

Extended Phase One Habitat Survey (Preliminary Ecological Appraisal)

Version One. 18/12/23

Prepared for: Exemplar Health Care.
Lower Bank St, Bury, BL9 0HD.

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1.	Introduction	3
1.1	Background to the Project	3
1.2	Site Location and Context	3
1.3	Purpose of this Report	3
1.3.1	Surveyor Information	3
2.	Desk Study	4-5
2.1	Methodology	4
2.2	Designated sites, species and habitats - Results Overview	4-5
3.	Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey	6-9
3.1	Methodology and Survey results	6
3.1.2	Vascular plants and Habitat	6
3.1.3	Protected and Notable Species Mammals	7-8
3.1.4	Protected and Notable Species Amphibians	8
3.1.5	Protected and Notable Species Avian	8
3.1.6	Protected and Notable Species Vascular Plants	8
3.1.7	Protected and Notable Species Reptiles	9
3.2.	Constraints to the Surveys	9
4.	Summary and Impact. Recommendations for Further Work	9-11
4.1.	Summary and Impact. Protected Sites, habitat and species	9-10
4.2.	Recommendations for protected species. Further work	10-11
5.	Recommendations, mitigation, enhancement measures	12
5.1	Recommendations, mitigation, enhancement measures	12

Appendix

- Appendix 1 Site Vascular plant list
Appendix 2 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Map

Status	Issue	Name	Date
Draft		Ryan Whitmarsh, Graduate Ecologist	18/12/2023
V1	V1	Simon Brain	18/12/2023

1. Introduction

1.1 Background to the project

The client is proposing the re development of site on Lower Bank St, Bury, the site boundaries are as shown in appendix 2 (Habitat plan).

1.2 Site location, context and main habitats

The site is located within Bury an urban environment. The area is mixed use. There is residential and offices to the north and west, with a leisure centre to the east. To the South is Jubilee Way. The main area of site is vacant previously developed land. Beyond the boundary, at the south of site, scattered trees are present. Identified habitats in both areas comprise of plantation woodland and ephemeral/short perennial has been identified on-site, indicated by “short patchy plant associations typical of derelict urban sites” (JNCC, 2010).

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 Rochdale Canal SSSI which is located 8100m east of site. The site is located approximately 18km from a Wigan Flashes National Nature Reserve and 1900m from Chesham Woods 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 woodland is located in numerous areas within a 1km radius of site.

- The site is located 850m southwest of Network Enhancement Zone 2 and 200m from Network Expansion Zone.
- There are no important bird areas, seabird considerations, or water and wetland considerations in respect of avian species.
- The site is in the range of 4 species of Arable Assemblage Farmland Birds under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS).
- The site is located within the CSS for avian species (Lapwing and Curlew) shown by data collation periods between 2005-2010.
- The closest granted European Protected Species (EPS) license applications is for bats 550m southwest of site.

3. Extended Phase One Habitat Survey

3.1 Methodology and survey results

The site was visited on the 05.12.23 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
A.1.2 Plantation woodland	Betula pendula Contoneaster frigidus Prunus sp(p)	Fagus sylvatica Fraxinus excelsior Quercus robur Plantus hispánica Populus canescens Salix sp(p)
J1.3 Ephemeral perennial	Lolium perrene Buddleja sp(p) Salix cinerea	Cirsium arvense Plantago major Trifolium repens Taraxcum officinale

Target Notes - Non-native invasive species (WCA Schedule 9)- Cotoneaster sp(p) located in 2 areas, precise location highlighted 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. The site is however, approximately 300m from a watercourse “River Irwell” at this distance, there is no potential damage to water vole habitat.

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 and low value habitat. A Bat Roost Assessment (BRA) will 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.

3.1.4 Amphibians

The desktop and field survey exercises indicate there is one pond located 350m from site. The site, however, is land locked due to residential land uses and offers no accessibility for amphibians to be currently onsite. Furthermore, there have been no positive ponds located within 500m of the site.

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. A non-native invasive (WCA Schedule 9) vascular plants were found (Cotoneaster).

3.1.7 Reptiles

All native reptile species in the UK are protected under law from killing or sale. No habitat exists in the locality 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 healthcare facility and associated infrastructure and there is a direct loss of ephemeral 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, hedgehog has 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. (Possible nesting in trees and in hedge).

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 has been compiled which confirms no further surveys are needed.

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.

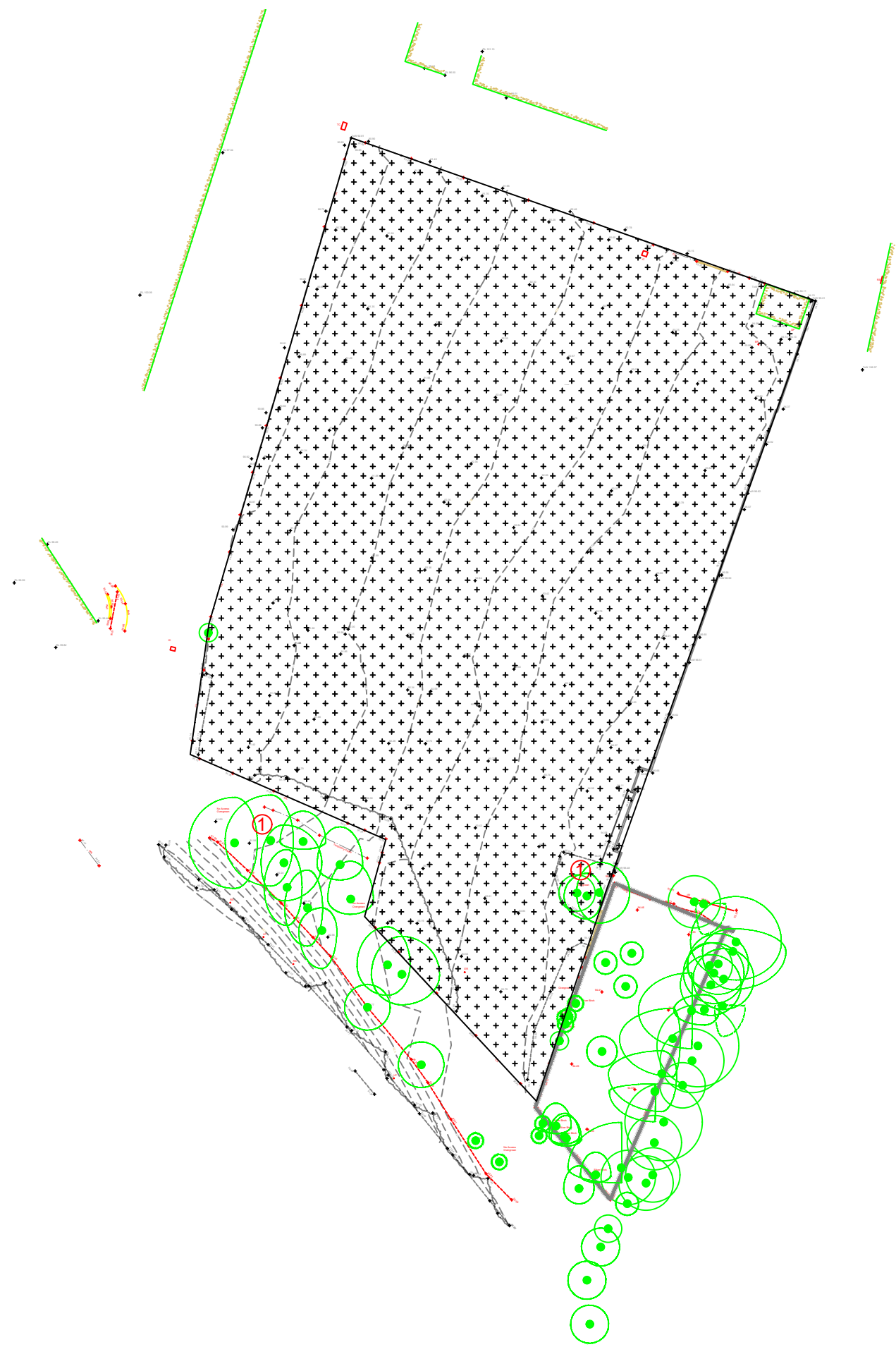
The extent of protected species requires the surveys referred to in section 4.1 and 4.2 to be completed before mitigation can be proposed to support this development. Upon completion of these surveys mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures can be provided and confirmed.

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 Site vascular plant list

Betula pendula
Buddleja sp(p)
Cirsium arvense
Contoneaster frigidus
Cotoneaster sp(p)
Fagus sylvatica
Fraxinus excelsior
Geranium sp(p)
Hedra hélix
Ilex aquifolium
Lolium perrene
Plantago major
Plantus hispánica
Populus canescens
Prunus laurocersus
Prunus sp(p)
Quercus robur
Rubus sp(p)
Salix cinérea
Salix sp(p)
Symphoricarpos sp(p)
Taraxcum officinale
Trifolium repens
Urtica dioica

Appendix 2 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Map



PHASE ONE HABITAT MAP

KEY

- A.1.2 Plantation woodland
- J1.3 Ephemeral perennial

① Target Notes. Refer to Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Client:
Exemplar

Project:
Bury

Detail:
HABITAT PLAN - Overview

Drawn By: SB Date: 18.01.2024 Scale: 1:500@A3

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