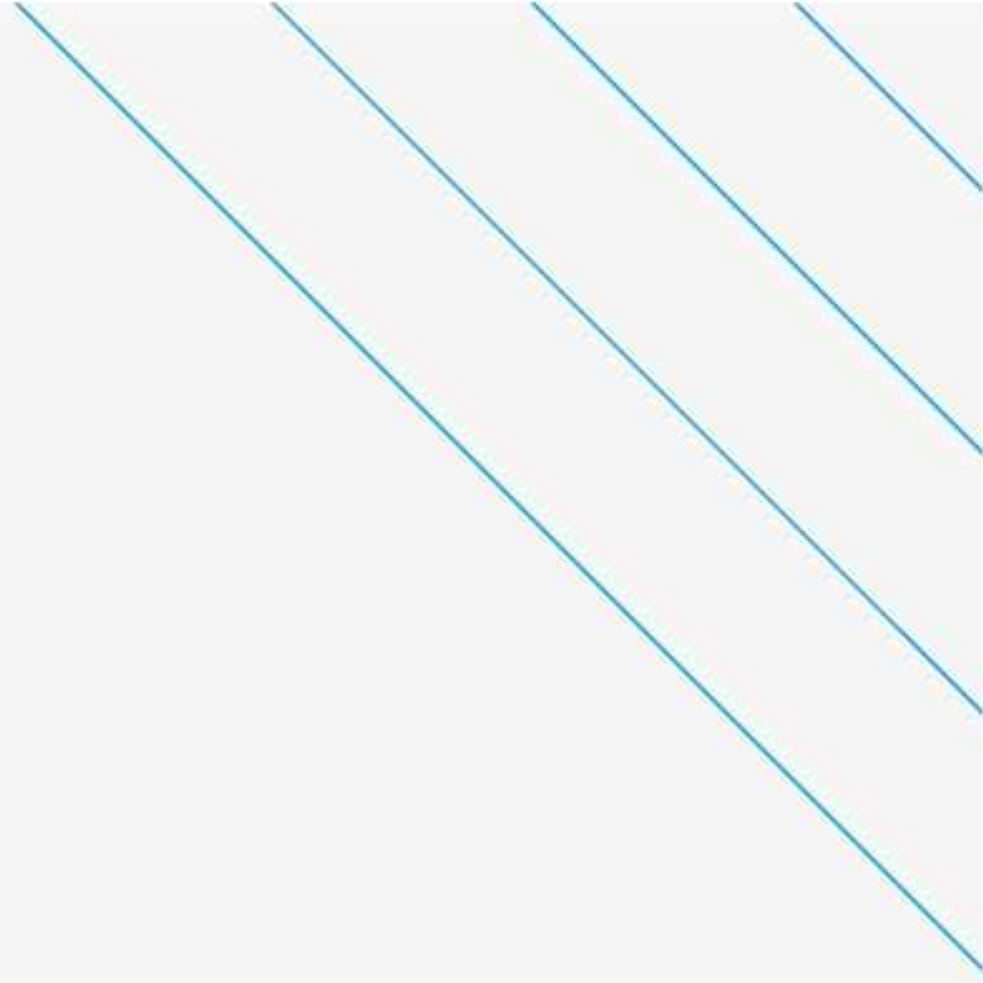


Canberra Street

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report

The Guinness Partnership

December 2021



Notice

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The information which Atkins Limited has provided has been prepared by an environmental specialist in accordance with the Code of Professional Conduct of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. Atkins Limited confirms that the opinions expressed are our true and professional opinions.

This document does not purport to provide legal advice.

This document has 32 pages including the cover.

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

Document history

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Summary

Report purpose	The primary aims of this report are to: Identify key ecological constraints to the development; Identify if additional ecological surveys are required to inform an ecological impact assessment; and Identify avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures.
Proposed Scheme	The Proposed Scheme is for the construction of four residential units (affordable two bed houses) across two terraces.
Desk studies and field surveys	The ecological information presented here was obtained during a desk-study and walkover survey of accessible land within and adjacent to the Site in November 2021.
Ecological features	The designated sites for nature conservation within 2 km of the Site are Clayton Vale Local Nature Reserve, Clayton Vale Site of Biological Importance (SBI), Ashton Canal (West & East) SBI, Bank Bridge Meadow SBI, Brookdale Clough (West & East) SBI and Medlock Vale & Lumb Clough (North & South) SBI. Priority and notable habitats within 1 km of the Site include deciduous woodland, open mosaic habitat, wood pasture and parkland, National Forest Inventory (NFI) (assumed woodland) and NFI (mixed mainly conifer). No irreplaceable habitats were identified within 1 km of the Site during the desk study. The Site comprises mainly semi-improved neutral grassland, with a small parcel of introduced shrub. The Proposed Scheme should take into account the potential presence of roosting bats, nesting birds and invasive non-native plant species within the local area adjacent to the Site.
Avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures	General mitigation measures have been provided in Section 4 of this report. It is recommended that a specialist contractor is contacted for advice regarding appropriate removal of Japanese knotweed from the Site. Habitats within the Survey Area to the north should be enhanced in order to mitigate for the loss of the neutral grassland on the Site. The Proposed Scheme should achieve 10% Biodiversity Net Gain, as per local planning policy.
Recommendations for further survey	Buildings adjacent and nearby the Site should be subjected to detailed Potential Bat Roost Assessments (PBRAs). The requirement for further bats surveys would be identified as a result of these PBRAs. The Proposed Scheme should achieve 10% Biodiversity Net Gain, as per local planning policy, this assessment should be carried out following a suitable metric.
Opportunities for biodiversity enhancements	Enhancement opportunities within the Survey Area to the north of Site are discussed within Section 4.20 of this report. Opportunities for biodiversity enhancement include the installation of bat boxes or bird boxes within the Proposed Scheme, where possible.

Report Validity

In the event of scope or programme changes or if works do not commence within 12 months of the date of this report then updates to the surveys may be required to ensure the validity of the data, as per CIEEM guidance¹.

¹ CIEEM (2019) Advice Note on the Lifespan of Ecological Reports and Surveys

Introduction

Terms of Reference

- 1.1. Atkins, a member of the SNC-Lavalin group, was commissioned by The Guinness Partnership to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) in connection with the proposed construction of four affordable, semi-detached homes at Canberra Street in Clayton, Manchester (hereafter referred to as the Proposed Scheme). The Proposed Scheme is near Ashton New Rd (A662) in Clayton, Manchester, as shown in Appendix A (hereafter referred to as the Site).
- 1.2. This report has been undertaken with reference to current good practice² and provides an initial appraisal of any likely ecological constraints upon designated sites for nature conservation, protected species and other features of ecological interest.
- 1.3. Following the principles of the mitigation hierarchy and British Standard (BS) 42020:2013³, this report also identifies the need for measures to avoid, mitigate or compensate for likely negative impacts to habitats and species. Opportunities to provide biodiversity enhancements in accordance with local, regional and national biodiversity planning strategies are also identified where relevant. Furthermore, this report also identifies recommendations for further ecological surveys that may be required to establish the presence or likely absence of Important Ecological Features (IEFs) within and adjoining the Proposed Scheme.
- 1.4. This report is intended to inform design development, site layout and/or site investigations. In addition, it provides the indicative scope for further ecological surveys and/or ecological impact assessment required in connection with a planning application or to contribute to an Environmental Impact Assessment.

The Site

- 1.5. The Site is located at Ordnance Survey national grid reference (OSNGR) SJ 8830 9850 in Clayton, Manchester. The site is located within a residential area, with residential housing present to the south, east and west. Kingsbury Road Park, an area with grassland, trees and scrub, is located immediately adjacent to the north of the Site.
- 1.6. The Site is approximately 0.1 ha in extent and comprises predominantly short-sward semi-improved neutral grassland with an area of introduced shrub and hedgerow.

The Scheme

- 1.7. Specific details of the Proposed Scheme are yet to be confirmed, including site compounds, access routes and the timing of the works. When details of the Proposed Scheme are available, this PEA report may need to be updated.
- 1.8. The Proposed Scheme is for the construction of four residential units (affordable two bed houses) across two terraces. The Proposed Scheme will result in the loss of the grassland, introduced shrub and hedgerow habitat. The details of the Proposed Scheme, as they are currently understood, are shown in Appendix A.

Scope of the Assessment

- 1.9. This report presents ecological information obtained during the following:
 - A desk-study undertaken during November 2021; and
 - A field survey of accessible land within and adjacent to the Site on 4th November 2021.
- 1.10. The walkover survey and identification of potential ecological constraints was based on the condition of the Site and its immediate surrounds encountered at the time of the walkover survey,

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

³ British Standard (2013) BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity - code of practice for planning and development

and information about the Proposed Scheme available at the time. If information on the Proposed Scheme should change, the Site may need to be re-visited to establish if there are any further ecological constraints arising from changes to the design.

2. Methods

Desk Study

- 2.1. The geographical area for obtaining ecological data through desk studies has been determined using best practice guidance (as detailed in Section 2.4 and professional judgement. Baseline data has been gathered from a range of sources through data requests, consultation, and using online resources as outlined below. This included data gathering in relation to statutory and non-statutory designated sites and protected and priority species⁴. The study areas used for the data gathering are detailed in Table 2-1. The desk study was undertaken during November 2021. For species records collected, those within 10 years of the data collection date have been considered as ‘recent’ within the assessment.
- 2.2. The following online resources were accessed:
 - Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website⁵;
 - The Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory⁶;
 - Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) Maps⁷; and
 - British Geological Society (BGS) Geology of Britain Viewer⁸.
- 2.3. Ordnance Survey maps and the Grid Reference Finder website ⁹ were used to identify the presence of waterbodies within 500 m of the Site boundary, in order to establish if the land within and immediately surrounding the Site could be used as terrestrial habitat for great crested newts. This species typically uses suitable terrestrial habitat up to 500 m from a breeding pond¹⁰. However, there is a notable decrease in great crested newt abundance beyond a distance of 250 m from a breeding pond¹¹.
- 2.4. Greater Manchester Local Records Centre (GMLRC) was contacted to request records of protected and priority (Section 41¹²) species and details of non-statutory designated sites.

Table 2-1 - Data search areas

Data Type	Search area – distance from Proposed Scheme boundary
Statutory designated sites for nature conservation	2 km
Non-statutory designated sites for nature conservation	2 km
Irreplaceable habitats including ancient woodland	1 km
Priority habitats (including veteran trees)	1 km
Protected species	2 km

4 These are defined in CIEEM (2017) Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal 2nd Edition, page 4

⁵ [MAGIC \(defra.gov.uk\)](https://magic.defra.gov.uk/)

⁶ [Ancient Tree Inventory - Woodland Trust](https://ancient-trees.org.uk/)

⁷ [BSBI maps](https://bsbi.org.uk/)

⁸ [Geology of Britain viewer | British Geological Survey \(BGS\)](https://geologyofbritainviewer.bgs.ac.uk/)

⁹ <https://gridreferencefinder.com/>

¹⁰ English Nature (2004). Great Crested Newt Mitigation Licences

¹¹ English Nature (2004). An assessment of the efficiency of capture techniques and the value of different habitats for the great crested newt (ENRR576) <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/134002>

¹² Section 41 of the natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

- 2.5. Natural England's Open Data Geoportal for Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zones (IRZs)¹³ was used to identify whether the Proposed Scheme fell within the IRZ for any relevant SSSIs.
- 2.6. A review of national and local planning policy relevant to the Proposed Scheme was undertaken as part of the data gathering. The following policy documents were subject to review:
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021) National Planning Policy Framework¹⁴;
 - GMCA Biodiversity Net Gain: Guidance for Greater Manchester¹⁵ and
 - Core Strategy 2012-2027, Manchester City Council¹⁶

Field Surveys

- 2.7. The geographical area for undertaking ecological field surveys has been determined using the current survey guidance (as detailed in section 2.10), professional judgement and the Zones of Influence, which have been determined based on likely effects arising from the Proposed Scheme.

Surveyor Competencies

- 2.8. All the surveys were led by surveyors who have been assessed to be at least of capable experience following the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) competency framework¹⁷.

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

- 2.9. An ecological walkover survey of areas within and adjacent to the Site, including land up to 50 m from the Site boundary where access was allowed (the Survey Area), was undertaken on 4th November 2021 using the extended Phase 1 habitat survey methodology¹⁸ as guidance. The walkover survey recorded information on the habitats within the Survey Area and included a search for evidence of the presence of, and the potential for each habitat to support, protected and priority species as per standing best-practice¹⁹.
- 2.10. Vascular plant names recorded during this survey accords with Stace²⁰, whilst nomenclature for lower plants follows Blockeel *et al*²¹.
- 2.11. This survey method comprised mapping habitats present according to the JNCC Phase 1 habitat survey methodology¹⁸, with target notes (TNs) used to record specific details on plant species composition of the identified habitats, alongside current management and quality where appropriate. TNs were also used to record features of ecological importance (e.g. ponds, complex habitat mosaics). In addition, the survey comprised assessing the suitability of the habitats present for, and recording any activity of the following species (in line with current guidance):
- amphibians (terrestrial and aquatic habitats), including an assessment of aquatic habitat for its suitability to support great crested newts using the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment²²
 - badgers;
 - bats²³;
 - breeding and wintering birds;
 - fungi^{Error! Bookmark not defined.}.
 - invertebrates²⁴;

¹³ [Natural England Open Data \(arcgis.com\)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf)

¹⁴ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf

¹⁵ [gmca-bng-guidance-update_250221-final-edited.pdf \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/200074/planning/6573/core_strategy_2012-2027)

¹⁶ https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/200074/planning/6573/core_strategy_2012-2027

¹⁷ <https://www.cieem.net/competency-framework>

¹⁸ Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010) Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey - a technique for environmental audit.

¹⁹ CIEEM (2017) Guidelines for preliminary ecological appraisal. 2nd Edition.

²⁰ Stace (2019) New Flora of the British Isles 4th edition

²¹ Blockeel, T.L., Bell, N.E., Hill, M.O., Hodgetts, N.G., Long, D.G., Pilkington, S.L. & Rothero, G.P. 2020. A new checklist of the bryophytes of Britain and Ireland. Journal of Bryology online, March 2021

²² Oldham R.S., Keeble J., Swan M.J.S. & Jeffcote M. (2000) Evaluating the suitability of habitat for the Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) Herpetological Journal 10 (4), 143-155 (2000).

²³ Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edition). The Bat Conservation Trust, London

²⁴ As relevant to the location, identified through the desk study or at the time of the survey

- otters;
- plants^{Error! Bookmark not defined.};
- other notable species;
- reptiles²⁵; and
- water voles.

2.12. Evidence of the presence of the following invasive non-native species was recorded, which includes:

- Evidence of animal species as listed on the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019; Muntjac deer and grey squirrel.
- Evidence of the presence of invasive non-native plant species (INNPS). These are listed within Schedule 9 (Part II) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and subject to strict legal control.

Limitations

2.13. This section identifies limitations to the survey and assessment and provides an explanation as to the perceived effect of these on the appraisal.

2.14. The entire Site was accessible at the time of the survey. However, rear gardens of residential properties, and an area of Kingsbury Road Park, within the Survey Area were inaccessible at the time of the survey. This is not considered a significant limitation to the assessment, as these areas will not be impacted by the Proposed Scheme. Should the nature of the Proposed Scheme change, these areas may need to be revisited.

2.15. The survey was carried out in November, at a time of year when certain plant species (including some INNPS) are not easily identifiable. Therefore, the presence of INNPS has not been ruled out. However, the impact of this limitation was reduced through having a Field Identification Skills Certificate (FISC) Level 6 botanist accompany the lead surveyor at the time of the field survey.

2.16. Many cryptic taxa that may constitute IEFs, particularly including apomictic species of plant, invertebrates and fungi, could not be adequately surveyed at the time of the survey. These groups require specialist survey and survey windows are generally highly restrictive, particularly for plants in the genera *Taraxacum*, *Rubus* and *Hieracium*. However, attributable to the nature of the habitats present at the Site and surrounding landscape, this is not considered to be a significant limitation.

2.17. The search for waterbodies within 500 m of the Site was undertaken by using Ordnance Survey plans and aerial photographs only. These sources may not show all waterbodies within 500 m of the Site boundary and therefore some waterbodies may not have been identified.

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

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

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

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

²⁵Froglife (1999) Reptile Survey: an introduction to planning, conducting and interpreting surveys for snake and lizard conservation. Froglife advice sheet 10

3. Results

Statutory and non-Statutory Designated Sites

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

Table 3-1 - Statutory and non-statutory designated sites within 2 km²⁶ of the Site

Site name	Designation	Location of designated site ²⁷	Features of interest ²⁸
Ashton Canal (West & East)	SBI	Approximately 250 m south of the Site	Designated by the Local Authority for its relative biological importance within Greater Manchester. Habitats of importance within the site include standing water and are of particular importance to Floating Water-plantain (<i>Luronium natans</i>), a European Protected Species whose national stronghold is based across Greater Manchester’s canal systems.
Clayton Vale	Local Nature Reserve (LNR); Site of Biological Importance (SBI)	Approximately 600 m north of the Site	Reclaimed from land fill by Manchester City Council in the early 1980’s and forms a valley with the river Medlock running along its base.
Bank Bridge Meadow	SBI	Approximately 1.01 km north west of the Site	Designated by the Local Authority for its relative biological importance within Greater Manchester. Habitats of importance within the site include woodland and grassland.
Brookdale Clough (West & East)	SBI	Approximately 1.45 km north east of the Site	Designated by the Local Authority for its relative biological importance within Greater Manchester. Habitats of importance within the site include woodland.
Medlock Vale & Lumb Clough (North & South)	SBI	Approximately 1.91 km north east of the Site	Designated by the Local Authority for its relative biological importance within Greater Manchester. Habitats of importance within the site include woodland and grassland.

3.2. One statutory designated site, Clayton Vale LNR, was identified within 2 km of the Site.

3.3. The Site location is within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) of two SSSIs, as detailed in Table 3-2 below.

Table 3-2 - Designated sites within the wider area, of which the Site falls under their Impact Risk Zones

²⁶ This is the zone of influence for designated sites.

²⁷ Where designated sites are situated outside of the Site boundary, the distance and direction is given to the closest point that the designated site is from the Site.

²⁸ Including qualifying features of internationally designated sites and reasons for designation for SSSIs

Site name	Designation	Location of designated site ²⁹	Features of interest ³⁰
Rochdale Canal	SSSI	Approximately 2.55 km south of the Site	The canal contains important habitats for submerged aquatic plants and emergent vegetation, including extensive colonies of the nationally scarce SAC species floating water-plantain. The site also supports a diverse assemblage of aquatic flora, notable its assemblage of pondweeds, reflecting its water quality. There is a rich but generally common-place invertebrate assemblage in excess of 113 species. The canal also provides habitat for a number of waterside bird species.
Hollinwood Branch Canal	SSSI	Approximately 2.92 km north east of the Site	The canal lies on glacial boulder clays overlying Carboniferous Westphalian Coal Measures. It is the best example of a mesotrophic standing water system in Greater Manchester and Merseyside. The main habitats are open water, swamp and tall fen. The open water plant communities are exceptionally diverse and contain several regionally and nationally rail species.

3.4. The Proposed Scheme did not fall under any of the criteria relevant to either site. Therefore, these sites are not considered to provide a constraint to the Proposed Scheme.

Irreplaceable Habitats

- 3.5. No areas of ancient woodland were identified within 1 km of the Site through the desk study.
- 3.6. No veteran trees were identified within 2 km of the Site through the desk study.
- 3.7. No other irreplaceable habitats (such as blanket bog, limestone pavement, sand dunes, salt marsh and lowland fen³¹) were identified within 1 km of the Site through the desk study.
- 3.8. Irreplaceable habitats are not discussed further within this report as they are not considered to pose a constraint to the Proposed Scheme.

Habitats

3.9.

3.10. **Table 3-3** lists the locations of priority and notable habitats identified through the desk study³².

Table 3-3 – Priority and notable habitats within 1 km³³ of the Site

Habitat Type	Location of habitat
Deciduous woodland	Four parcels within 1 km. The closest parcel is located approximately 115 m west of the Site.
Open mosaic habitat	Two parcels within 1 km.

²⁹ Where designated sites are situated outside of the Site boundary, the distance and direction is given to the closest point that the designated site is from the Site.

³⁰ Including qualifying features of internationally designated sites and reasons for designation for SSSIs

³¹ [National Planning Policy Framework \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

³² <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5706>

³³ This is the zone of influence for priority habitats as outlined in Section 2 above.

The closest parcel is located approximately 450 m southwest of the Site.

- 3.11. The Site comprised, almost entirely, semi-improved neutral grassland. A small area of introduced shrub containing Japanese knotweed is located within the northeast corner of the Site. The grassland on the Site contains a variety of common grassland and herbaceous species, characteristic of semi-improved neutral grassland which have been described in more detail below. A complete site-specific species list, including DAFOR scale, is presented in Figure 2 of Appendix C.
- 3.12. Habitats within the Survey Area to the south and west of the Site were largely hard standing and buildings, making up a residential area of housing, footpaths and roads. Few scattered street trees were present over the hardstanding.
- 3.13. Habitats within the Survey Area to the north and north-east of the Site included further short-sward semi-improved neutral grassland, scattered trees, scrub and introduced shrub, making up Kingsbury Road Park. Immediately adjacent to the east of the Site was a linear stretch of introduced shrub (in the form of a garden privet hedge), with inaccessible rear gardens of residential properties on the other side. Habitats within these residential gardens could not be observed, however, scattered trees within this area were observable from the Site.
- 3.14. No priority habitats were identified within the Survey Area.
- 3.15. The wider area is urban and generally comprised residential housing estates, with parks, gardens and the occasional industrial unit interspersed.
- 3.16. **Error! Reference source not found.**Table 3-3 lists all of the habitats identified on the Site during the extended Phase 1 habitat survey. The table also provides details of the area³⁴ of each habitat within the Survey Area and the proportion of the Site this makes up. Habitats are mapped on the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan in Appendix B.

Table 3-4 - Habitat types within the Site

Habitat Type	Location of habitat	Area of habitat/ distance of linear feature		Priority habitat y/n
		M ²	% of Site	
B2.2 Semi-improved neutral grassland	On Site	580 m ² / 99%		N
J1.4 Introduced shrub	In the north and east of the Site	5 m ²		N

Protected and Priority Species

- 3.17. Evidence gathered during the site visit of protected and priority species, or important habitats with the potential to support protected and priority species are indicated on the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan in Appendix B, with specific features highlighted by TNs on the map. TN descriptions are provided in Table 3.5 above. Details of legislation relating to protected species is provided in Appendix D.
- Amphibians
- 3.18. GMLRC provided no recent records of great crested newt (GCN) within 2 km of the Site. One record of common toad, dated 2012 and located approximately 0.86 km north of the Site, was returned.

³⁴ Measured using MAGIC Maps.

- 3.19. No European Protected Species Mitigation Licences (EPSMLs) for GCN were identified within 2 km of the Site.
- 3.20. No waterbodies were identified within the Survey Area. One waterbody was identified on OS maps within 500 m of the Site, a moat surrounding Clayton Hall approximately 130 m to the west of the Site. However, this waterbody was separated from the Site by residential housing, acting as a barrier for dispersal that amphibians are unlikely to bypass. As such, GCN, along with other amphibian species, are considered unlikely to be present on the Site or within the Survey Area.
- 3.21. There was very limited suitable terrestrial habitat for amphibians identified on Site or within the Survey Area. No suitable areas of refuge were present within the grassland that comprised the majority of the Site.
- 3.22. Due to barriers to amphibian dispersal to the Site, and as only limited habitat for amphibians has been recorded within the Survey Area, these species are not discussed further within this report as they are not considered to pose a constraint to the Proposed Scheme.
- Bats**
- 3.23. GMLRC provided 24 recent records of bats within 2 km of the Site, consisting of common pipistrelle (13), soprano pipistrelle (1), pipistrelle sp. (7), brown long-eared (1) and unidentified bat sp. (2). The closest record is of a foraging pipistrelle species, dated from 2018, located approximately 680 m south west of the Site. The closest recent record of a bat roost (unidentified bat sp.) is from 2021 and is located approximately 1.23 km north east of the Site
- 3.24. Due to their limited size in area, paired with their isolated position within an urban environment, the habitats within the Site are considered to have negligible suitable for foraging and commuting bats. However, habitats adjacent to the Site and within the Survey Area (i.e. scattered trees, scrub, introduced shrub) are more extensive in size and composition, and as such are considered to have low suitability for foraging and commuting bats.
- 3.25. No trees, buildings, or other structures that may provide suitability for roosting bats were located on the Site.
- 3.26. There were various buildings and trees within the Survey Area that were considered likely to have some level of bat roosting potential. However, none of these were subjected to a detailed preliminary bat roost suitability assessment (PBRA) during the survey visit.
- 3.27. As suitable roosting and foraging / commuting habitat for bats has been recorded within the Survey Area, this species may pose a constraint to the Proposed Scheme and recommendations are provided in Section 4.

Badger

- 3.28. GMLRC provided 18 recent records of badgers within 2 km of the Site. Details pertaining to badger sett locations have been removed for reports within the public realm. For information relating to presence of badger setts, refer to the full confidential report.
- 3.29. No evidence of badgers was recorded during the extended Phase 1 habitat survey. The Site consists of predominantly semi-improved neutral grassland that is regularly managed through mowing. Areas of introduced shrub adjacent to the Site, and in the Survey Area, are not extensive enough in size to be considered suitable for foraging / commuting badgers or for sett building. Additionally, these habitats have no connectivity to other suitable habitats for badger in the wider area. As such, the habitat within the Survey Area is considered unsuitable for supporting badgers.
- 3.30. As no suitable habitat for / evidence of badgers has been recorded within the Survey Area, this species is not discussed further within this report as it is not considered to pose a constraint to the Proposed Scheme.
- Birds**
- 3.31. GMLRC provided 39 recent records of birds within 2 km of the Site. The closest record was of a duncock, dated 2018 and located approximately 640 m south west of the Site. Other records included peregrine, bullfinch, house sparrow, skylark, linnet, starling, curlew and lapwing.
- 3.32. Suitable habitat for nesting birds was recorded on the Site in the form of introduced shrub, encompassing an area of garden privet hedge and shrub with Wilson's honeysuckle and other plants to the north and east. Introduced shrub, scrub and scattered trees also occur adjacent to the Site within the Survey Area. All of these features are considered to provide suitable opportunities for common species of tree/scrub nesting bird species.

3.33. As suitable nesting habitat for birds has been recorded within the Site and wider Survey Area this species may pose a constraint to the Proposed Scheme and recommendations are provided below.

Reptiles

- 3.34. GMLRC provided no recent records of reptiles within 2 km of the Site.
- 3.35. No evidence of reptiles was recorded during the extended Phase 1 habitat survey. The Site consists of predominantly semi-improved neutral grassland that is regularly managed by mowing. Areas of introduced shrub adjacent to the Site and in the Survey Area which could be considered suitable refuge for reptiles have no connectivity to suitable habitats in the wider area. As such, the habitat within the Survey Area is considered unsuitable for supporting reptiles.
- 3.36. As no suitable habitat for / evidence of reptiles has been recorded within the Survey Area, reptiles are not discussed further within this report as they are not considered to pose a constraint to the Proposed Scheme.

Invertebrates

- 3.37. GMLRC provided nine recent records of priority invertebrates within 2 km of the Site, comprising seven records of white-letter hairstreak and two records of cinnabar moth. The closest record was of two white-letter hairstreak, located approximately 1 km north west of site and dated from 2019.
- 3.38. The habitats within the Site or the Survey Area are unlikely to support significant invertebrate assemblages given the location, character and overall quality of habitats present across the Site.
- 3.39. As no suitable habitat for significant invertebrates assemblages has been recorded within the study area, they are not discussed further within this report as it is not considered to pose a constraint to the Proposed Scheme.

Plants

- 3.40. GMLRC provided three records of floating water-plantain, a European Protected Species within 2 km of the Site, the nearest occurring approximately 1.77 km to the west. This species is an aquatic perennial associated with oligotrophic to mesotrophic waters, locally including canal systems across the region of Greater Manchester. The nearest watercourse is situated approximately 250 m south of the Site and is unlikely to be affected by the Proposed Scheme.
- 3.41. No protected or priority plants were identified on Site at the time of the survey.
- 3.42. GMLRC provided no recent records of INNPS within 2 km of the Site.
- 3.43. The field survey identified one stand of Japanese knotweed within the Site. Additionally, stands of Japanese rose were identified within the Survey Area, just north of the red line boundary.
- 3.44. As INNPS have been recorded both on the Site and within the Survey Area, these may pose a constraint to the Proposed Scheme and recommendations are provided in Section 4.

Table 3-5 - Invasive non-native species

Invasive non-native species	Extent of cover	Target Note and Grid Reference
Japanese knotweed	5 m² patch within the north east of the Site.	TN5. SJ 88312 98547.
Japanese rose	Not present within the Site. Located just to the north.	TN4. SJ 88314 98518.

Fungi

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

Other notable species

- 3.48. There were no watercourses present within the Survey Area. An overflow weir is located approximately 270 m south of the Site, however, this watercourse was separated from the Site by residential housing and roads. As such, the following widespread protected species associated this habitat type has been scoped out of this assessment: otters, water voles and white-clawed crayfish.
- 3.49. GMLRC provided four recent records of hedgehogs within 2 km of the Site, the closest of which was recorded in 2020 and located approximately 1.2 km to the east of the Site. The habitats within the Site and Survey Area are considered to provide suitable foraging habitat for hedgehogs. Hedgehogs may pose a constraint to the Proposed Scheme and recommendations are provided in Section 4.

4. Constraints and Recommendations

Key Constraints

Based on the survey results outlined in Section 3 above, the following key constraints have been identified. Recommendations for mitigation of these constraints are provided in the following sections.

Bats

- 4.1. Habitats adjacent to the Site and within the Survey Area offer suitability for foraging and roosting bats. The current proposal includes construction of a two new terraced housing blocks (each comprising two semi-detached two-storey houses) on Site. No trees or buildings are to be removed as part of the Proposed Scheme. However, it is anticipated that the Proposed Scheme will involve the use of heavy machinery and implementation of new lighting. These factors could result in disturbance to bat roosts within nearby buildings / trees and disturbance to foraging / commuting habitat.

Nesting birds

- 4.2. Habitats within the Site and within the Survey Area offer suitability for nesting birds. The current proposal includes construction of a two new terraced housing blocks (each comprising two semi-detached two-storey houses) on Site. No trees are to be removed as part of the Proposed Scheme, although areas of introduced shrub are anticipated to be removed at the Site. Direct removal of possible nesting habitat, the use of heavy machinery and implementation of new lighting are factors that could result in disturbance to birds that may be nesting within trees / scrub / introduced shrub on and adjacent to site.

Hedgehogs

- 4.3. Habitats within the Site and within the Survey Area offer suitability for foraging hedgehogs. Habitat within the Survey Area (ie. introduced shrub) also offer suitability for hibernating hedgehog. A small amount of introduced shrub is anticipated to be removed at the Site, which could result in disturbance to hedgehogs that may be occupying that space

Invasive None-Native Species

- 4.4. Stands of Japanese knotweed and Japanese rose, both Schedule 9 INNPS, have been identified within the Survey Area. Japanese knotweed was located within the Site itself, in the north east corner, whilst Japanese rose exists 17 m to the north of the Site. Japanese knotweed is known to cause structural damage to foundations of properties and can severely reduce the value of a property.

Further Survey Requirements

- 4.5. A PBRA should be carried out of all buildings and trees within 30 m of the Site, in line with The Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines³⁵. Following PBRA survey, additional bat surveys of

³⁵ [Bat Survey Guidelines 2015](#)

trees and buildings that will be impacted by the works may be required, in line with good practice guidance.

Biodiversity Net Gain

- 4.6. The Environment Act 2021³⁶ recently received Royal Assent passing the Act into active legislation, mandating the achievement of quantifiable biodiversity net gain projects and plans in England. Whilst these provisions are currently in a transitional period, where mandating biodiversity net gain is not mandatory for two years after Royal Assent of the Act, this is superseded where a Local Authority's Local Plan already contains provisions for biodiversity net gain.
- 4.7. GMCA Biodiversity Net Gain guidance³⁷ states that 'For developments in Greater Manchester, the minimum level of Biodiversity Net Gain is considered to be achieved when the biodiversity units for the habitats (for example, area based habitats, rivers and/or hedges) impacted by the development is increased by 10% or more after the development. This means delivering 10% gain for area base habitats and 10% net gain for hedges and 10% for rivers if any of these habitats are present on the site.' Relevant staff at the local planning authority and Greater Manchester Ecology Unit should be contacted for guidance if needed. The biodiversity net gain assessment should follow methods set out in a suitable metric, such as Biodiversity Metric 3.0³⁸.

Mitigation

General

- 4.8. Any excavations should be covered overnight to prevent hedgehogs and other animals falling in. Where pits and trenches cannot be closed or filled on a nightly basis, ensure that a mammal ladder (i.e. a plank) is placed into the excavation so an animal can use this as a means to escape if necessary. All excavations should be checked for animals the following morning before proceeding with works. If an animal is found, the animal should not be touched, and an ecologist should be contacted for further advice on how to proceed.
- 4.9. Contractors should ensure all rubbish and construction materials are collected and removed from the Site on a regular basis to prevent trapping or injury to mammals.
- 4.10. If any protected species or evidence of legally protected species, or any INNPS, are unexpectedly encountered at any point during the works, all works should cease, and an ecologist should be contacted for further advice on how to proceed.
- 4.11. No night-time working (taken to be 30 minutes prior to sunset until 30 minutes after sunrise) should be undertaken to avoid impacts on nocturnal and crepuscular animals. If night-time working is required, this should be discussed with an ecologist prior to commencement to establish what mitigation measures are required.

Bats

- 4.12. Details of the necessary mitigation required with regard to bats in relation to the Proposed Scheme would be provided following the results of the PBRA and any relevant bat surveys, if necessary (as informed by the PBRA).
- 4.13. If lighting during construction or operation is required, this is recommended to be designed in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust lighting guidance³⁹. The construction lighting design should take into account the need to avoid illuminating areas where bats may be roosting, for example, houses and trees directly adjacent to the Site (as informed by the PBRA and nocturnal surveys).
- 4.14. There are opportunities to incorporate features with value for foraging bats into the new development. This could entail planting of suitable, native trees and shrubs. It is anticipated that trees will be planted to the north of the Site.

³⁶ [Environment Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/23/contents)

³⁷ [gmca-bng-guidance-update_250221-final-edited.pdf \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/250221-final-edited.pdf)

³⁸ [http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6049804846366720](https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6049804846366720)

³⁹ Bat Conservation Trust (2009) Bats and Lighting in the UK. Bats and the Built Environment Series.

Nesting birds

- 4.15. Tree felling and vegetation clearance should be minimised as far as practicable and undertaken outside the core bird nesting season (the core bird nesting season is 1st March to 31st August) to avoid damage or destruction of occupied nests or harm to breeding birds. If this cannot be achieved, works within the core bird nesting season will require an inspection of vegetation to be cleared for nesting birds by a suitably qualified ecologist no more than 24 hours prior to any works being undertaken. If any nesting birds are identified during the survey, they should be left in situ for their entire nesting period until the young birds have fledged. Alternative approaches to the work will need to be proposed, e.g. leaving an exclusion zone around the nest to avoid disturbance. It is anticipated that no trees will be felled as part of the Proposed Scheme, although there is likely to be the removal of introduced shrub.
- 4.16. All cleared vegetation should be rendered unsuitable for nesting birds, for example, by covering or chipping depending on the end purpose of the vegetation or should be removed from the works area.
- 4.17. There are opportunities to incorporate features with value for nesting birds into the new development. This should result in no net loss in value for nesting birds through planting of suitable, native trees/shrubs and incorporation of bird boxes as part of the Proposed Scheme.
- ## Hedgehogs
- 4.18. Where areas of introduced shrub are to be cleared, these should first be checked to ensure no hedgehogs are occupying the space.
- 4.19. If any of the garden privet hedge is to be lost and replaced by fencing, hedgehog highways (a 5 inch hole) should be installed within this fencing, in order to facilitate movement of hedgehogs within the local area.
- 4.20. The general mitigation measures section above provides recommendations that encompass further provisions for hedgehogs.

Invasive Non-native Species

- 4.21. Stands of Japanese knotweed and Japanese rose, both Schedule 9 INNPS, have been identified within the Survey Area. Japanese knotweed was located within the Site itself, in the north east corner. Any vegetation removal or could result in the spread of these species.
- 4.22. It is, therefore, recommended that a specialist contractor is contacted for advice regarding appropriate removal of the plant from the Site prior to the Proposed Scheme works taking place.

Habitats

- 4.23. The area of neutral grassland on the Site to be lost as part of the Proposed Scheme is relatively species rich given its location within an urban setting, providing at least local ecological value. As such, the Proposed Scheme is likely to result in net loss. To mitigate for the loss of habitats on the Site, existing grassland habitat in the Survey Area should be enhanced
- 4.24. It is recommended that further grassland within the Survey Area to the north of Site is subject to biodiversity enhancement in order to accommodate for this loss. Enhancements here could include the localised planting of wildflower seed in order to increase diversity of forb species.

Biodiversity Opportunities for Ecological Enhancements

- 4.25. In line with the NPPF⁴⁰ and local planning policy measures biodiversity should be protected and enhanced along with providing net gains for biodiversity on site in all Schemes. The recommendations below are based on information in this report along with information from the desk study. The below measures will be over and above any similar measures needed to mitigate effects.
- 4.26. It is recommended that suitable features for roosting bats and nesting birds incorporated into the new housing/apartments via integrated boxes, where possible.
- 4.27. It is recommended that additional native trees and shrubs are incorporated into the Proposed Scheme. Given the proposed site plan (see Appendix A), it is anticipated that new trees will be planted just north of the Site among other retained trees within Kingsbury Road Park. It is

⁴⁰ [National Planning Policy Framework \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/551042/National_Planning_Policy_Framework_published_for_consultation.pdf)

recommended that a range of native species of local provenance are included in the planting design. This will provide foraging habitat and refuge for birds, bats, small mammals, and insects.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1. The Proposed Scheme should take into account the potential presence of roosting bats, nesting birds and INNPS within the local area adjacent to the Site.
- 5.2. The presence of the INNPS Japanese knotweed within the footprint of the Site is considered to provide an ecological constraint to the Proposed Scheme and should be managed accordingly.
- 5.3. Details of the necessary mitigation required with regard to bats in relation to the Proposed Scheme would be provided following the results of the PBRA and any relevant bat surveys, if necessary (as informed by the PBRA).
- 5.4. The grassland habitat present on the Site is considered to be of local ecological value to wildlife. As such, it is recommended that areas of grassland within the Survey Area to the north are enhanced in order to mitigate any initial net losses caused by the Proposed Scheme.

Report Validity

In the event of scope or programme changes or if works do not commence within 12 months of the date of this report then updates to the surveys may be required to ensure the validity of the data, as per CIEEM guidance⁴¹.

⁴¹ CIEEM (2019) Advice Note on the Lifespan of Ecological Reports and Surveys

Appendices

Appendix A. Site Location and Scheme Drawings

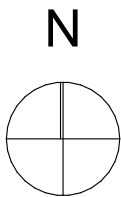


 Canberra Street Site

Atkins Limited © Chadwick House Birchwood Park Warrington England WA3 6AE			
Project: Guinness Partnerships Canberra Street			
Client: Guinness Partnership			
Title: Site Location Plan			
Drawing number: TBC			
Original scale			1:7,660
PAGE 1/1			
Drawn by: GW	Checked by: JS	Reviewed by:	Approved by:
Date: Dec 21	Date: Dec 21	Date:	Date:

0 200 400 600 800 m

PROPOSED PLAN



SITE BOUNDARY

SITE AREA : 671.5m²

- EXISTING TREES TO BE RETAINED
- PROPOSED TREES TO BE PLANTED
- PROPOSED SOFT LANDSCAPING (Subject to a detailed landscaping strategy)

	House Type	Total
	2B4P House @ 79m ²	4

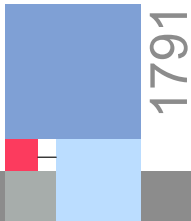


1 Proposed Site Plan 1:500

PROPOSED MASSING



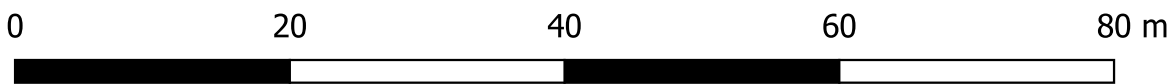
DUAL ASPECT UNITS TO ADDRESS EACH CORNER



Appendix B. Extended Phase 1 Habitat and Target Notes



- Survey Area
- Site Boundary
- Target Notes
- Semi-improved neutral grassland
- Mixed woodland - scattered trees
- Introduced shrub
- Hardstanding
- No Access



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right (2018)

Atkins Limited ©
Chadwick House
Birchwood Park
Warrington
England
WA3 6AE

Project: Guinness Partnerships - Canberra Street

Client: Guinness Partnership

Title: Canberra Street Extended Phase 1 Habitat

Drawing number: TBC

Original scale 1:549.99962

PAGE 1/1

Drawn by: GW	Checked by: JS	Reviewed by:	Approved by:
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Date: Nov 2021	Date: Dec 21	Date:	Date:
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Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan

Target Notes

Target note number	Description	Photograph
TN1	Terraced housing on Canberra Street to the north west of Site. Moderate bat roost potential assumed but further detailed bat roost assessment required. Potential features include lifted tiles around lead flashing and gaps around the ridge tiles.	
TN2	Terraced housing on Canberra Street to the west of Site. Low bat roost potential assumed but further detailed bat roost assessment required. Potential features include lifted tiles and possible gaps under eaves.	
TN3	Overview photograph of the semi-improved neutral grassland present on Site. This area of grassland primarily consists of red fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.), perennial rye-grass (<i>Lolium perenne</i>) and Yorkshire-fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>), whilst a reasonable diversity of forbs associated with mesotrophic grasslands are present across the extent of the area. These include ribwort	

Target note number	Description	Photograph
	plantain (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>), red clover (<i>Trifolium pratense</i>), meadow buttercup (<i>Ranunculus acris</i>), creeping buttercup (<i>R. repens</i>) and the moss <i>Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus</i> .	
TN4	Japanese rose (<i>Rosa rugosa</i>), an invasive non-native plant species (INNPS), located 17 m north of the Site.	

Target note number	Description	Photograph
TN5	Japanese knotweed, an INNPS, located in the north east corner of the Site.	
TN6	Semi-detached house on Coatbridge Street to the east of Site. Moderate bat roost potential assumed but further detailed bat roost assessment required. Potential features include lifted lead flashing and eaves that are in poor condition.	
TN7	End-terrace house on Coatbridge Street to the south of Site. Low bat roost potential assumed but further detailed bat roost assessment required.	

Target note number	Description	Photograph
TN8	Terraced housing just off Coatbridge Street to the south of Site. Moderate bat roost potential assumed but further detailed bat roost assessment required.	
TN9	Parcel of introduced shrub to the north of the Site, comprising a variety of woody species. These include Wilson's honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera nitida</i>), buddleja (<i>Buddleja davidii</i>) and Darwin's barberry (<i>Berberis darwinii</i>) with bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) and Japanese knotweed.	

Appendix C. Site-specific Species List

English name	Scientific name	DAFOR
Beard-moss sp.	<i>Didymodon</i> sp.	R
Common feather-moss	<i>Kindbergia praelonga</i>	O
Pointed spear-moss	<i>Calliergonella cuspidata</i>	O
Springy turf-moss	<i>Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus</i>	LF
Field horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	O
Scot's pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	R
a dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i> sect. <i>Taraxacum</i>	F
a dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i> sect. <i>Hamata</i>	O
Annual meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>	O
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	R
Atlantic ivy	<i>Hedera hibernica</i>	O
Black medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	R
Bramble agg.	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	R
Bristly oxtongue	<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i>	R
Buddleja	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	R
Canadian fleabane	<i>Erigeron canadensis</i>	R
Cherry sp.	<i>Prunus</i> sp.	R
Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	O
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia columbaria</i>	R
Common chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>	O
Common field speedwell	<i>Veronica persica</i>	R
Common groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	O
Common mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	O
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	R
Common ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	O
Creeping bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	O
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	F
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	R
Darwin's barberry	<i>Berberis darwinii</i>	R
Dog rose agg.	<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	R
Dove's-foot crane's-bill	<i>Geranium molle</i>	R
Eleagnus sp.	<i>Eleagnus</i> sp.	R
Field forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	R
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	R
Flowering currant	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	R

English name	Scientific name	DAFOR
Garden privet	<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	R
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	R
Great plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>	R
Hard rush	<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	R
Hedge mustard	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	R
Herb-Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	R
Hoary mustard	<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	O
Japanese knotweed	<i>Reynoutria japonica</i>	R
Japanese rose	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	R
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	F
Meadow vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	R
Melilot sp.	<i>Melilotus</i> sp.	R
Michaelmas daisy sp.	<i>Aster</i> sp.	R
Nipplewort	<i>Lapsana communis</i>	R
Oxford ragwort	<i>Senecio squalidus</i>	R
Perennial rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	F
Petty spurge	<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	R
Pineappleweed	<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	R
Raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	R
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	LF
Red fescue agg.	<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.	LA
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	F
Rosebay willowherb	<i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i>	R
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	R
Shepherd's purse	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	R
Smooth sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	O
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	R
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	R
Thyme-leaved speedwell	<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	R
Tufted vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	R
Viper's bugloss	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	R
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	F
Willowherb sp.	<i>Epilobium</i> sp.	R
Wilson's honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera nitida</i>	R
Wood avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	R
Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	O

Appendix D. Legislation table

Species	Legislation	Offences	Licensing procedures and guidance
Bats <i>European protected species</i>	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) Reg 43	Deliberately ⁴² capture, injure or kill a bat; deliberate disturbance ⁴³ of bats; or damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place used by a bat. [The protection of bat roosts is considered to apply regardless of whether bats are present.]	A Natural England (NE) licence in respect of development is required. Guidance documents: <i>NE Standing Advice for protected species 2013</i> <i>European Protected Species: Mitigation Licensing- How to get a licence</i> (NE 2013) <i>Bat Mitigation Guidelines</i> (English Nature 2004) <i>Bat Workers Manual</i> (JNCC 2004)
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.9	Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb ⁴⁴ a bat in such a place.	Licence from NE is required for surveys (scientific purposes) that would involve disturbance of bats or entering a known or suspected roost site.
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.9	Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb ⁴⁴ an otter in such a place.	No licence is required for survey in England. However, a licence would be required if the survey methodology involved disturbance.

⁴² Deliberate capture or killing is taken to include “accepting the possibility” of such capture or killing

⁴³ Deliberate disturbance of animals includes in particular any disturbance which is likely a) to impair their ability (i) to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young, or (ii) in the case of animals of hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or b) to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.

⁴⁴ Lower levels of disturbance not covered by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 remain an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 although a defence is available where such actions are the incidental result of a lawful activity that could not reasonably be avoided.

Birds	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.1	Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird; intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; intentionally take or destroy the nest or eggs of any wild bird. Intentionally or recklessly disturb a Schedule 1 species while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; intentionally or recklessly disturb dependent young of such a species [e.g. most birds of prey, kingfisher, barn owl, black redstart, little ringed plover].	No licences are available to disturb any birds in regard to development. Licences are available in certain circumstances to damage or destroy nests, but these only apply to the list of licensable activities in the Act and do not cover development. General licences are available in respect of ‘pest species’ but only for certain very specific purposes e.g. public health, public safety, air safety. Guidance documents: <i>NE Standing Advice for protected species 2013</i>
Plants <i>Invasive species e.g.</i> Japanese knotweed, hybrid knotweed, giant knotweed, giant hogweed, rhododendron, Himalayan balsam	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.14	It is illegal to plant or otherwise cause these species to grow in the wild.	Any contaminated soil or plant material is classified as controlled waste and should be disposed of in a suitably licensed landfill site, accompanied by appropriate Waste Transfer documentation, and must comply with section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Guidance documents: <i>The Knotweed Code of Practice</i> (Environment Agency, 2013 version 3) <i>Managing Invasive Non-native Plants</i> (Environment Agency 2010) <i>Guidance on Section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981</i> (Defra 2010)

Atkins Limited
Woodcote Grove
Ashley Road
Epsom
KT18 5BW

Tel: +44 (0)1372 726140
Fax: +44 (0)1372 740055
ecology@atkinsglobal.com