GPA Manchester Digital Campus, Great Ancoats Street, Manchester M4 6EY

CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN: BIODIVERSITY

June 2026

ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd ref: 2026-146

Manchester City Council ref: 141607/FO/2024

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Document Control

Survey Type	Personnel	Date
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Signature(s)		
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Rationale and Scope

1.1.1 This Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) for Biodiversity has been prepared by ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd to satisfy a condition of the planning consent (Manchester City Council reference 141607/FO/2024) for the '*creation of a new office campus comprising two office buildings (Use Class E), including: North Building comprising ground plus seven storeys (Use Class E) plus up to a total of two storeys of enclosed and exposed rooftop plant; and South Building comprising ground plus six storeys (Use Class E), plus up to a total of two storeys of enclosed and exposed rooftop plant, and also including flexible commercial uses (Use Class E and / or Use Class Sui Generis (p) and (q)) at ground floor and cycle parking; together with basement car parking, landscaping and public realm, servicing and access arrangements, highways alterations and other associated works (including the establishment of new site levels for the proposed new park)'* at land off Great Ancoats Street, Manchester.

1.1.2 Condition 9 states:

Save for site set up (including erection of hoarding, siting of cabins and securing of the site, and vegetation clearance), prior to the commencement of the Enabling Works, a construction environmental management plan (CEMP: biodiversity) shall be submitted for approval in writing by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority in relation to the proximity to the Rochdale Canal SBI.

The CEMP (Biodiversity) shall include the following:

- *Risk assessment of potentially damaging construction activities.*
- *Identification of "biodiversity protection zones".*
- *Practical measures (both physical measures and sensitive working practices) to avoid or reduce impacts during construction (may be provided as a set of method statements).*
- *The location and timing of sensitive works to avoid harm to biodiversity features.*
- *The times during construction when specialist ecologists need to be present site to oversee works.*
- *Responsible persons and lines of communication.*
- *The role and responsibilities on site of an ecological clerk of works (ECoW) or similarly competent person.*
- *Use of protective fences, exclusion barriers, location spill kits warning signs and location of site compounds;*
- *A plan showing the areas of storage of plant, fuel/chemicals and materials used in constructing the development;*
- *Include the steps to be taken to prevent the discharge of silt-laden run-off, construction site drainage, materials or dust or any accidental spillages entering the waterway;*
- *Details of the environmental pollution incident emergency response;*
- *Details of the location of temporary stockpiles and the covering of these;*
- *Details of wheel washing facilities and containment measures;*

- *include measures to locate, clear, remediate and permanently seal any existing drains or culverts within the application site that may discharge to the canal.*
- *Details specifying how the waterway corridor and its users would be protected during the works and include any details of proposed protective fencing/netting to be erected to safeguard the waterway infrastructure during site clearance/construction.*

The approved CEMP shall be adhered to and implemented throughout the construction period in accordance with the approved details.

Reason - In the interest of minimising the impact on the Site of Biological Importance pursuant to policy EN15 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2015).

1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The site is located to the north of Great Ancoats Street, Manchester M4 6EY. The Ordnance Survey grid reference at the centre of the site is SJ 85057 98442.

1.2.2 The site is a former retail park, with the existing building being previous demolished to concrete slab level.

1.2.3 **Figure 1** at **Appendix 1** presents and aerial photograph of the site and surrounds and the ecological baseline.

1.3 Scope of CEMP for Biodiversity and Aims and Objectives

1.3.1 This CEMP for Biodiversity has been prepared by ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd in conjunction with P.P. O'Connor (Principal Contractor) provides a comprehensive and practical document that can be referred to and consulted by the client and their appointed contractors.

1.3.2 P.P. O'Connor has confirmed that the works at this stage comprise:

- Completion of a number of trial excavations to identify the existing services;
- CCTV surveys of the existing sewers;
- An Archaeological Investigation approved by GMAAS[1] will be undertaken by Civic Heritage prior to commencement of bulk works;
- Following this investigation and submission of the report to GMAAS, the existing concrete slabs, block paving and relic foundations will be removed and crushed on site to 6F2 specification, for future use in the works;
- Existing redundant services and drainage will be grubbed out;
- Any remaining vegetation including self-seeded tree and shrub saplings, tree stumps and associated understorey planting, including remanent stands of Wall Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*), an invasive plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended); will be removed;
- The site will then be excavated to a preliminary level as per information provided by WSP and arisings disposed of off-site;

[1] GMAAS: Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service

- Any remaining made ground will be excavated to check for unsuitable material and re-engineered back to achieve 90% compaction with a max 10% air voids;
- Temporary filter drains will be installed to minimise deterioration of the remaining material.

1.3.3 This report describes the measures to be applied to ensure the protection of existing biodiversity prior to and during relevant enabling and construction works, details of the methods to be applied (where relevant) and also the measures to be applied to avoid and / or minimise any potential sources of disturbance / pollution to the surrounding area.

1.3.4 This CEMP for Biodiversity should be appended to and read in conjunction with the Environment Management Plan (EMP) prepared for the site by P.P. O'Connor which covers the following:

- Mitigation of noise and vibration
- Mitigation of fugitive dust
- Materials handling and storage
- Parking facilities
- Construction waste, pollution prevention and soil resource management
- Temporary lighting

1.4 Distribution of CEMP: Biodiversity

1.4.1 All construction site personnel must be made aware of this CEMP: Biodiversity. This document must be accessible and available on site at all times during site preparation, enabling works and construction operations.

2.0 IDENTIFICATION OF ECOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND RISK ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIALLY DAMAGING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

2.1 Ecological Considerations

2.1.1 The *Environmental Statement Volume 2 – Chapter 8: Biodiversity* (Government Property Agency. Atkins Realis, 2024) identifies the following ecological considerations relevant to enabling works:

a. Rochdale Canal Stott's Lane – Ducie Street Basin Site of Biological Importance (SBI) and the adjacent Rochdale Canal. The canal is designated for the presence of open water, and it's aquatic plants including Floating Water-plantain (*Luronium fluitans*) and nine species of pondweed (*Potamogeton* species);

b. Off-site managed urban greenspace (habitats as part of Cotton Field Park to the north);

c. Presence of Wall Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*), a non-native invasive plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended);

d. Possible passage of protected species namely otter (*Lutra lutra*) and water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) along the adjacent off-site canal habitats; and

e. Consideration of nesting birds at the vegetation scheduled to be removed and possibly ground nesting birds including Canada geese (relevant to works between March and August inclusive).

2.1.2 **Note:** Trees with Ivy cover identified to have PRF-I[2] suitability for use by roosting bats were removed in May and July 2025 under the supervision of an appropriately licensed Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW). Records of actions have been prepared and are available separately.

2.1.3 **Figure 1** at **Appendix 1** presents the ecological baseline.

2.2 Potentially Damaging Construction Activities

2.2.1 A list of enabling works activities that have the potential to cause a negative impact on the ecological considerations listed at **Section 2.1**, both at and adjacent to the site, is presented at **Table 2.1**.

2.2.2 The enabling works activities have been assigned a risk level (high, medium and low) at the pre- and post-control measures stages based on the probability of occurrence and the severity in accordance with the following matrix.

Likelihood	***3: Very Likely***	**Low**	**Medium**	**High**
	2: Possible	**Low**	**Medium**	**Medium**
	1: Unlikely	**Low**	**Low**	**Low**
		A: Low Impact	***B: Medium Impact***	***C: High Impact***
		Severity		

Insert 1: Risk Matrix

2.2.3 A summary of the relevant wildlife legislation is presented at **Appendix 2**.

[2] PRF-I: PRF is only suitable for individual bats or very small numbers of bats either due to size or lack of suitable surrounding habitats in accordance with tables 4.2 and 6.2 of *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edn),* (Collins, J. (ed), 2023).

Table 2.1: List and Risk Assessment of Potentially Damaging Construction Activities

Item	*Enabling Works:* Any remaining vegetation clearance and removal of concrete slabs				
	Activity / Potential Impacts	**Risk: Pre-works**	**Avoidance / Management / Control Measure**	**Section Reference**	**Risk: Presence of Control Measures**
1.	Damage of off-site vegetation and trees and shrubs identified for retention (and their root protection zones).	**Medium**	Ensure construction zone demarcation and tree / shrub protection measures in accordance with BS5837: 2012 are installed and maintained throughout the construction period.	**3.2**	**Low**
2.	Physical damage to canal / SBI by machinery.	**Medium**	Installation of protective demarcation fencing to demarcate construction zone and maintenance throughout the construction period.	**3.2**	**Low**
3.	Direct (killing or injury) or indirect (disturbance) impacts to nesting birds including dependent chicks and risk of an offence under relevant wildlife legislation.	**High**	Avoidance of removal of any remaining / recolonized vegetation and tree stumps suitable for use by nesting birds in the bird nesting season unless a nesting bird survey has been completed. Contractors to be aware of use of the margins of the canal and the northern end of the site by nesting Canada geese. Works in nesting season (March to August inclusive) to be informed by pre-works survey for nesting birds.	**3.4**	**Low / no risk**
4.	Risk of introduction and spread of invasive plant species and an offence under relevant wildlife legislation.	**Medium**	Risk of spread of any remaining plants of Wall Cotoneaster within site and in wild. Ensure the appropriate biosecurity measures in relation to invasive plant species are in place.	**3.5**	**Low**
5.	Adverse effects on adjacent canal / SBI and its aquatic plant species of special interest and associated water quality as a result of dust, sedimentation and silt-laden run-off.	**High**	Implementation of relevant pollution prevention guidelines. Refer to CMP for location of spill kits.	**3.3** **6.0**	**Low**

Item	*Enabling Works:* **Any remaining vegetation clearance and removal of concrete slabs**				
	Activity / Potential Impacts	**Risk: Pre-works**	**Avoidance / Management / Control Measure**	**Section Reference**	**Risk: Presence of Control Measures**
6.	Site lighting and disturbance of nocturnal / crepuscular species such as otter, water vole and commuting / foraging bats and roosting bats at the retained and adjacent habitats.	**Medium**	Appropriate positioning and use of lighting at the site compound.	**4.0**	**Low**

Item	*Enabling Works:* **Any remaining vegetation clearance and removal of concrete slabs**				
	Activity / Potential Impacts	**Risk: Pre-works**	**Avoidance / Management / Control Measure**	**Section Reference**	**Risk: Presence of Control Measures**
7.	Fuel leaks and spills: Habitat degradation / water quality impacts at canal via hydrocarbon pollution incidents.	**Medium**	Installation of protective demarcation fencing and maintenance throughout the construction period and adherence to appropriate pollution prevention guidelines. Appropriate storage of materials away from canal. Spill kits readily available and incident response plans implemented and rehearsed.	**3.3** **8.0**	**Low**
8.	Noise pollution could potentially impact upon wildlife within the wider area.	**Low**	Adherence to noise control guidelines.	**5.0**	**Low**
9.	Air quality has the potential to be impacted by fumes from vehicles and plant. Potential for dust created during periods of dry weather from the construction activities and the earthworks to affect vegetation and water quality at the off-site habitats.	**Low**	Adherence to air quality control and dust suppression recommendations.	**6.0**	**Low**

2.2.4 Additional measures related to general good site practices during works are presented at **Section 7.0**.

3.0 METHODS OF PROTECTION OF EXISTING HABITATS / FEATURES AND WILDLIFE

3.1 Biodiversity Protection Zones

3.1.1 The Biodiversity Protection Zone comprises:

a. Rochdale Canal Stott's Lane – Ducie Street Basin Site of Biological Importance (SBI) and the adjacent Rochdale Canal;

b. Any remaining vegetation / tree stumps suitable for use by nesting birds between March and August inclusive; and

c. Areas in use by nesting Canada geese between March and August inclusive.

3.1.2 **Figure 2**, appended, has been prepared to identify ecological constraints. The site has been zoned in accordance with the following:

Red: High Risk: No access.

Amber: Medium Risk: Proceed with advice / in accordance with control measures as outlined in CEMP.

Green: No ecological constraints: Proceed in accordance with best practice and control measures as outlined in CEMP.

3.2 Protection of Retained Habitats

Construction Site Demarcation Fencing

3.2.1 A temporary demarcation fencing (3 metres high solid hoarding) has been installed to demarcate the site boundary and construction zone.

3.2.2 Vegetation and habitats outside the demarcated construction zone must not be damaged or affected by the site enabling and construction activities.

3.2.3 No operation of machinery or construction activities, including the storage of materials, must be carried out beyond the protective demarcation fencing.

3.3 Protection of the Canal / SBI and Associated Water Quality

Embedded Mitigation

3.3.1 Water pollution has damaging effects on the environment, humans, habitat of plants and animals. Pollution can occur if discharges of substances into surface watercourses or groundwater without prior treatment or by accident, e.g. after an accidental spill.

3.3.2 Potential causes of pollution relevant to this site include:

- Spills or leaks from oil and chemical containers.
- Trade effluent going into surface water drains instead of foul water drains, or straight into watercourses.

- Run-off containing de-icing materials, such as salt during winter months
- Silt and soil from construction sites.
- Wash waters and waste products.
- Fuel spills.

Guidelines

3.3.3 In the absence of updated guidance, the following Pollution Prevention Guidelines (PPG) will be adhered to:

a. *PPG1: Basic good environmental practices* (Environment Agency, 2013);

b. *PPG5: Works in, near or over watercourses* (Environment Agency, 2014);

c. *PPG6: Construction and demolition sites* (Environment Agency, 2012); and

d. *PPG7: Operating refuelling sites* (Environment Agency, 2011).

Protective Demarcation Fencing

3.3.4 As outlined above the site and construction zone has been demarcated by 3 metres high solid hoarding. The hoarding provides a solid physical barrier between the construction zone and the canal.

Storage of Materials and Stockpiles

3.3.5 All construction materials will be stored away from the canal.

3.3.6 The plan at **Insert 2** presented below demonstrates that the stockpiles will be located away from the canal (the canal is present beyond the north-western site margin (refer to **Figures 1** and **2,** appended)).

Silt Barriers

3.3.7 Silt barriers will be installed around the stockpile to control any concrete fines run-off and to trap any sediment and further minimise the risk of sediment from entering the canal.

Treatment of Stockpiles

3.3.8 P.P. O'Connor has confirmed that it is not practical to cover the stockpiles. Water dust suppression will be used to mitigate dust from the stockpile of crushed concrete (6F2) during dry conditions.

Storage of Plant, Fuel / Chemicals

3.3.9 The plan at **Insert 2**, below, shows that all plant and fuel (bunded fuel tank) will be installed away from the canal (the canal is present beyond the north-western site (refer to **Figures 1** and **2,** appended)).

3.3.10 Spill kits readily available near to the areas of stored fuel.

Wheel Washing

3.3.11 The site is located in a busy area of Manchester, so it is imperative that the roads are kept clean and the approach to maintain to the cleanliness of the MCC highway network around the site will be:

- Dedicated clean areas for all vehicle deliveries to prevent these vehicles tracking dirt onto the roads.

- Dedicated staff and visitors entrance along a fully concreted route to the site compound.
- Dedicated plant entrance and exit to and from the site with checks of wagons leaving the site.
- Inspection of vehicles prior to leaving site and manual jet washing of wagons prior to leaving where required.
- Road sweeper on call at all times to clean roads quickly in the unlikely event this is needed.
- A mechanical road sweeper will be in attendance during deliveries and disposal operations.

3.3.12 Access and egress will be via Old Mill Street, which facilitates the use of a clean concrete surfaced route to the site gate, thus minimising potential contamination of public roads with mud and debris.

Existing Drains / Culverts that may Discharge into the Canal

3.3.13 The scope of works specifically covers the location, removal and sealing of all drainage at the site boundary.

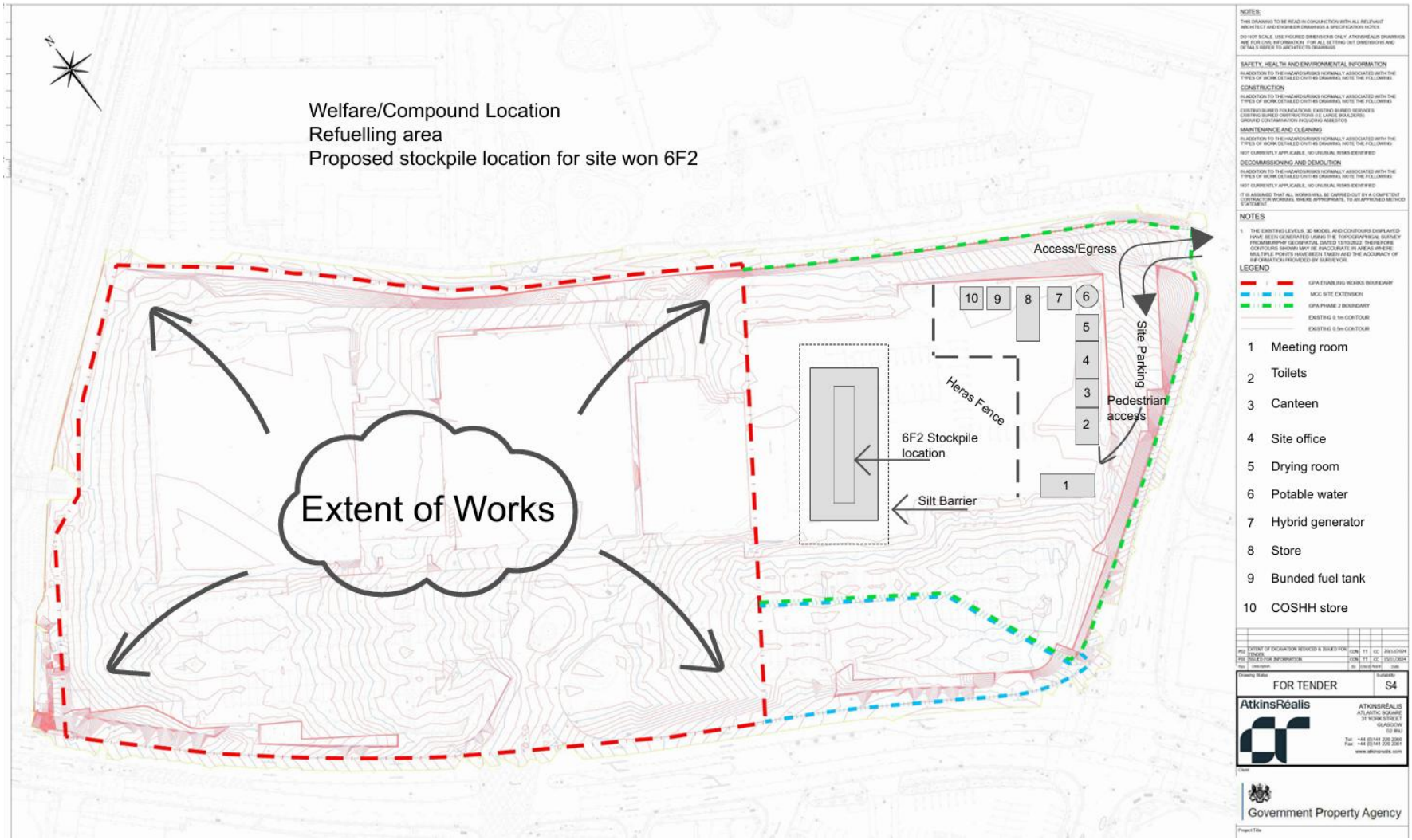
3.3.14 Previous drainage surveys have failed to identify any drainage connection that enter the canal, but further investigations will be undertaken during the process of abandoning existing redundant drainage.

3.3.15 Further investigations are required to identify any connections to the existing 900mm diameter UU asset (Northern Sewer), which is to be retained.

3.3.16 Any drains within the site will be reported to the site boundary. At the site boundary the drains will be capped with a stopper and / or concrete.

Relevant Stakeholders / Interested Parties

3.3.17 P. P. O'Connor's have confirmed that correspondence with Gareth Taylor at C&RT confirms that the C&RT is happy for work to proceed with the current measures in place.



Insert 2: Plan to show location of site compound, silt barriers, stockpiles and refuelling area

3.4 Nesting Birds

3.4.1 All wild birds are protected under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) while they are nesting. It is mandatory that works such as vegetation clearance are scheduled to commence outside the bird nesting season. Commencement of works in the nesting season must be informed by a pre-works nesting bird survey, carried out by a suitably experienced ecologist. The bird breeding season typically extends between March to August inclusive.

3.4.2 All contractors will be made aware of the use of the margins of the canal and the northern end of the site by nesting Canada geese.

3.4.3 Once hatched the young goslings are not able to fly. To avoid the risk of harm / creation of any additional hazards to wildlife the following is applicable:

- Where practical, any pipes must be stored with caps on (to prevent entry by wildlife);
- No fires must be lit at the site;
- Deep trenches / excavations must not be left open overnight. Trenches or holes must be fitted with a means of escape (such as ramped edge or a sloping plank of timber). This will ensure that any inquisitive animals do not become trapped; and
- Holes / trenches / excavations at the site must be visually checked for wildlife prior to infilling.

3.4.4 If breeding birds are detected the ecologist will issue guidance in relation to the protection of the nesting birds in conjunction with the scheduled works. This may involve cordoning off an area of the site until the young birds have fledged.

3.4.5 Once any remaining trees or shrubs have been removed it is advised that the arisings are chipped *immediately* as brash piles can also be used by nesting birds.

3.4.6 Occupation of the site by nesting birds can occur at any point in the construction phase (in the bird nesting season), if any areas of the site are left undisturbed or permitted to recolonise with vegetation it is advised that a pre-works inspection for nesting birds is carried out prior to strip. In addition, if any contractors detect or suspect the presence of nesting birds in a working area then guidance must be sought immediately.

3.5 Invasive Plant Species and Biosecurity

Wall Cotoneaster Management Plan

Identification

3.5.1 **Appendix 3** provides guidance on the identification of Wall Cotoneaster.

3.5.2 Wall Cotoneaster plants remains evident throughout the year (all seasons). Works can be carried out at any time of year.

Management Plan

3.5.3 It is understood that the Wall Cotoneaster plants have been removed as part of the vegetation clearance works.

3.5.4 If any regrowth has occurred the following methods must be applied:

Timing

Plant Identification / Demarcation

3.5.5 The locations of any Wall Cotoneaster will be identified during a site walkover and the plants will be demarcated by temporary fencing / signs, as needed. If needed an ecologist can assist with this exercise.

Physical Removal and Mechanical Destruction

3.5.6 It is advised that Wall Cotoneaster can be physically removed and mechanically destroyed / buried with the assistance of chainsaws and excavation equipment; there is no requirement for any application of herbicide in this instance.

3.5.7 Wall Cotoneaster plants will be excavated to a depth of 1 metre (ensuring all roots are found, refer to **Appendix 3**) and then buried within the site at depth of 1 metre. Alternatively the Wall Cotoneaster and material containing Cotoneaster can be taken off-site as controlled waste.

Biosecurity

3.5.8 To minimise the risk of introduction of invasive species to the site *and* the spread of invasive species around the site and into the adjacent habitats, all machinery / plant to be brought to the site must be clean. Wheels / tracks of machinery / plant must have been pressure washed before use at the site.

3.5.9 No excessive remnant soil or plant material from other sites must be present on the machinery / plant or in the tyre treads as this may increase the risk of spread of non-native and invasive plant species e.g. Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Indian Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) and Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*).

4.0 TEMPORARY LIGHTING

4.1 During the construction phase, any temporary / security lighting associated with the site compound or site entrance must involve the use of appropriate products and screening, where necessary, to ensure no excessive artificial lighting shines over the canal, as lighting overspill may deter use by wildlife such as foraging bats.

4.2 The lighting positions and specification must meet the requirements of current guidance, namely:

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

b. Bats and lighting: Overview of current evidence and mitigation guidance (Stone, 2014).

5.0 NOISE LIMITATION

5.1 All contractors and sub-contractors working on site have a general duty to take all possible measures to minimise nuisance from noise and vibration that may impact on wildlife in the wider area.

5.2 To achieve this, the requirements outlined in the CMP will be adhered to.

6.0 AIR QUALITY AND DUST SUPPRESSION

6.1 Air quality has the potential to be impacted by fumes from vehicles and plant. The potential for dust created during periods of dry weather from the construction activities and the earthworks may adversely affect off-site vegetation / habitats including the canal and Cotton Field Park.

6.2 With ongoing dust suppression during the works and natural "washing" of the crushed concrete during periods of wet weather (with fines run-off controlled by silt barriers), the material will not be susceptible to releasing dust; however, this will be monitored.

7.0 GOOD SITE PRACTICE

7.1 To ensure no additional impacts to wildlife such as wind-blown debris and attraction of vermin (for example) are created as a result of the construction site, good site practice will be applied at all times, and will comprise the following:

a. All working areas will be kept in a clean and tidy condition;

b. Adequate toilet facilities will be provided for all site staff;

c. Litter will be removed at frequent intervals and the site kept clean and tidy;

d. Food waste will be removed at frequent intervals; and

e. Any waste susceptible to spreading by wind or liable to cause litter will be stored in enclosed containers.

7.2 Please also refer to the EMP.

8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENT REPORTING

8.1 In the event of an environmental incident, work will be immediately stopped, control procedures implemented and the incident reported to the Project Manager and Environmental Officer. Appropriate and proportional steps will then be taken before recommencing works.

8.2 This response is outlined below:

Stop: Stop the leak immediately and all work in the immediate area

Contain: By using granules and spill kits, or inert material such as sand or soil, or by digging trenches etc.

Notify: Notify your supervisor immediately who in turn **shall without delay** inform the Environmental Officer

Recover: By using absorbent pads. Bag all contaminated materials

Dispose: By placing contaminated material back in the appropriate bin / container and which will be collected by a licenced Environmental Waste Company

8.3 Any spillages into a watercourse must be reported to EA as soon as possible – this will be the responsibility of the Environmental Officer

9.0 ECOLOGICAL CLERK OF WORKS, RESPONSIBLE PERSONS AND LINES OF COMMUNICATION

9.1 Queries in relation to the enabling works should be directed to P.P. O' Connor.

9.2 Any queries in relation to this CEMP: Biodiversity should be directed to ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd.

9.3 ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd can provide an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) / Ecologist in relation to the following (as needed):

a. Nesting bird inspections between March and August inclusive;

b. Identification of Wall Cotoneaster (as needed); and

c. General ecological guidance.

10.0 REFERENCES

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11.0 APPENDIX 1: FIGURES

Figure 1: Aerial Image of the Site Showing Location of SBI

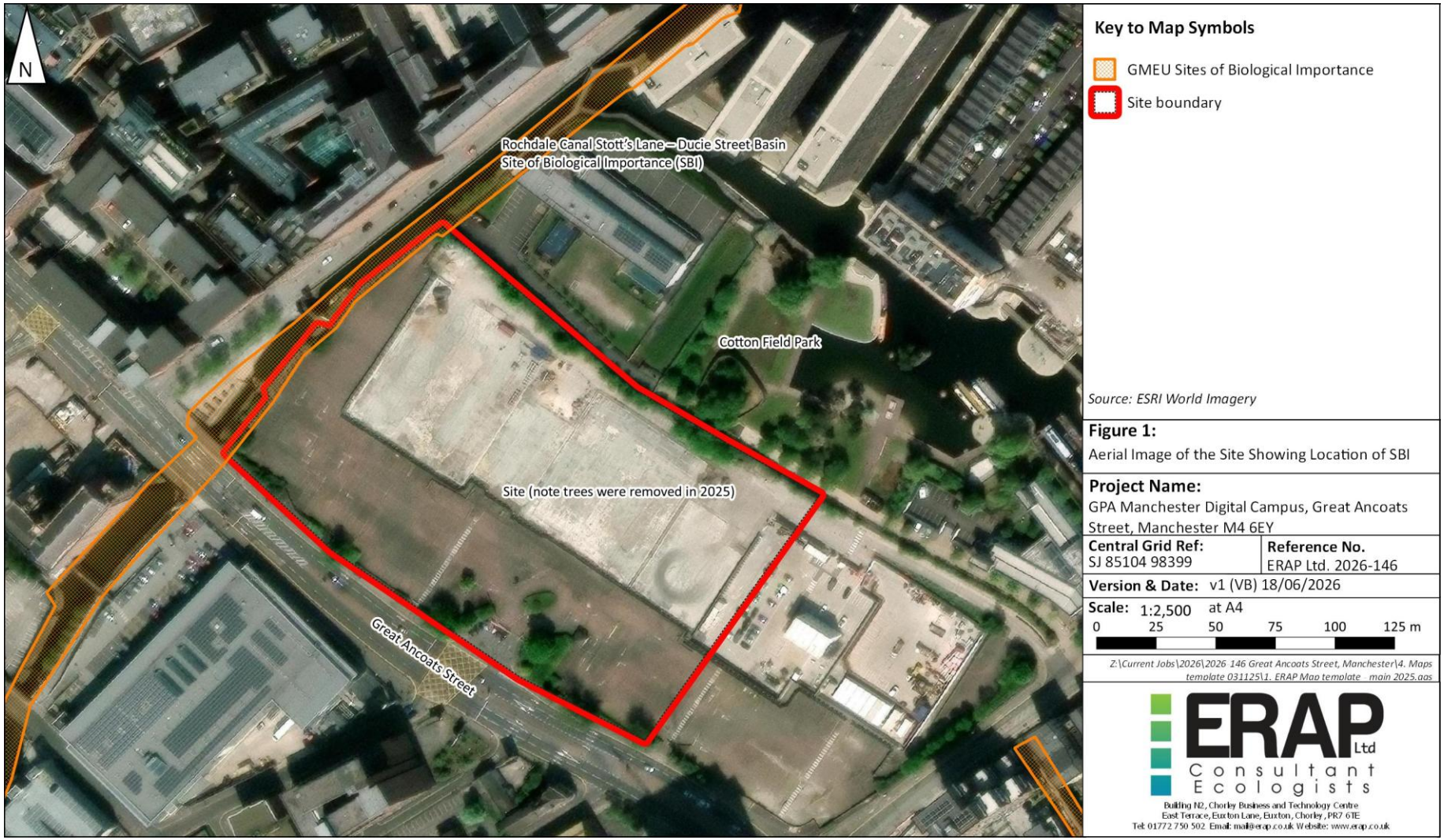
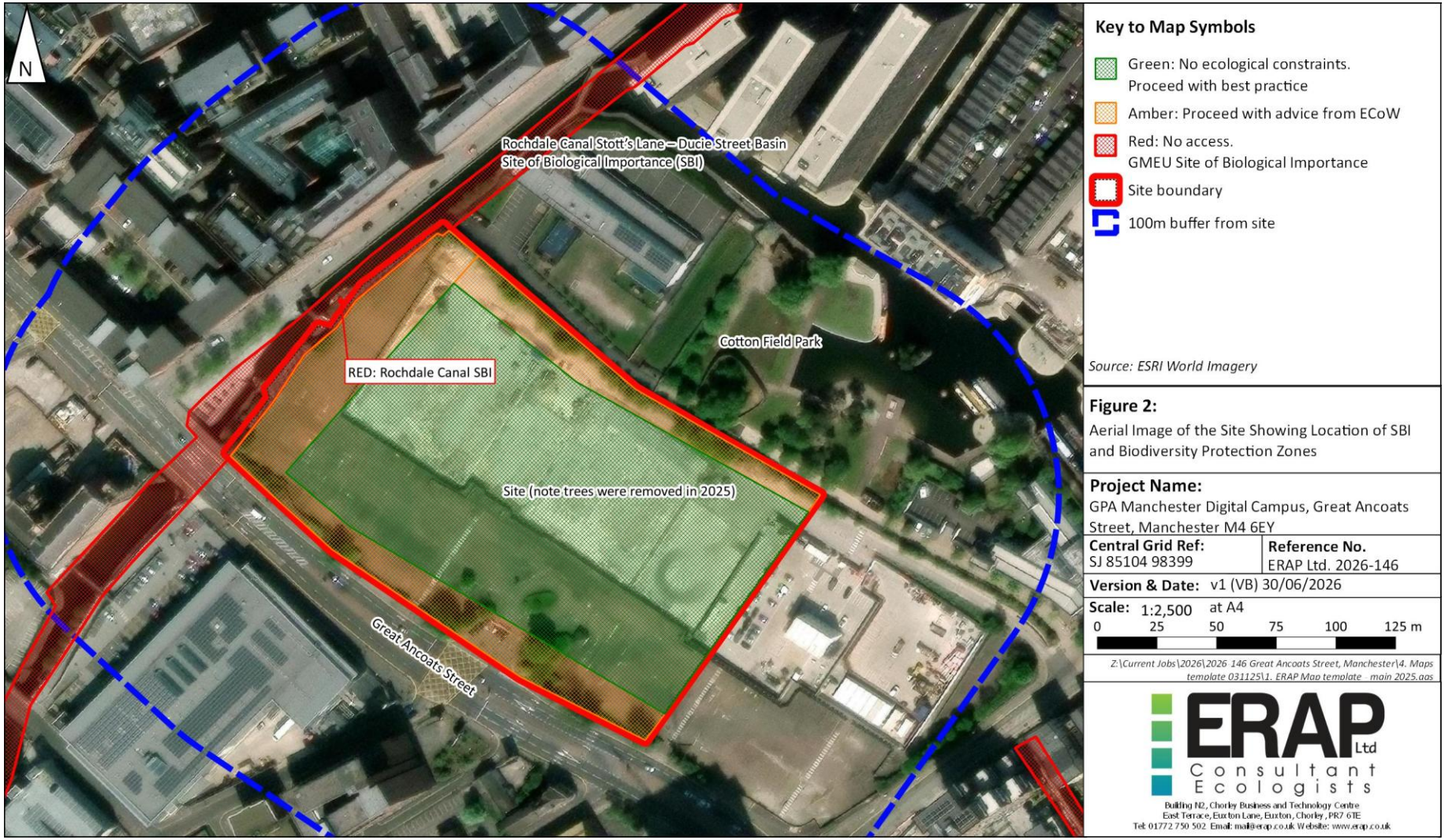


Figure 2: Aerial Image of the Site Showing Location of SBI and Biodiversity Protection Zones



12.0 APPENDIX 2: RELEVANT WILDLIFE LEGISLATION

12.1 Invasive Plant Species

12.1.1 Section 14(1) of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) prohibits the 'release' or 'allowing to escape' into the wild of any animal of a kind which is not ordinarily resident in, and is not a regular visitor to, Great Britain in a wild state, or any species of animal listed in Part 1 of Schedule 9. Section 14(2) prohibits 'planting' or 'causing to grow' in the wild of any plant listed in Part 2 of Schedule 9.

12.2 Breeding Birds

12.2.1 All wild birds are protected under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) while they are breeding. It is advised that any works such as vegetation clearance that will affect habitats suitable for use by nesting birds are scheduled to commence outside the bird nesting season. Commencement of works in the nesting season must be informed by a pre-works nesting bird survey, carried out by a suitably experienced ecologist. The bird breeding season typically extends between March to August inclusive.

12.3 Bat Species

12.3.1 All British bat species and their roosts are legally protected under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) and the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017* (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or capture bats, deliberately disturb bats and damage, destroy or obstruct access to bat roosts. Since the introduction of the *Countryside and Rights of Way* (CROW) Act in 2000 it is also an offence to recklessly harm or disturb bats in their roosting places.

13.0 APPENDIX 3: INVASIVE SPECIES IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Extracted from https://www.nonnativespecies.org/non-native-species/id-sheets/

www.nonnativespecies.org

Produced by Kevin Doidge, Max Wade, Vicky Ames and Kelly McKee of RPS

Cotoneaster

Species Description

Scientific name: *Cotoneaster* species
AKA: Cotoneasterau (Welsh)
Native to: Majority of species originate from east Asia
Habitat: Rough ground

A large group of small trees and prostrate shrubs that can be either evergreen or deciduous. They are becoming increasingly naturalised due to birds which eat the small red berries and spread the seed. There is one native species, wild Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster cambricus*) which occurs as a few individuals in North Wales. This ID sheet includes those introduced species which are relatively common. Where they become established they can become dominant to the exclusion of native species.

Himalayan cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster simonsii*) is an erect deciduous shrub 3-4 metres high with 1.5-2.5 cm long leaves; small-leaved cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster microphyllou*) is an evergreen low-growing shrub with very small leaves (0.5-0.8cm long) and tree cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster frigidus*) is a deciduous or semi-evergreen shrub or small tree with leaves between 6-15 cm long and flowers in dense clusters. All these species have leaves which are shiny and hairless on the upper surface and slightly hairy on the lower surface. Cotoneaster species do not have thorns.

Wall cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*) is the most widely recorded species and is distinctive in having stems that spread horizontally in flattened herring-bone like branches and bears single flowers. Unlike the other cotoneasters mentioned, the underside of leaves of this species are relatively hairless.

Cotoneasters have been in cultivation in GB since 1824 and there are over 100 species now widely cultivated in the UK. Other species could also become naturalised.

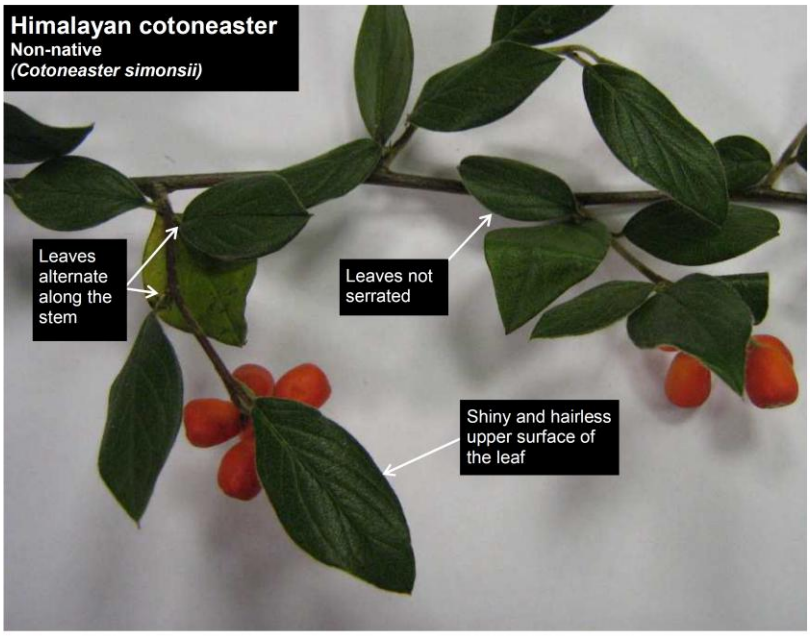
Cotoneaster species are listed under Schedule 9 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 with respect to England and Wales. As such, it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause these species to grow in the wild.

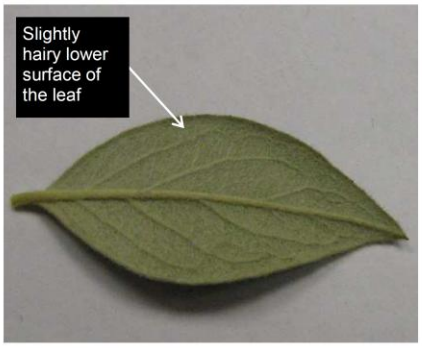
For details of legislation go to www.nonnativespecies.org/legislation.

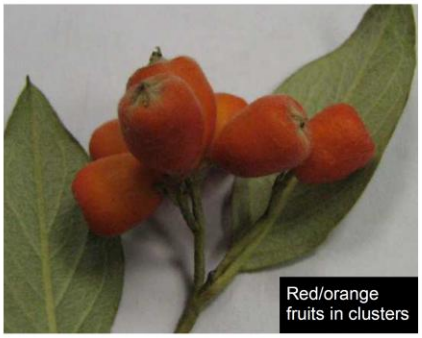


Himalayan cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster simonsii*)

Key ID Features







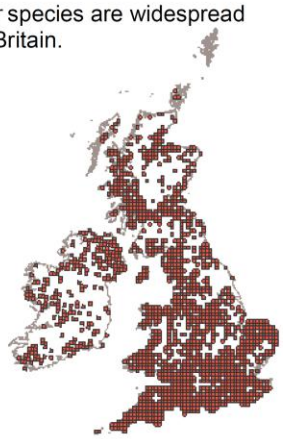
Identification throughout the year

Evergreen species such as the small-leaved cotoneaster can be identified throughout the year by its leaves. Deciduous species can be identified by the presence of the red berries which can remain throughout winter and, in the case of wall cotoneaster, by the distinctive herringbone-shaped branches.



Distribution

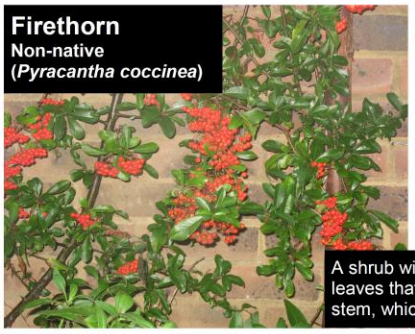
Cotoneaster species are widespread throughout Britain.



Source: NBN Gateway. Check website for current distribution.

Similar Species

Firethorn
Non-native
(*Pyracantha coccinea*)





A shrub with small serrated leaves that alternate along the stem, which has long thorns

Wilson's honeysuckle
Non-native
(*Lonicera nitida*)



Similar to the small leaved cotoneasters, leaves opposite not alternate

Aromatic wintergreens
Non-native
(*Gaultheria* species)



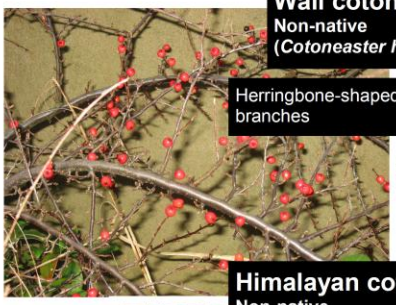
An evergreen shrub with alternate leaves and bell shaped flowers, unlike the five petalled flowers of cotoneasters

Other similar species which may be confused with cotoneaster include:

Escallonia *(Escallonia macrantha)* - an evergreen shrub which has alternate serrated leaves and numerous pinkish-red flowers, no thorns;
Barberry *(*Berberis vulgaris)* - a thorny shrub with small serrated leaves, yellow flowers and red lozenge-shaped berries; and
Sea buckthorn *(Hippophae rhamnoides)* - a thorny densely branched shrub with alternate long thin leaves with bright orange berries on female plants.

Some other species of Cotoneaster

Wall cotoneaster
Non-native
(*Cotoneaster horizontalis*)



Herringbone-shaped branches



Himalayan cotoneaster
Non-native
(*Cotoneaster simonsii*)





Evergreen habit

Small-leaved cotoneaster
Non-native
(*Cotoneaster microphyllus*)

References and further reading:

Johnson, O and More, D (2004) "*Collins Tree Guide*". HarperCollins

Preston, C D, Pearman, D A and Dines, T A (editors) (2002) *"New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora".* Oxford University Press

Stace, C (1999) *"Field Flora of the British Isles".* Cambridge University Press

Photos from: Kevin Doidge, Max Wade, Mike Harris