



Bridge College

Ecological Impact Assessment

Walker Simpson Architects

May 2025



Document Control

Report Title:	Bridge College – Ecological Impact Assessment		
Client:	Walker Simpson Architects		
Project number and name:	0538 – Bridge College Extension		
Document Ref:	0538_EcIA_V1		
Created by:	Daniel Lines (Consultant Ecologist)	Date:	29/11/2024
Reviewed by	C John	Date:	23/05/2025
Authorised by:	C John	Date:	23/05/2025
Confidentiality Level:	Controlled: Uncontrolled if printed		

Version Control

Version:	3
Date of Version:	23/05/2025
Reason for revision:	Revised red line boundary

Work carried out by Envance on behalf of the client in accordance with the agreed terms of contract and/or written agreement form the agreed Services. The Services were performed by Envance with the skill and care ordinarily exercised by a reasonable Consultant at the time the Services were performed. Further, and in particular, the Services were performed by Envance taking into account the limits of the scope of works required by the client, the time scale involved and the resources, including financial and manpower resources, agreed between Envance and the client.

Other than that expressly contained in the paragraph above, Envance provides no other representation or warranty whether express or implied, in relation to the services.

This report is produced exclusively for the purposes of the client. Envance is not aware of any interest of or reliance by any party other than the client in or on the services. Unless expressly provided in writing, Envance does not authorise, consent or condone any party other than the client relying upon the services provided. Any reliance on the services or any part of the services by any party other than the client is made wholly at that party's own and sole risk and Envance disclaims any liability to such parties.

This report is based on Site conditions, regulatory or other legal provisions, technology or economic conditions at the time of the Service provision. These conditions can change with time and reliance on the findings of the Services under changing conditions should be reviewed.

Envance accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of third-party data used in this report.



Contents

Summary	3
1.Introduction	4
2.Methodology.....	5
3.Baseline Conditions.....	11
4.Potential Impacts, Recommendations and Mitigation	16
5.References	18
6.Figures.....	19
Appendix 1. Legislation and Policy.....	23
Appendix 2. Photographs.....	28
Appendix 3. Plant Species List.....	29
Appendix 4. Bird Species Recorded within 2 km of Site	31

Tables

Table 1 - Guidelines for assessing the potential suitability of features for bats (BCT, 2023)	8
Table 2 - Non-statutory designated sites within the Zone of Influence of the Site.	11
Table 3 - Description of Site habitats.....	12
Table A3. 1 - Plant species identified within the Site.....	29
Table A4. 1 - Bird species recorded within 2 km of the Site	31

Figures

Figure 1 – Designated Sites.....	19
Figure 2 – Priority Habitat.....	20
Figure 3 – Baseline Habitats.....	21
Figure 4 – Indicative Post-Development Habitats	22



Summary

This report is an Ecological Impact Assessment of Bridge College, Openshaw, Manchester. Potential ecological receptors are considered to assess if any significant impacts may befall them, with appropriate mitigation suggested where required.

The Site is an active college with a range of common and widespread habitats indicative of an urban setting. The wider area is predominantly urban with a mix of residential and commercial usage.

There are three designated sites within 2 km of the Site, though all of these are over 1 km away and have no identified ecological connectivity with the Site due to extensive urban development. No direct or indirect impacts upon these designated sites is anticipated as a result of the Development.

Two potential ecological receptors were identified in relation to the Development –

Foraging and commuting bats

The southern portion of the Site is considered to have low potential to support foraging and commuting bats due to its denser vegetation and access to a potential vegetated commuting route along a railway line. Whilst no direct impacts upon this habitat are anticipated as a result of the Development, nocturnal light spill introduced through the Development could cause disturbance to foraging and commuting bats using the area without mitigation.

As a precautionary measure, it is recommended that during the bat activity period (April – October, inclusive), nighttime illumination of the Site and surrounding vegetated habitats should be avoided as much as reasonable practicable during construction. If lighting is required during this period, it should be directed using a narrow beam, illuminating the minimum required areas and avoiding unnecessary light spill and following best practice guidance.

Birds

Due to the presence of individual trees and hedgerows due for removal within the Development boundary, nesting birds are considered as a potential ecological receptor for the Development.

It is recommended that the removal of these habitats is undertaken outside of nesting bird season (typically March – August inclusive). If this is not possible, pre-works checks should be undertaken as part of a method statement. This would require a suitably qualified individual to inspect the habitats for any nesting birds no sooner than 48 hours prior to their removal. If a suspected nest is identified, removal works must cease until all chicks have fledged.

No other potential ecological receptors were identified during the production of this report. Should all mitigation measures be adhered to, it is anticipated that significant adverse impacts to potential ecological receptors can be avoided and an enhancement for these species at a Site level secured.



1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 Envance was commissioned by Walker Simpson Architects in August 2024 to undertake an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment of a site in Openshaw, Manchester (central Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SJ 87330 97350; hereafter referred to as the 'Site'), with the purpose of extending a section of the east aspect and creating additional parking space (the 'Development') at the Site. The Site boundary is shown in **Figure 3**.
- 1.1.2 An EcIA has been undertaken in line with current best practice guidance (CIEEM, 2018) and includes:
- A desk-based assessment to identify any records of protected and/or notable habitats and species, and designated nature conservation sites in the vicinity of the Site.
 - A Site survey comprising an UK Habitats classification Survey including the recording of any evidence of the presence of protected, priority and/or Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS).
 - An assessment of the potential impacts of the works on the habitats and species present at the Site and the surrounding areas.
 - The design of suitable mitigation and avoidance measures to ensure ecological impacts are kept to a minimum and proposals for suitable enhancement measures.
- 1.1.3 This EcIA identifies potential ecological constraints to the Proposed Development and indicates where avoidance and mitigation measures are necessary. It also identifies opportunities for ecological enhancement to the Site.
- 1.1.4 A separate draft Biodiversity Net Gain plan has been produced by Envance¹ and should be referred to for details relating to Biodiversity Net Gain.

¹ Document reference '0538_BNG_V1'



2. Methodology

2.1 Desk Study and Data Consultation

- 2.1.1 A desk study was undertaken to inform the requirements for survey and obtain additional ecological information outside the scope of field survey. The following sources were consulted to obtain relevant ecological information from within 2 km of the study area (5 km for designated sites of international importance): Greater Manchester Local Records Centre (GMLRC) and the Multi Agency Geographic Information Centre (MAGIC) website (www.magic.gov.uk). Records were received in September 2024. Only recent records (i.e., from 2013 to 2024) are considered in this report.
- 2.1.2 The following information was sought and considered:
- records of notable protected and priority species;
 - records of Priority Habitats;
 - details of any statutory sites of ecological interest;
 - details of any non-statutory sites of ecological interest; and
 - presence of any ponds or other waterbodies within 250 m.
- 2.1.3 Only ecological features considered to have the potential to be affected by the Development (receptors) are presented within this report.

2.2 Field Survey

- 2.2.1 A habitat survey was undertaken by Envance ecologist Daniel Lines ACIEEM on 16th September 2024. The survey followed UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) survey methodology (UKHAB Ltd, 2023), where the habitats and vegetation types present were recorded, together with an indication of their relative abundance using the DAFOR scale (D = dominant, A = abundant, F = frequent, O = occasional, R = rare). This survey method aims to characterise habitats and communities present and is not intended to provide a complete list of all species occurring across the Site.
- 2.2.2 Site habitats were also assessed for their suitability to support protected or notable species. Any signs of the presence of such species were recorded, including observations of tracks, feeding remains, nests and burrows. Trees and buildings within the Site were assessed for their potential to support roosting bats according to the methodology of Collins (2023).
- 2.2.3 UKHab is a habitat classification system designed to support the evaluation of habitats for ecological impact assessment and net gain analysis. It has been designed to integrate with other UK classification systems such as Phase 1 habitat methodology (JNCC, 2016) and is becoming widely accepted as the new standard for habitat surveying within the UK.
- 2.2.4 Notable, rare or scarce plant species were highlighted if present. Evidence of protected species or species of nature conservation importance was recorded where present at the time of survey.
- 2.2.5 Invasive plant or animal species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) were recorded as seen.

2.3 Protected and Key Species Survey

Reptiles

- 2.3.1 An assessment of the suitability of the habitats present to support common reptile species was undertaken. In accordance with current guidance, this assessment involved a review of habitats and



habitat structure for suitable shelter for reptiles such as areas of scrub and woodpiles, grassland with well-developed and varied structure, areas suitable for basking, large tussocks etc and assessment of habitat connectivity.

Birds

- 2.3.2 An initial assessment of habitats was undertaken to determine the likely value to breeding, wintering, migratory and foraging birds.

Badgers

- 2.3.3 All habitats considered suitable to support badgers within the Site boundary (and accessible land within 30 m) were assessed for their suitability to support badgers. Methodology employed drew on that outlined by Harris, Creswell and Jefferies (1989).
- 2.3.4 Evidence of badger occupation and activity sought included:
- Setts: evidence of bedding and paths between setts;
 - Latrines: surrounding the vicinity of any setts and other areas within the site often used to mark territory boundaries;
 - Commuting and foraging pathways and prints;
 - Hairs around any sett entrance or snagged on fencing or barbed wire;
- 2.3.5 The status and the level of activity of setts identified were noted as follows:
- Main sett: often in continuous use throughout the year with soil excavations outside active entrances, bedding material can be observed outside active entrances or within the immediate vicinity. The size of a main sett can depend on location such as urban and rural environments.
 - Annexe sett: usually located close to a main sett and connected by worn pathways. Such setts are not always in use throughout the year.
 - Subsidiary sett: often used sporadically during the year comprising fewer holes and not always connected by obvious worn pathways.
 - Outlier sett: Can be limited to a single entrance with the absence of any pathways from other surrounding badger setts. Such setts are often only in temporary use during the year.

Bats

- 2.3.6 A ground-based preliminary roost assessment of all trees and structures within the Site was undertaken in accordance with best practice guidance (Collins, 2023).
- 2.3.7 All buildings were visually examined for the present of potential roost features such as cavities and/or crevices created by damaged/lifted roofing materials, missing brickwork and mortar, amongst other features that may provide access to suitable roosting space. Similarly, all trees were examined for potential roost features that may form as a result of either disease, decay and/or damage (i.e. animal holes, knot holes, callus rolls, wounds and other similar features). Close focusing binoculars were used where necessary and any evidence of roosting bats, including live or dead bats, droppings, and staining due to fur oils, was noted.
- 2.3.8 An individual building or tree may support features of potential interest to roosting bats. It is not always possible to confirm usage of a feature as bats are transient in nature and may be present on one day, with no evidence of occupation present on the next. As such, any structure and/or tree has been assigned a defined category of roosting potential, based on the potential roosting features



present, their associated characteristics (size, shelter, protections, conditions) and the surrounding habitat. Categories of roosting potential are defined as follows (BCT (2023):

Buildings

- **Negligible:** A structure with no suitable features present that are likely to support roosting bats.
- **Low:** A structure with suitable features present that could potentially support low numbers roosting bats opportunistically, but are unlikely to be occupied on a regular basis and/or by a significant number of individual bats.
- **Moderate:** A structure with suitable features with the characteristics to provide regular shelter for low numbers of individual bats, but are unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status.
- **High:** A structure with suitable features with the characteristics to support large numbers of bats on a regular basis, for potentially longer periods of time.

Trees

- **No PRF:** A tree with no suitable roost features present that are likely to support roosting bats.
- **PRF-I:** Trees with suitable roost features suitable for individual roosting bats, but are unlikely to be occupied on a regular basis and/or by a significant number of individual bats.
- **PRF-M:** Tress with suitable roost features with the characteristics to support multiple individuals.

2.3.9 The potential for the Site and immediate surrounds to support foraging and commuting bats was assessed following guidance set out in Table 4.1 of the BCT (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists Good Practice Guidelines, as presented below.



Table 1 - Guidelines for assessing features for bats (BCT, 2023)

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.		
Potential suitability	Description	
	Roosting habitats in structures	Potential flight-paths and foraging habitats
None	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any roosting bats at any time of the year (i.e. a complete absence of crevices/suitable shelter at all ground/underground levels).	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any commuting or foraging bats at any time of the year (i.e. no habitats that provide continuous lines of shade/protection for flight-lines, or generate/shelter insect populations available to foraging bats).
Negligible ^a	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains as bats can use small and apparently unsuitable features on occasion.	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used as flight-paths or by foraging bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains in order to account for non-standard bat behaviour.
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically at any time of the year. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions ^b 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 and not a classic cool/stable hibernation site, but could be used by individual hibernating bats ^c).	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of bats as flight-paths 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 with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions ^b and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only, such as maternity and hibernation – the categorisation described in this table is 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 flight-paths 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 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 ^b and surrounding habitat. These structures have the potential to support high conservation status roosts, e.g. maternity or classic cool/stable hibernation site.	Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by bats for flight-paths 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 Negligible is defined as 'so small or unimportant as to be not worth considering, insignificant'. This category may be used where there are places that a bat could roost or forage (due to one attribute) but it is unlikely that they actually would (due to another attribute). ^b For example, in terms of temperature, humidity, height above ground level, light levels or levels of disturbance. ^c 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 <i>et al.</i>, 2016 and Jansen <i>et al.</i>, 2022). Common pipistrelle swarming has been observed in the UK (Bell, 2022 and Tomlinson, 2020) and winter hibernation of numbers of this species has been detected at Seaton Delaval Hall in Northumberland (National Trust, 2018). 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 prominent buildings in the landscape, urban or otherwise.		



Other Protected/Notable Species

2.3.10 Signs of other notable species were recorded as seen.

Invasive and Non-Native Species

2.3.11 Consideration was given to the presence of invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), however this survey does not comprise a comprehensive invasive plant survey and may not have detected emergent stands.

Scoped Out

2.3.12 An initial assessment of the habitat on and adjacent to the Site for suitability to support hazel dormice *Muscardinus avellanarius* was undertaken. However, based on the geographical location of the Site, and total lack of hedgerows and biological records, hazel dormice were scoped out of this assessment.

2.3.13 There were no waterbodies within or adjacent to the Site, with the nearest watercourse being Ashton Canal approximately 1 km north of the Site which is separated by extensive urban development. Therefore, amphibians, riparian mammals and white-clawed crayfish are not considered to be an ecological receptor for the Development and are not discussed further in this report.

2.4 Biodiversity Assessment

2.4.1 Biodiversity accounting metrics were employed to assess the baseline biodiversity value of the Site and identify any features of significant value.

2.4.2 The results of this biodiversity assessment are detailed in a separate report¹.

2.5 Policy and Legislation

2.5.1 The principal conservation legislation relevant to this report includes the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

2.5.2 The key identified Local Planning Policy for this Site is the Manchester Core Strategy. In summary it requires development to identify and implement reasonable opportunities to enhance, restore or create new biodiversity, either on-Site or adjacent to the Site.

2.5.3 Further policy is included in the Places for Everyone Plan 2022 – 2039. This places emphasis on the protection, enhancement or restoration of several priority or otherwise ecologically desirable habitats, as well as the protection of ecological networks and local character green spaces such as the green belt.

2.5.4 **Appendix 1** provides further details of policy and legislation.

2.6 Evaluation

2.6.1 The importance of ecological features was determined based on the guidance given by CIEEM (2018). Individual ecological receptors were assigned levels of importance for nature conservation in one of the following categories:

- international
- national
- regional
- county



- local
- less than local (i.e. Site level).

2.7 Limitations

- 2.7.1 This report serves to indicate the value of the Site in nature conservation terms based upon the survey data gathered. As with any survey of this kind, the information collected defines the habitat types and quality and is not intended to be a record of every species present. All surveys capture a snapshot of data recorded on the day.
- 2.7.2 This assessment aims to provide baseline ecological data for the Site and due to the transient and complex nature of ecosystems, no investigation can provide a complete representation or prediction of the natural environment.
- 2.7.3 The assessment for designated sites is based on site citations provided by the local biological record holder and no visits have been made to designated sites.
- 2.7.4 Ecological surveys are limited by factors that affect the presence of plants and animals, such as the time of year, weather, migration patterns and behaviour.
- 2.7.5 Any absence of desk study records cannot be relied upon to infer absence of a species/habitat as the absence of records may be a result of under-recording within the given search area.
- 2.7.6 The UK Habitats Classification survey does not constitute a full botanical survey, or a Phase 2 pre-construction survey that would include accurate GIS mapping for invasive or protected plant species.
- 2.7.7 Most of the ecological data remains valid for only short periods due to the inherently transient nature of the subject. The survey results contained in this report are considered accurate for one to two years, assuming no significant considerable changes to the site conditions.
- 2.7.8 This report assumes that construction will commence within 1-2 years of the date of the assessment in accordance with the British Standard 42020:2013 unless otherwise stated.
- 2.7.9 A Tree Survey was not available at the time of survey and so all trees may not have been surveyed and veteran trees may not have been identified at this stage.



3. Baseline Conditions

3.1 Site Description

- 3.1.1 The Site is approximately 3.36 ha, though only 0.72 ha is within the footprint of the Development. It is currently in use as a special education school with main education building, support buildings, parking, and a large amount of landscaping throughout the Site. The Site is bounded on the north by a road, east by a college, south by a railway line and west by an industrial estate.
- 3.1.2 The wider area is dominated by urban development with only small, isolated pockets of vegetated land. In fact, most habitat seems to be concentrated around the railway corridor, possibly as screening.

3.2 Designated Sites

Statutory Sites for Nature Conservation

- 3.2.1 One Statutory designated site was identified within 2 km of the Site, Clayton Vale Local Nature Reserve (LNR) c. 1.59 km north of the Site (**Figure 1**) designated for its riparian zone alongside the River Medlock, deciduous woodland, ponds and grassland habitat. Local Nature Reserves are considered to be of County- national importance for nature conservation. Due to the distance of Clayton Vale to the Site and the extensive urban development that separate them no direct ecological connectivity was identified between the two.
- 3.2.2 No direct, indirect or recreational impacts upon statutory designated sites are anticipated as a result of the Development and they are therefore not considered ecological receptors. They are not discussed further in this report.

Non-Statutory Designated Sites for Nature Conservation

- 3.2.3 Two non-statutory designated sites were identified within 2 km of the Site, which are detailed in **Table 1** below and shown on **Figure 1**. Sites of Biological Importance are considered to be of Regional importance for nature conservation. Both of these sites are distant from the Site and no direct no ecological connectivity was identified due to the extensive urban development separating them.
- 3.2.4 No direct, indirect or recreational impacts upon non-statutory designated sites are anticipated as a result of the Development and they are therefore not considered ecological receptors. They are not discussed further in this report.

Table 2 - Non-statutory designated sites within the Zone of Influence of the Site.

Name and designation	Summary Interest	Approximate Distance from Site	Identified Ecological Connectivity with Site
Ashtion Canal (East and West) – Site of Biological Importance	Standing water across whole canal.	1 km north	None
Bridge Bank Meadow – Site of Biological Importance	Deciduous woodland and species-rich grassland.	1.69 km north	None

3.3 Priority Habitat

- 3.3.1 There are multiple areas of previously identified Priority Habitats within 2 km of the Site, comprising of deciduous woodland, woodpasture and parkland, and areas where no main habitat is present but additional habitat exists. All of these priority habitats are over 1 km away from the Site (**Figure 2**) and have no ecological connectivity with the Site was identified due to their distance and the extensive urban development separating them.



- 3.3.2 As no direct or indirect impacts are anticipated to previously identified Priority Habitats, these are not considered to be ecological receptors for the Development and are not discussed further in this report.

3.4 Site Habitats

- 3.4.1 Habitats present on the Site are presented in **Table 3** below with photographs available in **Appendix 2**. A recorded plant list is presented in **Appendix 3**.
- 3.4.2 The habitats on Site are primarily common and widespread, and for those habitats less common (other green roof), function in a similar way to other habitats present. The wider area is a similar mosaic of habitat with primarily developed land and occasional pockets of grassland or trees. None of the habitats within the Site are Priority Habitat.
- 3.4.3 The western area of other neutral grassland is the only habitat of particular note due to its species and structural diversity which are considered to be of local importance to nature conservation due to the lack of similar habitats in the surrounding habitat.

Table 3 - Description of Site habitats².

Habitat	Description
Modified grassland – frequently mown g4 108 Modified grassland	c. 0.151, poor condition. Modified grassland primarily for aesthetic purposes throughout the Site. All areas are frequently mown and are dominated by perennial rye-grass <i>Lolium perenne</i> with only a few other common species throughout. (Photograph 1) . This habitat is common and widespread and is not Priority Habitat. It is of value to nature conservation at the Less than Local level because there is a relative abundance of similar habitat throughout the local area.
Built linear features - road u1e 800 Built linear features	c. 0.179 ha Roads providing vehicular access throughout the Site. This habitat is not considered to have nature conservation value.
Other developed land u1b6 Developed land; sealed surface	c. 0.14 ha Paved and tarmac areas providing access and pathways between buildings. (Photograph 2) This habitat is not considered to have nature conservation value.
Other neutral grassland g3c Other neutral grassland	c. 0.015ha poor and moderate condition. Semi-improved grassland present across several areas of the Site. The east area is unmanaged and dominated by fast-growing species indicative of nutrient enriched soils

² The UKHab Classification habitat type is shown with appropriate code, followed by the corresponding Statutory Biodiversity Metric habitat type (which is used for calculation of the biodiversity baseline and biodiversity net-gain).



Habitat	Description
	(Photograph 3). However, the areas to the south and west (Photographs 4 & 5) support a much wider range of species indicative of neutral soils with a much lower proportion of 'injurious weeds'. In these areas, the sward height is varied and a range of flowering options are available for invertebrates. This habitat is common and widespread and is not Priority Habitat. However, the western area of grassland is considered to be of value to nature conservation at the local level due to the wide range of species and opportunities they provide to local wildlife. The eastern area of grassland is of value to nature conservation at the less than local level due to its comparative lack of species diversity and the fact that there is a relative abundance of similar habitat throughout the local area.
Buildings – educational building u1b5 813 Developed land; sealed surface	c. 0.044 ha (c. 0.17 ha within ownership boundary). Buildings comprising the college and supporting structures. (Photograph 6) This habitat is not considered to have nature conservation value (see Section 3.5 for consideration of protected species)..
Non-native and ornamental hedgerow h2b Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	c. 0.12 km Various sections of heavily managed hedgerows planted for aesthetic and landscaping purposes (Photograph 11 & 12). These are generally all one species and are all non-native. This habitat is not Priority Habitat. It is of value to nature conservation at the Less than Local level because there is a relative abundance of similar habitat throughout the local area.

3.5 Protected Species

Badgers

- 3.5.1 GMLRC returned 27 recent records pertaining to badgers within 2 km of the Site, with the nearest record being of a sighting approximately 0.5 km south of the Site. All other records were over 1 km away.
- 3.5.2 No field signs of badgers were observed during the Site visit, and the habitats present were considered sub-optimal to support foraging or denning activity with the lack of woodland, hedgerows, banks, or similar habitat. Whilst there is some suitable habitat in the wider area, these are ecologically isolated without even urban gardens to offer commuting pathways.
- 3.5.3 Due to the low number of nearby records, lack of field signs and suitable habitat, it is considered highly



unlikely that even individual badgers would be present in the Site at any time. Therefore, badgers are not considered to be an ecological receptor for the Development and are not discussed further in this report.

Bats

Foraging and commuting

- 3.5.4 Bats are known to forage in urban areas, often utilising pockets of green space where invertebrates might gather (Collins, 2023).
- 3.5.5 GMLRC returned 137 records of foraging or commuting bats consisting of common and widespread species, with the nearest being c. 0.46 km south-west of the Site and the vast majority being from a regular survey conducted approximately 1 km east of the Site.
- 3.5.6 The Site itself has low potential to support foraging and commuting bats, though this refers to the south section of the Site, with the more urban north section being considered negligible. The railway present at the south boundary of the Site presents a small vegetated corridor which may be used by a range of common and widespread bat species. The south grassland areas of the Site have a range of flowering plants and vegetation structures which may support a relative abundance of insects compared to the local area, providing foraging opportunities for local bat populations.
- 3.5.7 Therefore, foraging and commuting bats should be considered as a potential receptor for the Development.

Roosting

- 3.5.8 Bats are known to roost in urban areas, with many species preferring buildings (Collins, 2023). GMLRC returned 7 records pertaining to roosting bats, all common pipistrelles *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, with the nearest record being c. 1.2 km north-west of the Site. No recent EPSL related to bats have been granted within 2 km of the Site.
- 3.5.9 None of the trees on Site were mature enough to support features that may be of use to roosting bats. No potential bat roosting features were observed on the buildings, primarily due to its new construction.
- 3.5.10 Therefore, roosting bats are not considered to be an ecological receptor for the Development and are not discussed further in this report.

Birds

- 3.5.11 GMLRC returned 94 recent records pertaining to birds from within 2 km of the Site. A full list of returned bird species is presented in **Appendix 4**.
- 3.5.12 Small amounts of common and widespread bird species were observed during the Site survey. Considering the common nature of the majority of records returned by GMLRC, such as 21 starlings *Sturnus vulgaris*, and the urban nature of the surroundings, it is not anticipated that any significant numbers of birds would utilise the Site for nesting and foraging.
- 3.5.13 However, as small amounts nesting birds may be present within the Site at any one time, nesting birds should be considered a potential receptor for the Development.

Plants

- 3.5.14 GMLRC returned four recent records of notable plant species from within 2 km of the Site, all concerning the bee orchid *Ophrys apifera*, with the nearest record being c. 0.75 km north of the Site.
- 3.5.15 No notable or protected plant species were observed during the Site survey. Whilst a range of flowering plants and grasses were present throughout the grassland areas, these were all common



and expected of neutral soils with lower levels of nutrient enrichment. These are considered to be of less than local level importance to nature conservation.

- 3.5.16 Considering the low number of recent records and total lack of notable or protected plant species within the Site, notable or protected plant species are not considered to be an ecological receptor for the Site and are not discussed further in this report.

Reptiles

- 3.5.17 GMLRC returned no recent records of reptiles from within 2 km of the Site. Whilst there was limited suitable habitat present within the Site that might support reptiles, such as the tussocky other neutral grassland and scrub habitats, these were not extensive and there were limited areas for basking. No field signs of reptiles were observed during the Site survey.
- 3.5.18 Considering the total lack of biological records, and the largely ecologically isolated nature of the Site, it is considered highly unlikely that reptiles would be present in any number within the Site. Therefore, reptiles are not considered as an ecological receptor for the Development and are not discussed further in this report.

Terrestrial Invertebrates

- 3.5.19 GMLRC returned 20 recent records of notable or protected terrestrial invertebrates, with the nearest record being c. 0.71 km north of the Site and relating to a cinnabar moth *Tyria jacobaeae*. Other records include mottled rustic *Caradrina morpheus* and white-letter hairstreak *Satyrium w-album*.
- 3.5.20 No notable or protected terrestrial invertebrates were observed during the Site survey, and whilst the south and western grasslands did contain a range of flowering species and vegetations structures, these are not considered sufficient or widespread enough to support significant populations of terrestrial invertebrates.
- 3.5.21 Therefore, notable or protected terrestrial invertebrates are not considered to be an ecological receptor for the Development and are not discussed further in this report.

Terrestrial Mammals

- 3.5.22 GMLRC returned 12 recent records pertaining to terrestrial mammals, all sightings of European hedgehogs *Erinaceus europaeus*, with the nearest record being c. 0.43 km south-east of the Site and the remainder being over 1 km from the Site.
- 3.5.23 No field signs of terrestrial mammals were observed during the Site survey. Whilst the habitats present on Site may provide minimal foraging and denning opportunities, considering the low number of records returned by GMLRC and the ecologically isolated nature of the Site, no significant usage of the Site by terrestrial mammals is anticipated.
- 3.5.24 It cannot be entirely ruled out that hedgehogs may be present on site and have been scoped in as a potential ecological receptor for the Development.

3.6 Invasive Non-Native Species

- 3.6.1 GMLRC returned no recent records of invasive species from within 2 km of the Site. No invasive non-native species were identified during the Site survey. Therefore, invasive non-native species are not considered to be an ecological restraint for the Development and are not considered further in this report.



4. Potential Impacts, Recommendations and Mitigation

- 4.1.1 Potential impacts of the Development on identified receptors are described in this section and are based on the following layout: Drawing 0396-WSA-ZZ-ZZ-DR-A-1501. Recommendations for further survey and appropriate mitigation is provided.

4.2 The Proposed Development

- 4.2.1 The Development involves several modifications to the existing Site. An extension is proposed to the east of the building, resulting in the removal of three trees, an area of modified grassland, and a small section of ornamental hedgerow. Another small extension is proposed to the north aspect which only impacts developed land; sealed surface. A new road layout is proposed to the east of the Site with additional parking, which will result in the removal of nine trees, areas of modified grassland, introduced shrub, a section of other neutral grassland, and several small sections of ornamental hedgerow. Additional parking is also proposed to the north west of the Site which will result in the removal of six trees, tall forbs, small areas of modified grassland and other neutral grassland, and small sections of ornamental hedgerow. An indicative post-Development layout is shown in **Figure 4**.
- 4.2.2 Several enhancements for biodiversity are also suggested on the Site, including the planting of approximately 45 native trees, enhancing the area of east grassland, and planting additional hedgerows around the new car parks and alongside the access road.

4.3 Foraging and Commuting bats

- 4.3.1 All species of bat occurring within the UK are included in Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species regulations 2017 (as amended). Under Regulation 41, bats are protected from deliberate capture, injury or killing, from deliberate disturbance, and from deliberate damage/destruction of a breeding site or resting place.
- 4.3.2 All UK bats are also included in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). However, their protection is limited to certain offences. Under the Act it is an offence to intentionally, or recklessly, disturb bats while they are occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection, or to obstruct access to any such place.
- 4.3.3 Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*, noctule, and soprano pipistrelle are also included as Species of Principal Importance listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006.
- 4.3.4 The Site is considered to be of low potential for foraging and commuting bats, primarily restricted to the south of the Site which has richer vegetation variety and a potential commuting corridor of the vegetated railway line which is being retained.
- 4.3.5 However, inappropriate lighting during construction and operation of the Proposed Development could occur as a result of increased illumination levels (causing the disruption of the life cycle of nocturnal insects, which may indirectly cause a decline in their availability as prey for bats) without mitigation.
- 4.3.6 To avoid adverse impacts on bats, a sensitive lighting plan should be produced for both the construction and post-development phases. This should include the following:
- During the bat activity period (April – October, inclusive), nighttime illumination of the Site and surrounding suitable habitats should be avoided as far as possible during the construction. If lighting is required during this period, it should be directed using a narrow beam, illuminating the minimum required areas and avoiding unnecessary light spill.
 - Post-development lighting should use LED luminaires where possible, with a warm white spectrum of light (<2700 Kelvin) and peak wavelengths higher than 550nm.



- 4.3.7 Following this guidance will act to minimise light levels within the Site and reduce unnecessary disturbance to foraging/commuting bats and their prey. Further guidance for bat-sensitive lighting plans is provided within the 'Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK' guidance notes provided by the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT, 2023). Guidance note 01/21 'The Reduction of Obtrusive Light' produced by the Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP) provides further advice on the installation of lighting to reduce light spill.
- 4.3.8 Post-Development, it is considered that the foraging and commuting potential of the south of the Site will be unaffected, whilst the provision of further areas of other neutral grassland (a preferred invertebrate habitat) as part of BNG mitigation¹ will allow for more ample opportunities for foraging at a Site level.

4.4 Birds

- 4.4.1 Whilst there are very few ecological features of interest to birds present on Site, the trees and hedgerows do offer a small amount of nesting potential. Seventeen of these trees are due to be removed as part of the Development. All bird nests are protected by law in the UK.
- 4.4.2 In the first instance, it is recommended that the removal of these trees is undertaken outside of nesting bird season (typically March – August inclusive). If this is not possible, pre-works checks should be undertaken as part of a method statement. This would require a suitably qualified individual to inspect the trees for any nesting birds no sooner than 48 hours prior to their removal. If a suspected nest is identified, removal works must cease until all chicks have fledged.
- 4.4.3 The Proposed development once completed includes additional tree, grassland and hedgerow planting with areas of enhanced grassland diversity as part of BNG mitigation¹ which would result in an enhancement for bird species at a Site level.

4.5 General Measures

- 4.5.1 A Construction and Ecological Management Plan (CEMP) should be secured via planning condition and include general pollution prevention measures following best practice and what to do in the event of a protected species being discovered. It should set out ecological Tool-box talks in respect of hedgehogs, bats and birds as a minimum and what to do in the event of being found or suspected during the construction period/



5. References

BCT (2023) *Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night*, Guidance Note 08/23, Bat Conservation Trust & Institution of Lighting Professionals.

CIEEM (2017) *Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd edition*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

CIEEM (2018) *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (4th edition). The Bat Conservation Trust, London

DEFRA (2023) *Statutory Biodiversity Metric*. Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides>

Stanbury, A.J., Eaton, M.A., Aebischer, N.J., Balmer, D., Brown, A.F., Douse, A., Lindley, P., McCulloch, N., Noble, D.G. & Win, I (2021) *Birds of Conservation Concern 5: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain*. British Birds 114, 723-747

UKHab Ltd (2023). UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 (at <https://www.ukhab.org>)



6. Figures

Figure 1 – Designated Sites



Legend

- Application boundary
- Ownership boundary
- 2 km buffer
- Local Nature Reserves
- Sites of Biological Importance

0 0.5 1 km

Bridge College

Designated Sites

Date	November 2024
Scale	1:15000@A3
Drawing Ref:	0538_DS_V1



Unit 9
Acorn Business Park
Heaton Ln
Stockport
SK4 1AS

0161 327 1 723

enquiries@envanceuk.com

www.envanceuk.com



Figure 2 – Priority Habitat



Legend
Application boundary
Ownership boundary
2 km buffer
Priority habitats
Deciduous woodland
No main habitat but additional habitats present

00.51 km

Bridge College

Priority Habitat

Date	November 2024
Scale	1:15000@A3
Drawing Ref:	0538_PH_V1

 envance

Unit 9
Acorn Business Park
Heaton Ln
Stockport
SK4 1AS

0161 327 1 723

enquiries@envanceuk.com

www.envanceuk.com



Figure 3 – Baseline Habitats



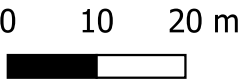
Figure 4 – Indicative Post-Development Habitats

Please note that locations of new small trees and to be created hedgerow are indicative only.



Legend

- Site Boundary
- Ownership Boundary
- Building
- Bramble scrub
- Built linear features
- Developed land; sealed surface
- Introduced shrub
- Modified grassland
- Other green roof
- Other neutral grassland
- Tall forbs
- Building
- Native hedgerow
- Non-native and ornamental hedgerow
- Existing Small Urban Tree
- New Small Tree



Bridge College

Post Development Habitat Map

Date	May 2025
Scale	1:550@A3
Drawing Ref:	0538_PDHM_V2



Unit 9
Acorn Business Park
Heaton Ln
Stockport
SK4 1AS

0161 327 1 723

enquiries@envanceuk.com

www.envanceuk.com



Appendix 1. Legislation and Policy

Legislation

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) allows for the designation of National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), to protect areas containing habitats and species of national or international importance.

The 1981 Act also provides for the protection of certain species. These include nesting birds, with additional special protection for birds listed within Schedule 1, as well as a range of other protected animals listed in Schedule 5 (including reptiles, water vole and certain species of invertebrates). A number of protected plant species are also listed within Schedule 8.

The Conservation of Species and Habitats 2017 (as amended)

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) provide domestic implementation of the EU Habitats Directive 1992. Under the Regulations, species listed in Annex II of the Directive are given strict protection in the UK as European protected species and it is an offence intentionally or recklessly to disturb or to harm a European protected species.

Projects which are likely to affect European protected species are subject to assessment criteria. Under Part 5 of the Regulations a licence may be granted for a project affecting a European protected species for specific purposes.

Natural England is the licensing authority for derogation licenses. A derogation licence may only be granted, provided:

- that there is no satisfactory alternative; and
- the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of a European protected species at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.

All public authorities are required to have regard to the provisions of the Habitats Directive in the exercise of their functions under Regulation 9 of the Habitats Regulations. Guidance on the application of the Habitats Regulations is set out in the Joint ODPM and Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) circular 06/2005 & 01/2005.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act came into force on 1st October 2006. Section 41 (S41) of the Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.

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 the NERC Act 2006, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions.

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

Under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 all badgers and their setts are protected from disturbance. The Act also includes provisions to allow Natural England to grant licences permitting interference with a badger sett in the course of development. Such a licence will normally incorporate conditions to ensure that undue disturbance and suffering to badgers is avoided during the development works.

Hedgerow Regulations 1997

Under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997, provision is made for the notification of “important” hedgerows. To qualify for notification, hedgerows must fulfil a range of criteria relating to their historical, landscape or wildlife



character. In accordance with the Regulations, the intention to remove any hedgerow should be notified to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) via a hedgerow removal notice. The LPA may issue a Hedgerow Retention Notice to prevent the loss of an “important” hedgerow. Where permission is granted to remove an “important” hedgerow, the LPA may impose conditions to mitigate the loss.

Policy

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2023) sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. Section 15 of the NPPF deals with conserving and enhancing the natural environment. Habitats and biodiversity are specifically referenced in paragraphs 179 to 182, as copied below.

179. To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

a) 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

b) 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.

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

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 Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;

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 reasons⁶³ 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.

181. The following should be given the same protection as habitats sites:

a) potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;

b) listed or proposed Ramsar sites⁶⁴; and

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



proposed Ramsar sites.

182. The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a habitats site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), unless an appropriate assessment has concluded that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the habitats site.

Manchester Core Strategy 2012-2027

Of principal importance to ecology and biodiversity matters is 'Policy EN 15 – Biodiversity and Geological Conservation' which is copied in its entirety below. This policy makes reference to the Manchester Biodiversity Strategy and Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan, however these documents have not been referenced in this report as no habitats or significant numbers of indicator species from these documents were identified on the Site.

The Council will seek to maintain or enhance sites of biodiversity and geological value throughout the City. Particular consideration will be given to:

- sites with international or national designations for their biodiversity value. Manchester contains one Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (Cotteril Clough); there is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and an SSSI just over the border in Oldham (both on the Rochdale Canal within Oldham);
- other sites of biodiversity value, including Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs); Manchester currently has 35 SBIs (including the Rochdale and Ashton Canals) and 7 LNRs; priority habitats found within Manchester, as listed in the Manchester Biodiversity Strategy and included in the Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (GM BAP);
- protected and priority species, as listed in the Manchester Biodiversity Strategy and included in the Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (GM BAP);
- sites that are recognised for their geological importance;
- the Council's objective to protect and conserve the City's existing trees and woodlands and the aim for a net increase in trees across the City.

Developers will be expected to identify and implement reasonable opportunities to enhance, restore or create new biodiversity, either on-site or adjacent to the site, contributing to linkages between valuable or potentially valuable habitat areas where appropriate, with reference to:

- the Manchester Biodiversity Strategy, which provides further details of priority habitats within Manchester and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement including corridors such as the Mersey, Medlock and Irk river valleys, the canals and disused railway lines and areas of managed greenspace particularly in parks;
- the Green Infrastructure Framework for Greater Manchester, which encompasses an ecological framework that seeks to guide and inform habitat creation and repair, including identifying large 'biodiversity opportunity areas' including the Moston Brook Corridor and Nutsford Vale;
- the Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study, which identifies areas where there is a deficit of natural and semi-natural greenspace, opportunities for green corridors and other linkages;
- Manchester's Climate Change Action Plan;
- the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for Manchester the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for Manchester, which gives detailed consideration to Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), including the Rochdale Canal SAC just outside the district boundary;
- the River Basin Management Plan for the North West;



- the Manchester Tree Strategy.

Any adverse impacts on biodiversity will need to be justified against the wider benefits of the proposal, assessed against other LDF policies. Where adverse impacts are unavoidable, developers will be required to provide appropriate mitigation and/or compensation.

Development should wherever possible seek to maintain, enhance or restore existing geology.

Place for Everyone Plan 2022 - 2039

The Place for Everyone Plan was adopted in 2024 and determines the kind of development that will take place in Greater Manchester's nine boroughs. The key policy in relation to biodiversity and ecology is Policy JP-G8: A Net Enhancement of Biodiversity and Geodiversity, which states that a net enhancement in biodiversity resources will be sought by:

- *Increasing the quality, quantity, extent and diversity of habitats, particularly priority habitats identified in national or local biodiversity action plans and those that support priority species;*
- *Improving connections between habitats, to protect and enhance the provision of corridors, ecological networks (including Nature Recovery Networks) and steppingstones that enable the movement of species, especially as the climate changes;*
- *Enhancing the management of existing habitats, including through habitat restoration, avoiding habitat fragmentation and combating invasive species;*
- *Protecting sites designated for their nature conservation and/or geological importance, with the highest level of protection given to international and then national designations;*
- *Facilitating greater access to nature, particularly within urban areas;*
- *Supporting the development and implementation of the Great Manchester Wetlands Nature Recovery Network; and*
- *Safeguarding, restoring and sustainably managing our most valuable soil resources, tackling soil degradation/erosion and recovering soil fertility, particularly to ensure protection of peat-based soils and safeguard 'best and most versatile' agricultural land.*
- *Development will be expected to:*
 - o a. Follow the mitigation hierarchy of:
 - *i. Avoiding significant harm to biodiversity, particularly where it is irreplaceable, through consideration of alternative sites with less harmful impacts, then*
 - *ii. Adequately mitigating any harm to biodiversity, then*
 - *iii. Adequately compensating for any remaining harm to biodiversity*
 - o b. Avoid fragmenting or severing connectivity between habitats;
 - o c. Achieve a measurable net gain in biodiversity of no less than 10%
 - o d. Make appropriate provision for long-term management of habitats and geological features connected to the development;
 - o e. Where appropriate, development should: mitigate air pollution impacts on Manchester Mosses SAC; mitigate urban edge, functionally linked land and recreation disturbance impacts on the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPAs; and assess and potentially mitigate boat movement, water pollution, and light spillage and shading impacts on the Rochdale Canal SAC; and



-
- o f. Development proposals should be informed by the findings and recommendations of the appropriate biodiversity/ecological assessment(s) in the PfE evidence base and/or any updated or appropriate biodiversity/ecological assessments submitted as part of the planning application process.



Appendix 2. Photographs



Legend

Photo 1. – Area of modified grassland

Photo 2. - Paved area

Photo 3. – East area of other neutral grassland

Photo 4. -South area of other neutral grassland

Photo 5. –West area of other neutral grassland

Photo 6. – Typical building construction on Site

Photo 7. – Tall forbs dominated by buddleja with some small trees within

Photo 8. – Ornamental shrub planting

Photo 9. – Individual trees alongside buildings

Bridge College



Unit 9
Acorn Business Park
Heaton Lane
Stockport
SK4 1AS

0161 327 1 723

enquiries@envanceuk.com



Legend

Photo 10. – Individual trees to east of Site

Photo 11. -Tall beech ornamental hedgerow to provide screening

Photo 12. – Small beech and common box hedgerow for landscaping

Photo 13. – Green roof visible on roof of main building

Photo 14. –Bramble scrub area

Bridge College

Appendix 2: Photographs



Unit 9
Acorn Business Park
Heaton Lane
Stockport
SK4 1AS

0161 327 1 723

enquiries@envanceuk.com



Appendix 3. Plant Species List

Table A3. 1 - Plant species identified within the Site

Common Name	Scientific Name
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Silvergrass	<i>Aira caryophyllea</i>
Gray alder	<i>Alnus incana</i>
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Buddleja	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>
Common box	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>
Rosebay willowherb	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>
Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Wild carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Tufted hair grass	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>
Hoary willowherb	<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>
Willowherb sp.	<i>Epilobium sp.</i>
Horsetail	<i>Equisetum sp.</i>
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
Red fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>
Hedge bedstraw	<i>Galium mollugo</i>
Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Sunflowers	<i>Helianthus sp.</i>
Hoary mustard	<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>
Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>
Catsear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>
Compound rush	<i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>
Oxeye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
Perennial rye grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
Common birds foot trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
Pineappleweed	<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>
Black medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>
Redshank	<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Cherry laurel	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>
Ornamental plum sp.	<i>Prunus sp.</i>
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>
Broadleaved dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
Salad burnet	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>
Common ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
New York aster	<i>Symphotrichum novi-belgii</i>
Dandelion sp.	<i>Taraxacum sp.</i>



Common lime	<i>Tilia × europaea</i>
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Common vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>



Appendix 4. Bird Species Recorded within 2 km of Site

Recent records of bird species from within 2 km of the Site. Red = species listed as of 'red' conservation concern within the Birds of Conservation Concern 5 (BOCC5; Stanbury *et al.* 2021). Amber = species listed as of 'amber' conservation concern with the BoCC5. Green = species listed as of 'green' conservation concern within the BoCC5. Sch1 = species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Sch9 = invasive non-native species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). S41 = species listed as of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006.

Table A4. 1 - Bird species recorded within 2 km of the Site

Common Name	Scientific Name	BoCC status	W & C Act 1981	NERC Act 2006
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Green	Schedule 1	0
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber	0	0
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber	0	0
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Red	0	S41
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red	0	S41
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Amber	Schedule 1	0
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Red	0	S41
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Amber	0	0
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Green	Schedule 1	0
Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Green	Schedule 1	0
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber	0	0
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Red	0	S41
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red	0	S41