

Extended Phase One Habitat Survey (Preliminary Ecological Appraisal)

Version One. 13/12/23

Prepared for: Morgan Sindall Construction
Spring Lane, Radcliffe, Manchester, M26 2SZ (Cyclops).

Prepared by Ryan Whitmarsh. Ecologist. BSc (Hons).
Reviewed by Simon Brain Managing Director

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Status	Issue	Name	Date
Draft		Ryan Whitmarsh, Ecologist	13/12/2023
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1. Introduction

1.1 Background to the project

The client is proposing the development of site on and adjacent to Spring Lane, Radcliffe as shown in appendix 1. Land on the premises has been previously surveyed by Amenity Tree, the client has further acknowledged that development may affect 'additional land', that is detailed in this report and known as the "Cyclops junction".

1.2 Site location, context and main habitats

The site is located within Radcliffe, Manchester an urban environment and surrounded by existing residential land uses. The additional land to be surveyed is woodland plantation located southwest of 'Spring Lane School' and adjacent to 'Banana Path', a regularly utilised public walkway. Furthermore, other habitats in the 'additional land' boundary are located south of Spring Lane School, on the far side of the road and along the northern perimeter of 'Metrolink Radcliffe Park and Ride' car park, and 2 areas of vegetation at the eastern and western street corners. Overall habitats identified during the survey are comprised of plantation woodland, introduced shrub and scattered trees.

1.3 Report purpose

To prepare a Preliminary Ecological Assessment or Extended Phase One Habitat Survey for the development site following CIEEM guidelines (*Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, April 2013*). The purpose of the report is to provide information relating to the location, extent and distribution and impact on the conservation of wild plants and animals and natural and semi natural habitats affected by development. This report sets out the methods, results and recommendations arising from the above work.

1.3.1 Surveyor information

Simon Brain has attained a Post Graduate Certificate in Biological recording and has attended residential FSC Field Courses for Land mammal, Songbird Barn Owls (CIEEM) and Advanced Bird Survey Techniques. He holds a NE Class 2 bat license (17334-CLS). He has over ten years experience as a practice ecologist and 30 years experience as an arborist.

Ryan Whitmarsh (Ecologist) has attained a BSc (Hons) and has experience in bat surveying and undertaken multiple Preliminary Ecological Appraisals (PEAs).

2. Desk Study

2.1 Methodology

The desk study collated information on designated statutory and non-statutory wildlife sites within 1km search radii around the proposed development site.

Information on statutory and non-statutory designated sites and legally protected/notable species records were obtained from <http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx> and contained in section 2.2 below.

2.2 Designated sites, species and habitats - Results Overview

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website (<http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx>) has confirmed no statutory designations apply to the site and the site boundaries.

The site is located within SSSI Impact Zone for Nob End SSSI which is located 3700m southwest of site. The site is located 15650m from The Flashes of Wigan and Leigh National Nature Reserve and 1000m from Chapelfield Local Nature Reserve. The development proposal does not appear to conform to

those development types that require the LPA to consult Natural England on the likely risks.

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside website data has confirmed the following habitats and species apply to the site and its immediate locality:

- There are no section 41 habitats listed on the inventory on the site.
- Priority grassland is located in numerous areas within a 1km radius of site.
- The site is located 200m southeast of a lowland fen and 300m south of reedbeds (Priority habitats)
- Priority woodland is located in numerous areas within a 1km radius of site.
- Open mosaic habitat is located 250m east of site.
- The site is located within Network Enhancement Zone 2, 650m from Network Enhancement Zone 1, 500m from a Network Expansion Zone and 650m from a Fragmentation Action Zone.
- There are no important bird areas, seabird considerations, or water and wetland considerations in respect of avian species. There is however, an Upland Breeding Bird Area located 300m north of site for avian species the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS).
- The site is located within the range of 4 species of Arable Assemblage Farmland Birds under the CSS.
- The site is located within the range of 4 species of Grassland Assemblage Farmland Birds under the CSS.
- The site is located within the CSS for avian species (Lapwing only) shown by data collation periods between 2005-2010.
- The closest granted European Protected Species (EPS) license applications is for bats and is 250m northeast of site.

3. Extended Phase One Habitat Survey

3.1 Methodology and survey results

The site was visited on the 12.12.23 and a survey of the site was conducted using the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey 2010. Distinct habitats were identified and any features of nature conservation interest or habitat areas that were too small to map were subject to a more detailed description in a Target Note (T1 etc) and contained in Appendix 1 – Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Mapping and Appendix 2 – Vascular Plant Site List.

3.1.2. Vascular Plants and Habitat

Table 1 : Site habitats

Habitat Code	Dominant species	Less frequent species
A1 Plantation woodland	Acer platanoides Betula Pendula Fraxinus excelsior Prunus avium	Quercus robur Salix caprea
A2 Scrub	Prunus sp(p) Rubus sp(p) Urtica dioica Hedra helix	Ilex aquafolium Salix caprea Cotoneaster sp(p) Pyrocantha sp(p) Hypericum sp(p)
A3 Parkland and scattered tree	N/A	Populus x canescens Fraxinus excelsior Salix caprea
J1.4 Introduced shrub	Hedra helix	Viburnum davidi Euonymus fortunei Veronica sp(p)

Target Notes- 3 areas of Cotoneaster sp(p) (invasive and non-native) precise locations shown in Appendix 1.

3.1.3 Protected and Notable Species (Mammals)

Water Voles

The habitat on the site does not contain running water habitat suitable for the species.

Bat species

Bats are comprehensively protected under UK and European legislation. Bats are largely ubiquitous there is little green infrastructure linking the site to the wider landscape. The site contains sub optimal foraging habitat and is restricted by residential properties. A Bat Roost Assessment (BRA) may be necessary if tree removal is needed. No buildings are affected.

Badgers and Hedgehog

Badgers are protected under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which prohibits deliberate interference with the animal or its sett. The site was checked for signs for field signs of Badger (hair, tracks, prints, dropping or latrines), and no field signs of badger were found. Equally, no field signs were found for hedgehog.

The understory scrub of the plantation woodland adjacent to 'Banana Path' was inaccessible for a detailed inspection in numerous areas (portrayed in Appendix 3). However, vegetation in the area offered suitable shelter and would allow both badgers and hedgehogs to exhibit normal behavioural patterns (foraging, breeding, resting, etc.). After a thorough visual inspection, there was no diagnostic signs of these species in the areas surveyed.

3.1.4 Amphibians

The desktop and field survey exercises indicate there are no ponds located within 500m of the site. Additionally, there is no aquatic breeding habitat associated with the site itself and sub optimal foraging, dispersal, or hibernating habitat for amphibians to be present.

3.1.5 Birds

All birds with only minor exceptions are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), as amended. It is also an offence to disturb birds whilst nesting or displaying breeding behaviour, during the breeding season.

3.1.6 Vascular Plants

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 section 13 1(b) affords some wildflowers protection from uprooting. No other IUCN listed, BAP or other notable plants were identified. Non-native invasive (WCA Schedule 9) vascular plant were found (Cotoneaster) in 3 areas throughout site.

3.1.7 Reptiles

All native reptile species in the UK are protected under law from killing or sale. No habitat exists on the site for these species to be present as the area was enclosed by hardstanding and residential properties.

3.2. Constraints to the Surveys

The timing of the site visit was sub optimal but broad habitats within the framework of a Phase 1 survey were identifiable.

4. Summary and Impact

4.1 Summary – Protected habitats

The surveys have confirmed that the site does not support a habitat protected under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (*NERC*) Act 2006 - Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England. No hedgerows are present.

Summary - Protected species

No evidence of protected species was recorded on site. No other evidence of protected species was found during the site walkover, other than a non-native vascular plant.

Summary – Protected sites

There are no statutory or non-statutory designated sites within the boundaries of the development site or within the site margins.

Impact – General

The development proposal seeks to construct a new school facility and associated infrastructure and there is a small direct loss of habitat listed for the footprint of the development.

Impact - Species

The full extent of protected species that may reside on this site will require confirmation following further surveys as recommended in section 4.2. The following general impacts are considered to apply:

Bat species. Loss of sub optimal commuting and foraging. The existing trees to may contain bat roosts.

Badger / hedgehog. Currently no evidence of badger, both have potential to be present on site though no signs were revealed.

Water vole. No impact considered likely.

Amphibians. No impact considered likely.

Birds. Loss of foraging habitat and disturbance during the breeding season.

Vascular Plants. Loss of vascular plant habitat identified on site is a low-level impact and non-native plants were identified.

Reptiles. Low-level impact due to site being restricted by residential areas thus largely inaccessible to reptiles.

4.2 Recommendations for protected species

4.2.1 Mammals

Bat species

A Bat Roost Assessment of all trees to be removed is required. The Bat Roost Assessment may recommend the need for a summer emergence survey/s on the identified roost features in trees. The site is not likely to hold great significance for commuting and foraging bat species due to its lack of habitat that is attractive to a food mass for bats and its overall size.

Badgers / hedgehog

No evidence of these species was found but a pre start check shall be made to ensure no badger activity has developed since this walkover survey. Measures are required to incorporate hedgehog into the development plans.

4.2.2 Amphibians

No other further surveys are required for these species.

4.2.3 Avian

No further surveys are needed for breeding birds assuming the vegetation is cleared outside the breeding season.

4.2.4 Vascular Plants

No other further surveys are required for vascular plants. A non-native eradication plan is needed.

4.2.5 Reptiles

No further surveys are required for these species.

5. Recommendations, mitigation, enhancement measures

5.1 Recommendations, mitigation, enhancement measures

Mitigation applies to works required to comply with legislation when developing land where protected species reside, or protected habitats are being lost. Enhancement relates to biodiversity improvements often made under the National Planning Policy Framework.

At present there is no evidence of protected species on the site, which could be affected by development.

The extent of protected species requires the surveys referred to in section 4.1 and 4.2 to be completed before mitigation can be proposed to support this development. Upon completion of these surveys mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures can be provided and confirmed.

The provision of a Biodiversity enhancement plan is considered to apply to the site in accordance with the NPPF guidelines and best practice.

Appendix 1 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Maps

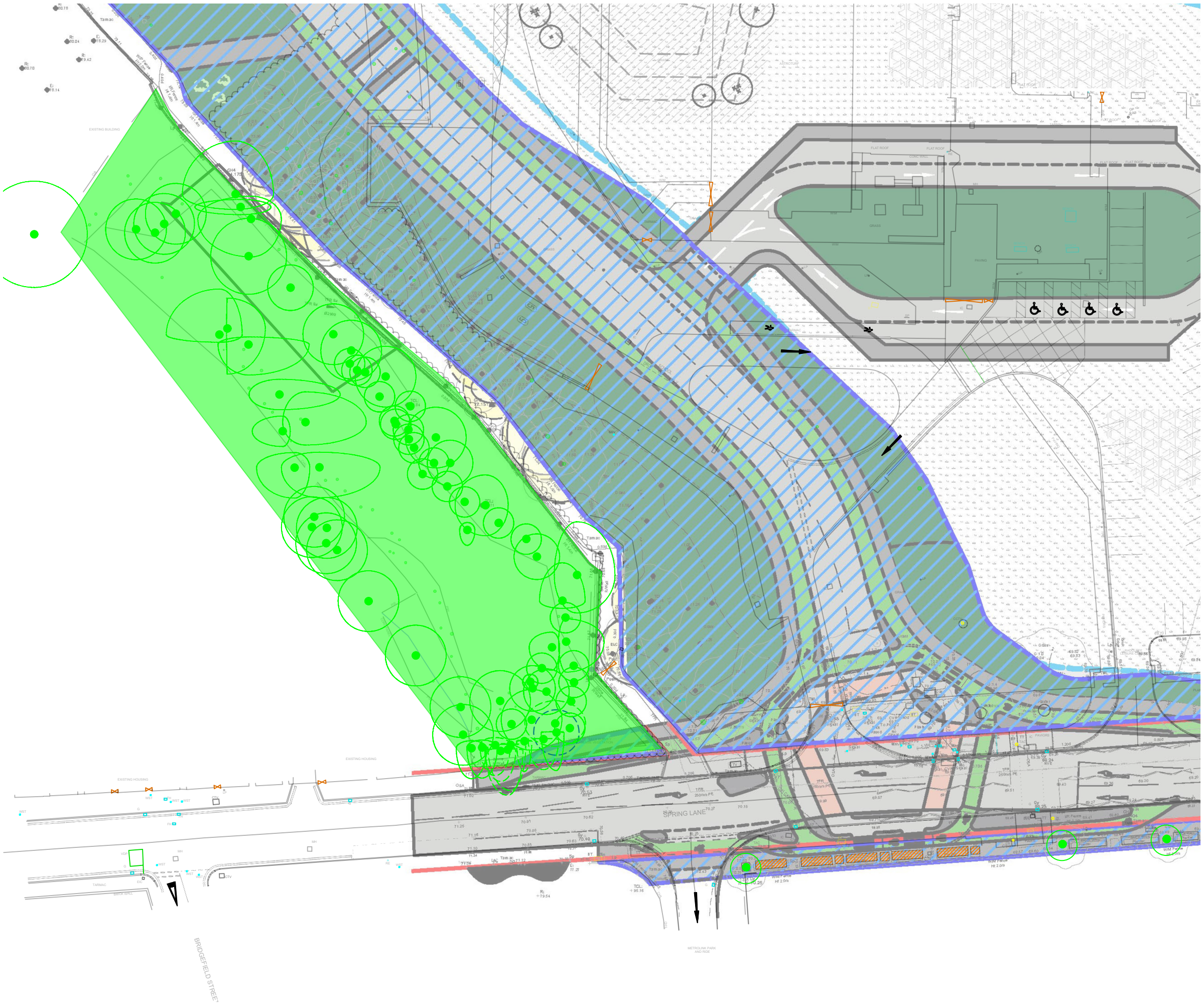
Appendix 2- Site vascular plant list

Acer platanoides
Betula Pendula
Cotoneaster sp(p)
Euonymus fortunei
Fraxinus excelsior
Hedra helix
Hypericum sp(p)
Ilex aquafolium
Populus x canescens
Prunus avium
Prunus sp(p)
Pyrocantha sp(p)
Quercus robur
Rubus sp(p)
Salix caprea
Urtica dioica
Veronica sp(p)
Viburnum davidi

Appendix 3- Site images

Areas of dense bramble/ ivy, preventing detailed inspection for badger/hedgehog indications
(Both have potential to be present).





PHASE ONE HABITAT MAP
KEY

A.1.1.1 Semi Natural woodland

A.3.1 Broadleaf scattered trees

J2 Introduced shrub

Client:
Morgan Sindall

Project:
Cyclops

Detail:
HABITAT PLAN - Overview

Drawn By: SB Date: 13.12.2023 Scale: 1:500@A3

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