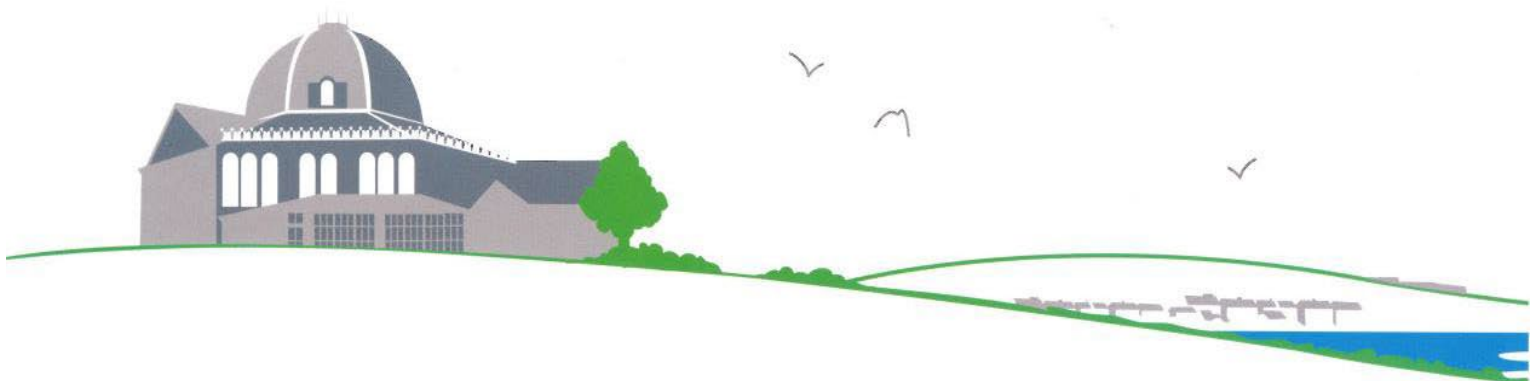




BRUNTWOOD
NO. 3 CIRCLE SQUARE
EXTENDED PHASE 1 HABITAT SURVEY



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Penny Anderson Associates Limited
'Park Lea'
60 Park Road
Buxton
Derbyshire
SK17 6SN

Project Manager
Sarah Ross BSc (Hons), PhD, MCIEEM, CEnv (Associate Director)

Author
Rob Lamb BSc (Hons), MSc, ACIEEM (Senior Ecologist)

June 2022

This project has been undertaken in accordance with PAA policies and procedures on quality assurance.

Signed: _____



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Penny Anderson Associates (PAA) was commissioned by Bruntwood SciTech to undertake an extended Phase 1 habitat survey of No. 3 Circle Square, Manchester. The site was formerly part of Plot 12 under the Masterplan.
- 1.2 This report details the methods and results of the survey and makes any further ecological recommendations as necessary.

Site Location

- 1.3 The site is located within central Manchester (nearby postcode M1 7ED). The immediate surroundings are urban, with Oxford Road running adjacent west of the site, and Oxford Road Train Station to the north-west. The great majority of the surroundings comprise built structures and roads, with small pockets of urban green space. The River Medlock runs to the north of the site.

Legislative Context

- 1.4 A range of international and national legislation has been established in the UK to protect important nature conservation sites and priority species. At the international level, European Union (EU) Directives require individual member states to implement their conservation provisions nationally for the benefit of Europe as a whole. These Directives have been transposed into UK law by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (amended).
- 1.5 Other international conventions include: the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979), which requires the maintenance of populations of wild flora and fauna, giving particular protection to endangered and vulnerable species; and the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979), which requires the protection of migratory species throughout their entire range. The above conventions are implemented in England and Wales via the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA), 1981 (as amended) and Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. This legislation also protects important habitats and sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
- 1.6 At the national level, Biodiversity 2020 (Defra 2011) forms England's national biodiversity strategy. Building on the Natural Environment White Paper¹ published in 2011, this provides a means of delivering the UK's commitments to maintaining and protecting biodiversity. Under Biodiversity 2020, the Priority Species and Habitats referred to are those of 'Principal Importance' for the conservation of biodiversity in England as listed on Section 41 (England) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (amended).
- 1.7 More recently, the Environment Act 2021 further supports this commitment to, and strengthens the legislation in respect of, maintaining and also enhancing biodiversity in England, and Part 6 Nature and Biodiversity includes the following key areas:
- Strengthened biodiversity duty for public authorities in England;
 - Biodiversity net gain to ensure developments deliver at least 10% increase in biodiversity;
 - Local Nature Recovery Strategies to support a Nature Recovery Network;

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-natural-choice-securing-the-value-of-nature>

- Duty upon Local Authorities to consult on street tree felling;
 - Strengthen woodland protection enforcement measures; and
 - Protected Site Strategies and Species Conservation Strategies to support the design and delivery of strategic approaches to deliver better outcomes for nature.
- 1.8 Finally, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2021) provides guidance for local authorities on the content of the Local Plans and is a material consideration in determining planning applications. Briefly, with an overall focus on sustainable development, the NPPF states that developments should aim to engender positive outcomes for habitats and biodiversity, with a particular focus on the maintenance and creation of ecological networks.
- 1.9 The NPPF identifies the following principals that should be applied by local planning authorities when determining planning applications:
- a. if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
 - b. development on land within or outside a SSSI, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of SSSI;
 - c. development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and
 - d. development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.
- 1.10 The NPPF states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural environment through a range of actions, including:
- protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils;
 - recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services; and
 - minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains for biodiversity including establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.
- 1.11 To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:
- Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and
 - Promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

Invasive Species

- 1.12 Certain non-native species that have been introduced into the UK are regarded as being a threat to native biodiversity. Legislative measures have, therefore, been put in place to prevent the spread of these invasive species in the wild.
- 1.13 Under section 14 of the WCA, 1981 (as amended), it is illegal to introduce plants listed under Part II of Schedule 9 of the WCA into the wild or sell these species. Offences include causing the spread of viable plant material or neglecting to contain or appropriately manage non-native species.
- 1.14 Commonly introduced Schedule 9 species include non-native cotoneaster species, specifically, small-leaved cotoneaster² (*Cotoneaster microphylla*) and wall cotoneaster (*C. horizontalis*), Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) and Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*).

² Plant species names follow Stace 2019

2. METHODS

Desk Study

- 2.1 A request for details of protected and notable species and locally designated sites within 1km of the centre of the site was made to Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) with data returned in April 2022. Additionally, the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC³) website was consulted for details of statutory designated sites and Priority Habitats within a 1km search area from the centre of the site. The desk study was compiled by Assistant Ecologist Stephen Griffith.
- 2.2 It is important to note that the desk study results provide an indication of the species present in and around the site, and do not confirm current presence or absence of any species. Protected species are often under-recorded in county wildlife databases.

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

- 2.3 An extended Phase 1 habitat survey was undertaken by Senior Ecologist Rob Lamb⁴ on 14th April 2022.
- 2.4 The survey was carried out in accordance with the methodology in the *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey* (JNCC 2010). This entailed mapping, describing and collating plant species lists for habitats within the site boundary. The broad habitat types were mapped, with each habitat type coded according to the standard Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Phase 1 habitat survey procedure.
- 2.5 Each plant species was assigned abundance codes within each habitat. This was done using the 'DAFOR' scale (where: d = dominant; a = abundant; f = frequent; o = occasional; r = rare), which provides an indication of the relative abundance of each plant species present within a particular habitat. Common names and scientific names according to Stace (2019) are provided in the species list (Appendix 1) but common names only are referred to in the text.
- 2.6 The survey was 'extended' (Institute of Environmental Assessment 1995, CIEEM 2017) to include notes on fauna and habitats which could potentially support protected or notable species. The presence of, or potential for, protected or notable species was noted on the field map and in the written target notes (TN) during the survey.

Limitations

- 2.7 The site was fully accessible. The seasonal timing of the survey means that some plant species may have been under-recorded or unrecorded. However, the habitats were surveyed sufficiently to map the broad habitat types present within the site.

³ <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx> (last accessed [April 2022])

⁴ Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)

3. RESULTS

Desk Study

- 3.1 The desk study utilised data obtained from GMEU in April 2022, searching within a 1km radius of the site centre. The MAGIC search engine was also used to obtain additional data on European Protected Species (EPS) licences and Priority Habitats, as well as designated and non-designated sites within 1km of the site centre.

Statutory Protected Sites

European Sites

- 3.2 European protected sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), RAMSAR wetland sites, possible SAC, potential SPA and proposed RAMSAR sites.
- 3.3 No European protected sites are located within 1km of the site boundary.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

- 3.4 SSSI represent a selection of this country's best wildlife and geological sites and cover approximately 7% of the terrestrial area of the country (with over 4,000 separate sites in England).
- 3.5 No SSSI are located within 1km of the site boundary.

National and Local Nature Reserves

- 3.6 No National or Local Nature Reserves are located within 1km of the site boundary.

Non-statutory Protected Sites

Sites of Biological Importance

- 3.7 Located approximately 850m north-east of the site boundary are both Rochdale Canal Site of Biological Importance (SBI) and Ashton Canal SBI. Designated for the presence of protected flora species such as floating water-plantain (*Luronium natans*) and grasswrack pondweed (*Potamogeton compressus*). The SBI in question are of considerable distance from the site and unlikely to be impacted by proposed works.

Priority Habitats

- 3.8 Six areas of Priority Habitat deciduous woodland are located 770m east of the site boundary in Ardwick Green Park. Due to the distance and limited size of development, impacts on deciduous woodland are likely to be negligible.

Protected and Notable Species

Badger

- 3.9 Two records of badger (*Meles meles*) were located within the 1km search data search. However, due to the confidential nature of this information, exact locations are not presented within the report.

Otter and Water Vole

- 3.10 No records of otter (*Lutra lutra*) or water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) were returned from the 1km data search.

Bats

- 3.11 Thirteen records for bat roosts were returned within the 1km search area, dated between 2008 and 2018. This is presented in Table 1. The nearest known roost is c.550m to the north of the site boundary and is recorded as a pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus* sp.) bat roost.
- 3.12 Table 2 presents each bat species recorded (excluding roost data) in the search zone and the proximity to the site of the closest record for each species. These are typically bats observed in flight. The records indicate common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) bats are recorded as active in the local area, and soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) bats present in the wider area.

Table 1 Bat Roost Records

Common Name	Scientific Name	No. of Records	Closest Record (approximate distance and direction from site boundary)
Common pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	8	660m W of the site boundary
Myotis sp.	-	1	730m NE of the site boundary
Pipistrelle sp.	-	3	550m N of the site boundary
Soprano pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	1	740m N of the site boundary

Table 2 Other Bat Records

Common Name	Scientific Name	No. of Records	Closest Record (approximate distance and direction from site boundary)
Common pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	22	215m NE of the site boundary
Soprano pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	1	730m NW of the site boundary
Pipistrelle sp.	-	6	400m NW of the site boundary
Bat sp.	-	3	315m NW of the site boundary

Other Mammals

- 3.13 Four records of hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) were identified within the 1km search area, dating between 2013 and 2020. The closest of these records was approximately 200m south-east of the site boundary, on the other side of the Ring Road/Mancunian Way.

Birds

- 3.14 A small number of WCA Schedule 1 species, including kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), black redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) and peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) were recorded within the 1km search area; these records are classed as confidential. All other protected and notable bird species records within the 1km search area are listed in Table 3 along with their conservation status.

Table 3 Bird Species of Nature Conservation Importance

Common Name	Scientific Name	Amber ⁵ Listed	Red Listed	Section 41 Priority Species ⁶
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	X		
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	X		X
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	X		
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	X		X
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		X	
Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	X		
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		X	X
House martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	X		
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		X	X
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	X		
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		X	X
Lesser black-backed gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	X		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	X		
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	X		
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		X	
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		X	X
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	X		
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		X	X
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	X		
Tawny owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	X		
Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	X		
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>			
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	X		
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	X		
Yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		X	X

Amphibians

3.15 No records of amphibians were returned from the 1km data search.

⁵ The UK's birds can be split in to three categories of conservation importance - red, amber and green. Red is the highest conservation priority, with species needing urgent action. Amber is the next most critical group, followed by green.

⁶ Species of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006.

- 3.16 This is supported by the Ordnance Survey map search, revealing no ponds within the 1km search radius.

Reptiles

- 3.17 No records of reptiles were returned from the 1km data search.

Invertebrates

- 3.18 A single record of the Section 41 species cinnabar moth (*Tyria jacobaeae*) was identified approximately 950m north-east of the site boundary.

White-clawed Crayfish and Notable Fish

- 3.19 No records of white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*), or any notable fish species, were returned from the 1km data search.

Notable Plant Species

- 3.20 No records of notable plant species were identified within the 1km search area.

Granted European Protected Species Licence Applications

- 3.21 Eight granted EPS licence applications for bats were returned within the 1km search area. Table 4 shows the location and date of each licence granted. The nearest is 525m north-east of the site boundary. The licence dataset reflects the bat record data indicating both common and soprano pipistrelle bats are present and roosting in the area.
- 3.22 No records were presented for EPS licenses for other species within the search area.

Table 4 Bat European Protected Species Licenses

Species	License to Allow	Date Licence Granted	Date License Expires	Distance from Site Boundary
Common pipistrelle, Soprano pipistrelle	Destruction of a resting place	23/04/2014	30/06/2017	640m N
Common pipistrelle	Damage of a resting place; Destruction of a resting place	12/03/2018	30/04/2040	855m N
Common pipistrelle	Damage of a resting place; Destruction of a resting place	14/02/2019	28/02/2021	825m NW
Common pipistrelle	Destruction of a resting place	05/03/2020	01/01/2025	535m NE
Common pipistrelle	Destruction of a resting place	22/01/2021	16/01/2022	575m NE
Common pipistrelle	Damage of a resting place	23/12/2014	30/04/2015	810m SE
Common pipistrelle	Damage of a resting place	25/03/2015	30/04/2015	810m SE
Common pipistrelle		23/05/2013	30/09/2016	620m W

Phase 1 Habitat Survey

- 3.23 A habitat map of the site is presented in Figure 1.
- 3.24 The majority of the site comprised hardstanding tarmac/concrete and recently cleared land (Photograph 1, Appendix 2).
- 3.25 Two compartments of amenity grassland were present within the site (Photograph 2). These were dominated by perennial rye-grass with abundant white clover. Other species present within grassland were rare to occasional broadleaved dock, *Bryum* moss species, common ragwort, colt's-foot, dandelion and creeping buttercup.
- 3.26 Two small compartments of introduced shrub were present. The dominant species was cherry laurel, with barberry species, Mexican orange, cedar species and butterfly-bush also present.
- 3.27 A number of small stands of butterfly-bush were noted around the site. Other ephemeral/short-perennial species present between gaps in concrete and at the foot of pavements were common ragwort, willowherb species, dandelion, colt's-foot and smooth sow-thistle.

Invasive Non-Native Plant Species

- 3.28 No invasive non-native plant species (as per Schedule 9 of the WCA 1981, as amended) were recorded during the survey.

Protected Species

- 3.29 A number of bat records were identified in the surrounding landscape during the desk study, predominantly for pipistrelle species. It was considered that foraging opportunities within the site boundary were very limited for bats. Additionally, there were no structures within the site footprint which had suitability to support roosting bats.

- 3.30 Records of peregrine and black redstart, Schedule 1 bird species (WCA 1981, as amended), were identified during the desk study and are known to be resident within Manchester city centre. However, suitable perching and nesting opportunities for these species were not present within the site boundary.
- 3.31 Suitability for any nesting birds was also very limited, with areas of scrub and vegetation being poorly developed and unlikely to offer sufficient protection for general nesting birds.
- 3.32 It was considered that the site held negligible potential to support other protected species.

4. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Overall, the site supports a relatively small number of common plant species typical of urban and city centre habitats. The site is assessed as being of very low ecological value and there were no opportunities for bat roosting or Schedule 1 bird species within the site footprint at the time of survey.
- 4.2 There are no further recommendations in respect of ecology at this time.

Biodiversity Enhancement Opportunities

- 4.3 The site is currently assessed as being of limited ecological value, however, there are opportunities to enhance the site for biodiversity. Such opportunities should be considered at the design and landscaping stage with the input of an ecologist.
- 4.4 Potential enhancement measures which could be considered include:
- Integration of the landscaping scheme into the wider site soft landscaping to increase permeability of the site to wildlife;
 - Use of native or wildlife-friendly tree, shrub and herbaceous species in any landscape planting, for example inclusion of species which provide nectar for invertebrates or berries to provide a food source for birds;
 - Inclusion of bird boxes to accommodate typical urban bird species, away from street and security lighting; and
 - Inclusion of bat roost features on built structure where the design allows, to increase opportunities for roosting bats, coupled with a suitable lighting strategy to avoid unnecessary lighting of any roost features.

Survey Validity

- 4.5 The findings of the survey should be considered valid for a period of two years from the date of survey (April 2022). If works have not commenced by April 2024 then the survey should be updated to ensure the ecological advice given is based on up-to-date information.

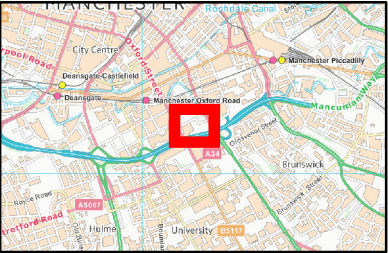
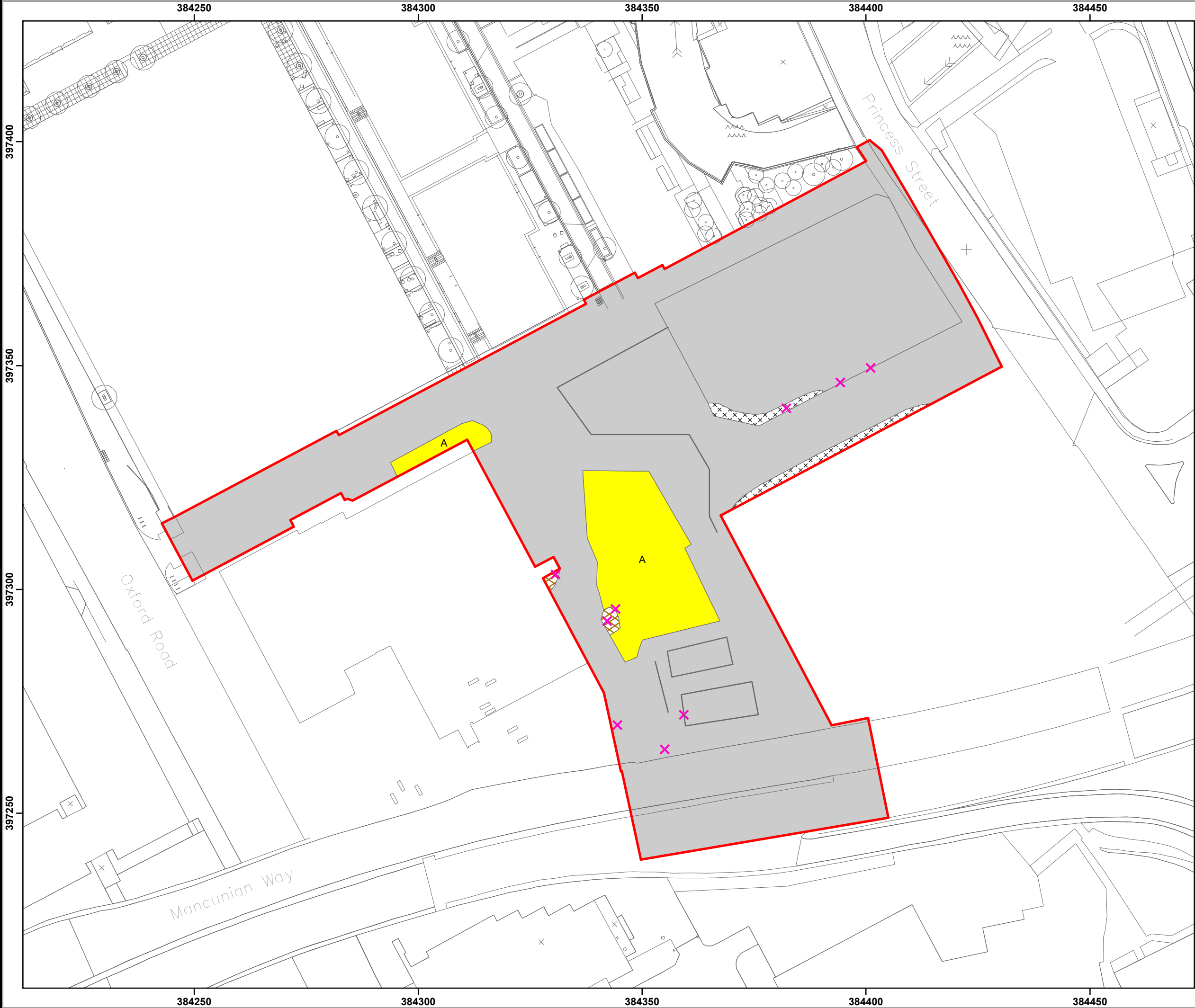
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6. ABBREVIATIONS

CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
CRoW	Countryside and Rights of Way
EPS	European Protected Species
EU	European Union
GMEU	Greater Manchester Ecology Unit
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
MAGIC	Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside
NERC	National Environment and Rural Communities
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PAA	Penny Anderson Associates Ltd
SAC	Special Area(s) of Conservation
SBI	Site(s) of Biological Importance
SPA	Special Protection Area(s)
SSSI	Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest
TN	Target Note(s)
WCA	Wildlife and Countryside Act

FIGURE



- Legend**
- Redline Boundary
 - Habitat**
 - A Amenity grassland
 - Ephemeral/short perennial
 - Introduced shrub
 - Hardstanding
 - Self-seeded butterfly bush

British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
False Easting: 400000.000000
False Northing: -100000.000000
Central Meridian: -2.000000
Scale Factor: 0.999601
Latitude Of Origin: 49.000000

ISO A3

Metres

0 5 10 20 30

bruntwood

Penny Anderson Associates Ltd
Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6SN.
Telephone 01298 27086

Project Name
No 3 Circle Square, Manchester

Discipline
Ecology

Title:
**Phase 1
Habitats Map**

Scale 1:800	Drawing No. Figure 1	
Drawn By CC	Originator RL	Date 28/04/2022
PAA Ref. G:\BRUN01_No3_Circle_Square\Maps\	Revision 1.0	

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

Botanical Species List

Appendix 1 Botanical Species List

Common Name	Scientific Name	Amenity Grassland	Introduced Shrub	Ephemeral/ Short Perennial
Woody Species				
Barberry species	<i>Berberis</i> sp.		F	
Butterfly-bush	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>		O	F
Cedar species	<i>Cedrus</i> sp.		O	
Cherry laurel	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>		D	
Mexican orange	<i>Choisya ternata</i>		O	
Herbs, Grasses, Ferns and Mosses				
Broad-leaved dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	O-LF		
Bryum moss	<i>Bryum</i> moss sp.	O		
Colt's-foot	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	R		R
Common chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>	O-LF		
Common ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	R		R
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	R-O		
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	R-LF		R
Fleabane species	<i>Erigeron</i> sp.	R		
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	R		
Perennial rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	D		
Smooth sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>			R
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	F-LA		
Willowherb species	<i>Epilobium</i> sp.			O

KEY

D-Dominant, A-Abundant, F-Frequent, O-Occasional, R-Rare, L-Locally

APPENDIX 2

Photographs

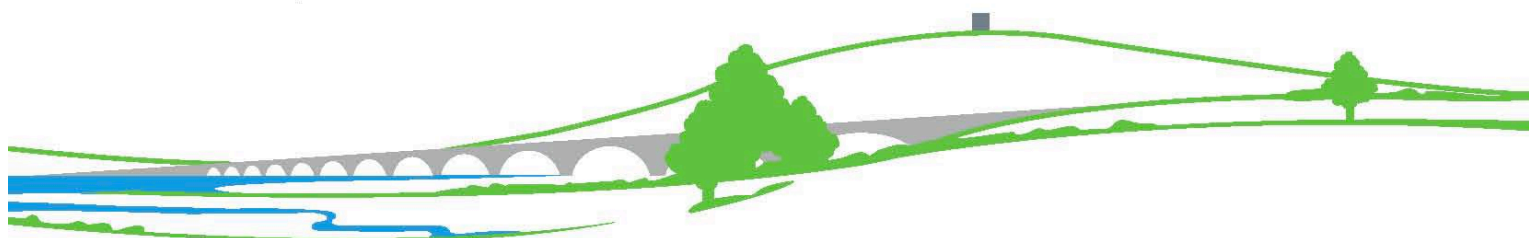


Photograph 1 Recently cleared area of the site



Photograph 2 Recently tarmacked road and grassland compartment

Penny Anderson
Associates Ltd
CONSULTANT ECOLOGISTS



Park Lea, 60 Park Road, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 6SN