

Ascerta

Landscape, Arboricultural & Ecological Solutions
for the Built Environment

Ecological Impact Assessment

Former Mondi Site
(Site 1), Holcombe Mill,
Bridge Street,
Ramsbottom, BL0 0BS

Ref: P.1202.19

September 2020

(see revision dates below)

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P.1202.19

Ecological Impact Assessment

Of

Former Mondi Site (Site 1), Holcombe Mill, Bridge Street, Ramsbottom, BL0 0BS

For

Eccleston Homes Ltd

4 September 2020

Field Work by	Tosha Allen BSc (Hons) ACIEEM and Lizzie Atkinson
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An Ecological Impact Assessment and Water Framework Directive Assessment has been carried out at Former Mondi Site (Site 1), Holcombe Mill, Bridge Street, Ramsbottom, BL0 0BS on 17th August 2020 by Tosha Allen BSc (Hons) ACIEEM and Lizzie Atkinson. The assessment comprised a desk study as well as a site walkover survey in order to map characteristics of the River Irwell. The assessment provides baseline data as to current site conditions and where appropriate allows recommendations to be made in respect of further potential work in order to satisfy current wildlife legislation.

Assessed against the '*Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland*' 2nd edition (2018), the River Irwell has an ecological value of **national** level.

The River Irwell is a Water Framework Directive protected area and has an overall waterbody status of **moderate**.

The River Irwell is likely to be impacted by pollution such as dust and debris during the build and additional debris post development due to additional public presence. A reduced volume of wastewater will be discharged into the River Irwell post development. To avoid impact on the River Irwell, recommendations include:

- reasonable avoidance measures are implemented to avoid dust and debris entering the watercourse during the development;
- a protected fence erected along the western bank to reduce debris entering the watercourse; and
- SuDs features incorporated into the design and suitable planting is implemented to aid in additional water quality treatment prior to discharging into the watercourse.

It is considered that there would be very limited impact on the River Irwell as a result of the proposals, provided the recommendations detailed within section 5.0 above are followed.

1.0 Introduction

Ascerta has been instructed by Eccleston Homes Ltd to carry out an Ecological Impact Assessment of land at Former Mondi Site (Site 1), Holcombe Mill, Bridge Street, Ramsbottom, BL0 0BS (hereafter referred to as the 'site'). The site OS grid reference is SD 793 616. A section of the River Irwell was assessed for the potential impacts of the proposed development within the site to inform the Water Framework Directive Assessment and the Ecological Impact Assessment.

The site was visited on 1st July 2019 by Tosha Allen BSc (Hons) ACIEEM and Liz Kenyon BSc (Hons) Qual CIEEM, when a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, which includes an assessment of the potential for protected species to be using the site or surroundings, was carried out in accordance with the *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: a Technique for Environmental Audit (JNCC, 2010)*. The Preliminary ecological appraisal is detailed within the *P.1202.19 Ascerta Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Former Mondi Site August 2019*.

Following the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, the site has been visited by Tosha Allen, Neil Everett BSc (Hons) Grad CIEEM and John Harrison Bryant (Natural England level 2 bat licence 2015-10251-CLS-CLS) where protected species and biodiversity surveys have been undertaken in 2019 and 2020. The surveys are detailed within the following reports and should be read in conjunction with this report:

- *P.1202.19 Ascerta Bat Nocturnal Surveys, Former Mondi Site May 2020;*
- *P.1202.19 Ascerta Report on Otters Water Vole and White-clawed Crayfish former Mondi Site (Site 1) January 2020;*
- *P.1202.19 Ascerta Invasive Species Method Statement, Former Mondi Site (site1) October 2019;* and
- *P.1202.19 Ascerta Tree Climb inspection Letter Report Former Mondi Site (Site 1) October 2019.*

The site was visited on 17th August 2020 by Tosha Allen and Lizzie Atkinson when a water framework directive scoping assessment of the river was undertaken. The habitats and features within the waterbody and along the banks of the river were mapped during the survey to inform the water framework directive assessment. The report was prepared following methods detailed in the CIEEM 'Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland' (2018) and 'Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing' (2017). This report presents the results of the survey including potential impacts the proposed development is likely to have on the River Irwell. The report includes recommendations for further actions where applicable in order to satisfy current wildlife legislation and to achieve our client's objectives.

Our clients aim is to ascertain the potential ecological impacts of the proposed development (The erection of 72 dwellings including the retention and conversion of 2 existing buildings, the retention of a chimney and the demolition of a derelict building, together with engineering operations to create a development platform and associated parking, landscaping, drainage, the layout of internal estate roads and footways and other associated works.) on the River Irwell.

This report aims where possible to provide sufficient information for the local planning authority to fully assess the potential ecological impacts of the proposed development on the River Irwell adjacent to the site.

The results of the EclA have been used to establish the need for any mitigation or compensation measures required as part of the proposed development.

3.0 Survey Methods

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the site and Ecological Impact Assessment of the River Irwell involved the collection and review of data from a desk study and field survey along with assessment of the value of the habitats following CIEEM guidelines.

3.1 Desk Study

A review of the designated sites and habitats within 2km of the site has been undertaken in July 2019 using the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) and the Natural England websites.

A review of UK and Local priority species and habitats known to occur within 2km of the site has been undertaken in July 2019; using the Joint Nature Conservation Committee website, Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) and local records from Greater Manchester Ecology Unit. The full results from the desk study are detailed within the *P.1202.19 Ascerta Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Former Mondi Site August 2019* report.

3.2 Field Survey

A walkover survey of the site was conducted on 17th August 2020 by Liz Kenyon Qual CIEEM and Tosha Allen ACIEEM. when the habitat types and features of ecological interest were identified and mapped in compliance with the Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: A Technique for Environmental Audit (*JNCC, 2010*). The survey methods involve the recording and mapping of all habitat types and ecological features present on site, including the identification of the main species present and examination of the potential for any protected species. Habitats were mapped and target notes made for any interesting features.

The surveys particularly focused on the following species and habitat features:

- Mammals (badgers, bats, otter, and water vole);
- Birds (including species potentially associated with 'European Sites');
- Amphibians and reptiles;
- Invertebrates (including white-clawed crayfish);
- Hedgerows and boundaries;
- Invasive plant species; and
- Plant communities and trees.

Weather conditions during the survey were mild (15°C), dry and cloudy ($\frac{7}{8}$ cloud cover) with a light air (F1 on the Beaufort Scale), therefore appropriate for this type of survey.

The field survey is detailed within the *P.1202.19 Ascerta Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Former Mondi Site August 2019* report.

3.3 Water Framework Directive Assessment

A Water Framework Directive Assessment was undertaken on 17th August 2020 by Tosha Allen and Lizzie Atkinson on the River Irwell located directly adjacent to the site. The assessment included a walkover survey to map habitat and features along the section of the watercourse.

Weather conditions during the survey were 18°C, dry and cloudy ($\frac{8}{8}$ cloud cover) with a light air (F1 on the Beaufort Scale), therefore appropriate for this type of survey

3.4 Evaluation

Habitats and species on the site were evaluated following the '*Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland*' 2018. A geographical frame of reference is assigned to each habitat and species, with International Value being most important, then National, Regional, County, District, Local and lastly, within the immediate Zone of Influence (Zoi) of the proposals only.

Value judgements are based on characteristics that can be used to identify ecological resources or features likely to be important in terms of biodiversity. These include site designations such as SSSIs. For undesignated features, the size, conservation status (locally, nationally or internationally), and the quality of the ecological resource are considered. Ecological resource quality can refer to habitats (for instance if they are particularly diverse, or a good example of a specific habitat type), other features (such as wildlife corridors or mosaics of habitats) or species populations or assemblages.

Although we cannot assess the survey findings fully in relation to the draft Environment Bill and Biodiversity Metric, the recommendations detailed within this report aim to meet requirements of the Environment Bill and Biodiversity Metric as far as possible at this stage.

3.5 Limitations

The site visit was undertaken in July, the optimal time of year for phase 1 habitat surveys, and sufficient vegetation was present to enable habitat identification. The surveyors kept at a 60m distance from the chimney on the site due to health and safety, therefore, the surveyors could not fully assess the buildings for bat roost potential. The buildings were observed from the 60m boundary using binoculars to aid inspection. For the purpose of this report the previous building inspection undertaken in 2011 and reported within the Ecology Services UK Limited, 2011, Report of bat survey, Former Trinity Paper Mill, Ramsbottom report if referred to. The limitations have been taken into account within the conclusions of the report.

The Water Framework Directive was undertaken in suitable weather conditions following two nights of heavy rain fall therefore some features that may have been present in the section of the River Irwell may not have been visible at the time of the survey due to fast water flow and high water levels. The limitations have been taken into account within the conclusions of the report.

4.0 Survey Results

4.1 Water Framework Directive Assessment

River description

The section of the River Irwell surveyed started at the weir north of the site and extended to approximately 50m south of the site (end located adjacent to the cricket club). The majority of the eastern bank was reinforced with concrete slabs within the water body and smaller sections of earth bank were present towards the south. The western bank was made up of earth. The bank sides were heavily vegetated with scrub, scattered trees and broadleaved woodland. Small sections of grassland and tall ruderal were located along the lower banks of the western side. The water flow was fast towards the north and calm towards the south of the section surveyed.

The water was clear and the riverbed was visible during the survey. The riverbed in this location is made up of silt, cobbles and boulders. An unvegetated bar made up of cobbles is present along the western bank. Broken standing waves are present within the fast-flowing areas. Free falling water is present at the weir location located north of the survey section. With ripples, riffles and smooth features identified along the section of the River Irwell. No floating or emergent vegetation is present however, the cobbles and boulders are coated in filamentous algae.

Invasive non-native species line the eastern and western banks of the River Irwell. The species present are Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed. Both species are present along the whole section of the River Irwell surveyed in a dense cover along the banks.

Water Framework Directive Assessment Scoping

The desk-based water framework directive assessment scoping was undertaken following the walkover survey of the River Irwell. The section of the River Irwell is located within the Rossendale STW to Roch section, water body ID is GB112069064620. The hydro morphology status of this section of the river is heavily modified. Higher and lower sensitivity habitats were not present. The ecological status of the section of the River is moderate and the chemical status is good. The River Irwell is a Water Framework Directive Protected Area (UKENR194).

The overall water body status in 2015 was moderate. Pollution from wastewater discharging into the River Irwell is preventing the waters reaching an overall 'good' status.

The full water framework directive assessment scoping proforma is displayed within Appendix 2.

5.0 Evaluation and Recommendations

The proposed development of 72 residential dwellings is likely to have limited impact on the River Irwell. The River Irwell is evaluated as being of **national importance**. The impacts are likely to be pollution of the water due to dust and debris during the build, waste water discharge into the watercourse, increased litter by the public during and after the development and the spread of non-native invasive species (Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam) which line the banks of the section of the river directly adjacent to the site.

Invasive species located along the watercourse may be spread into the surrounding landscape via disturbance during the development. It is recommended that fencing is erected along the eastern boundary adjacent to the River Irwell to avoid the spread of these species. No works are proposed along the banks of the watercourse and therefore if fencing is erected this will avoid any spread into the wild due to the proposed development.

A POS area is proposed to be located along the eastern site boundary adjacent to the river. No dwellings will be constructed adjacent to the river within this planning application. The POS area is designated as an Environment Agency flood Zone as displayed on *planning layout drawing number 102*.

Dust and debris are likely to pollute the water course during the building works within the site. It is recommended that the site is dampened regularly to avoid dust entering the watercourse. It is recommended that a protective barrier/fencing is erected along the western bank of the watercourse to avoid any debris entering the watercourse during the build and post development.

Added dust and debris entering the watercourse is likely to have a negative impact on the water clarity and invertebrate and fish life that is present.

At present (prior to development) the site is served by a formal surface water drainage system with the outfall expected to flow into the River Irwell south east of the site.

The proposed discharge of surface water is within the existing mill race which discharges into the River Irwell at OS grid reference SD 79310 16461 located to the south of the site.

As detailed within the *Weetwood (2020) Drainage Assessment*, there will be a reduction in the volume of surface water being discharged from the development site due to the reduction of impermeable surfaces with a total of 1.302ha post development.

It is proposed to restrict the maximum rate at which surface water is discharged from the developed site to 142.5 l/s, a 30% reduction in the existing peak runoff rate from impermeable surfaces during the 1:1 annual probability storm event.

The proposals reduce the maximum rate at which surface water leaves the site by a minimum of 52.5% in the 1:1 annual probability event and a maximum of 77.7% in the 1:100 annual probability event, even when considering a 40% increase in rainfall intensity in order to allow for climate change.

Attenuation storage will be provided within the proposed pipe network and has been designed to manage 1:100 annual probability rainfall event including 40% increase in rainfall intensity to allow for climate change.

Water quality treatment will be provided by discharging surface water to the existing mill race. The mill race will act as a swale as it no longer receives flow from the River Irwell to the north of the site.

Flows resulting from rainfall in excess of the 1:100 annual probability rainfall plus climate change event will be managed in exceedance routes. Flood flows will be directed towards carriageways, with the site being profiled to ensure that flood flows are directed away from built development.

There will be a reduction in wastewater entering the River Irwell post development, therefore there will be a positive impact on the watercourse post development. Other features such as SuDs features can be incorporated into the design of the proposed development site to provide additional water quality treatment. It is also recommended that suitable planting is incorporated into the SuDs features and the mill race such as reed beds to add additional filtration of the wastewater prior to discharging into the River Irwell.

6.0 Conclusions

A Water Framework Directive Assessment was undertaken on the River Irwell located directly adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site.

No dwelling will be erected within 8m of the top of the River Irwell western bank directly adjacent to the site. A buffer zone provided by landscaping will be located along the bank of the River Irwell and is designated as the Environment Agency flood zone, this area of land will be used as Public Open Space for the site.

There is likely to be limited impact on the River Irwell by pollution such as dust and debris during the build and additional debris post development due to additional public presence. It is recommended that reasonable avoidance measures are implemented to avoid dust and debris entering the watercourse during the development and a protected fence erected along the western bank to reduce debris entering the watercourse.

A reduced volume of waste water will be discharged in to the River Irwell post development and it is recommended that SuDs features and suitable planting is implemented to aid in additional water quality treatment prior to discharging into the watercourse to avoid any impacts on the River Irwell.

Invasive species are present along the western bank of the River Irwell. It is recommended that fencing is erected along the eastern site boundary to avoid the spread of these species into the wider landscape.

It is considered that there would be very limited impact on the River Irwell as a result of the proposals, provided the recommendations detailed within section 5.0 above are followed.

7.0 References

CIEEM (2017) *Guidelines on Ecological Report Writing*. 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.

Department for Communities and Local Government (2019), *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)*

Environment Agency, Catchment Data Explorer [Online]

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) (2010) *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey – a Technique for Environmental Audit*. JNCC Publications, Peterborough;

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). *The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP)* [online] Available at: www.jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5155

Maddock, A., (ed) (2011) *UK Biodiversity Action Plan; Priority Habitat Descriptions*, JNCC.

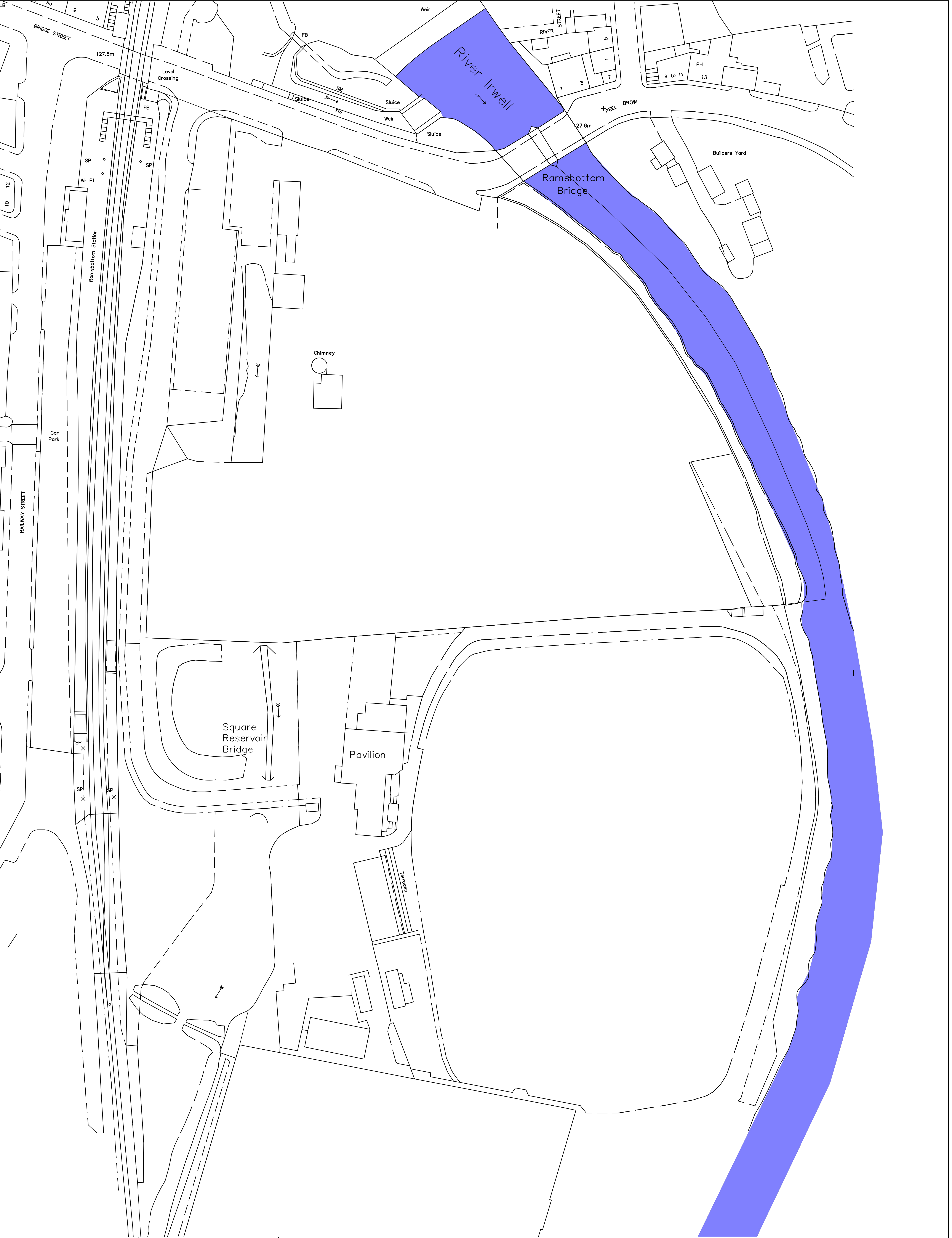
Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) [online]

Rose, F. (2006). *Collins The Wild Flower Key, how to identify wild flowers trees and shrubs in Britain and Ireland*. Penguin Group: London.

Stace, C., (2010). *New Flora of the British Isles*. 3rd Edition. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.

Weetwood (2020) *Holcombe Mill, Ramsbottom, Drainage Assessment*

Appendix 1



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CLIENT: Eccleston Homes Ltd			
PROJECT: Former Mondri Site, (Site 1) Holcombe Mill, Bridge Street, Ramsbottom			
DRAWING TITLE: Water Framework Directive Assessment			
SCALE: 1:500 @A1	DRAWN BY: CP	DRAWING No: P.1202.19.12	REV: -
DATE: 25/08/2020	CHKD BY: TA		

KEY

Section of watercourse surveyed

ALL COORDINATES RELATED TO LOCAL GRID LOCATED TO OS NG BY BEST FIT TO DETAIL, EXTRACTED FROM OS DIGITAL DATA.
DO NOT SCALE
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Appendix 2

Water Framework Directive Assessment: Scoping Template for Activities in Estuarine and Coastal Waters

Use this template to record the findings of the scoping stage of your Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment for an activity in an estuary or coastal water.

If your activity will:

- take place in or affect more than one water body, complete a template for each water body
- include several different activities or stages as part of a larger project, complete a template for each activity as part of your overall WFD assessment

The [WFD assessment guidance for estuarine and coastal waters](#) will help you complete the table.

Your activity	Description, notes or more information
Applicant name	Eccleston Homes Ltd
Application reference number (where applicable)	02214E
Name of activity	Former Mondi Site (Site 1), Holcombe Mill, Bridge Street, Ramsbottom, Bury, BL0 0BS
Brief description of activity	Construction of 72 residential dwellings and associated infrastructure and POS
Location of activity (central point XY coordinates or national grid reference)	SD 79389 16749
Footprint of activity (ha)	2.86
Timings of activity (including start and finish dates)	February 2021-August 2023
Extent of activity (for example size, scale frequency, expected volumes of output or discharge)	The proposed discharge of surface water is within the existing mill race which ultimately discharges into the River Irwell at grid reference SD 79310 16461 downstream. There will be a reduction in the volume of surface water being discharged from the development site due to the reduction of impermeable surfaces with a total of 1.302ha post development.

	It is proposed to restrict the maximum rate at which surface water is discharged from the developed site to 142.5 l/s, a 30% reduction in the existing peak runoff rate from impermeable surfaces during the 1:1 annual probability storm event. The proposals reduce the maximum rate at which surface water leaves the site by a minimum of 52.5% in the 1:1 annual probability event and a maximum of 77.7% in the 1:100 annual probability event, even when considering a 40% increase in rainfall intensity in order to allow for climate change. Attenuation storage will be provided within the proposed pipe network and has been designed to manage 1:100 annual probability rainfall event including 40% increase in rainfall intensity to allow for climate change. Water quality treatment will be provided by discharging surface water to the existing mill race. The mill race will act as a swale as it no longer receives flow from the River Irwell to the north of the site. Additional SuDs features may be incorporated at the detailed design stage to provide additional water quality treatment. Flows resulting from rainfall in excess of the 1:100 annual probability rainfall plus climate change event will be managed in exceedance routes. Flood flows will be directed towards carriageways, with the site being profiled to ensure that flood flows are directed away from built development.
Use or release of chemicals (state which ones)	None

Water body ¹	Description, notes or more information
WFD water body name	<i>Irwell (Rossendale STW to Roch)</i>
Water body ID	<i>GB112069064620</i>
River basin district name	<i>North West</i>
Water body type (estuarine or coastal)	<i>River</i>
Water body total area (ha)	<i>4289.22</i>
Overall water body status (2015)	<i>Moderate</i>
Ecological status	<i>Moderate</i>
Chemical status	<i>Good</i>
Target water body status and deadline	<i>Unknown</i>
Hydromorphology status of water body	<i>Heavily Modified</i>
Heavily modified water body and for what use	<i>Unknown</i>
Higher sensitivity habitats present	<i>No</i>
Lower sensitivity habitats present	<i>No</i>
Phytoplankton status	<i>Moderate (phytobenthos)</i>
History of harmful algae	<i>Unknown</i>
WFD protected areas within 2km	<i>Water body-GB112069064620, Protected area-UKENR194</i>

¹ Water body information can be found in the Environment Agency's catchment data explorer and the water body summary table. Magic maps provide additional information on habitats and protected areas. Links to these information sources can be found in the WFD assessment guidance for estuarine and coastal waters.

Specific risk information

Consider the potential risks of your activity to each of these receptors: hydromorphology, biology (habitats and fish), water quality and protected areas. Also consider invasive non-native species (INNS).

Section 1: Hydromorphology

Consider if hydromorphology is at risk from your activity.

Use the water body summary table to find out the hydromorphology status of the water body, if it is classed as heavily modified and for what use.

Consider if your activity:	Yes	No	Hydromorphology risk issue(s)
Could impact on the hydromorphology (for example morphology or tidal patterns) of a water body at high status	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	<i>No impacts on Hydromorphology expected. POS area located adjacent to the river Irwell is designated as the Environment Agency Flood Zone</i>
Could significantly impact the hydromorphology of any water body	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No impacts on Hydromorphology expected.
Is in a water body that is heavily modified for the same use as your activity	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	<i>No</i>

Record the findings for hydromorphology and go to section 2: biology.

Section 2: Biology

Habitats

Consider if habitats are at risk from your activity.

Use the water body summary table and Magic maps, or other sources of information if available, to find the location and size of these habitats.

Higher sensitivity habitats ²	Lower sensitivity habitats ³
chalk reef	cobbles, gravel and shingle
clam, cockle and oyster beds	intertidal soft sediments like sand and mud
intertidal seagrass	rocky shore
maerl	subtidal boulder fields
mussel beds, including blue and horse mussel	subtidal rocky reef
polychaete reef	subtidal soft sediments like sand and mud
saltmarsh	
subtidal kelp beds	
subtidal seagrass	

² Higher sensitivity habitats have a low resistance to, and recovery rate, from human pressures.

³ Lower sensitivity habitats have a medium to high resistance to, and recovery rate from, human pressures.

Consider if the footprint ⁴ of your activity is:	Yes	No	Biology habitats risk issue(s)
0.5km ² or larger	Yes to one or more – requires impact assessment	No to all – impact assessment not required	No
1% or more of the water body's area			No
Within 500m of any higher sensitivity habitat			No
1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat			No

⁴ Note that a footprint may also be a temperature or sediment plume. For dredging activity, a footprint is 1.5 times the dredge area.

Fish

Consider if fish are at risk from your activity, but only if your activity is in an estuary or could affect fish in or entering an estuary.

Consider if your activity:	Yes	No	Biology fish risk issue(s)
Is in an estuary and could affect fish in the estuary, outside the estuary but could delay or prevent fish entering it or could affect fish migrating through the estuary	Continue with questions	Go to next section	No
Could impact on normal fish behaviour like movement, migration or spawning (for example creating a physical barrier, noise, chemical change or a change in depth or flow)	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No
Could cause entrainment or impingement of fish	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No

Record the findings for biology habitats and fish and go to section 3: water quality.

Section 3: Water quality

Consider if water quality is at risk from your activity.

Use the water body summary table to find information on phytoplankton status and harmful algae.

Consider if your activity:	Yes	No	Water quality risk issue(s)
Could affect water clarity, temperature, salinity, oxygen levels, nutrients or microbial patterns continuously for longer than a spring neap tidal cycle (about 14 days)	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	Water clarity could be affected by the activities proposed due to dust and debris from the development site.
Is in a water body with a phytoplankton status of moderate, poor or bad	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No- no details of phytoplankton status provided on the catchment data explorer however, Moderate status for phytobenthos provided.
Is in a water body with a history of harmful algae	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No- no details of harmful algae provided on the catchment data explorer

Consider if water quality is at risk from your activity through the use, release or disturbance of chemicals.

If your activity uses or releases chemicals (for example through sediment disturbance or building works) consider if:	Yes	No	Water quality risk issue(s)
The chemicals are on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No releases of chemicals expected during activity
It disturbs sediment with contaminants above Cefas Action Level 1	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No releases of chemicals expected during activity

If your activity has a mixing zone (like a discharge pipeline or outfall) consider if:	Yes	No	Water quality risk issue(s)
The chemicals released are on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list	Requires impact assessment ⁵	Impact assessment not required	No

⁵ Carry out your impact assessment using the Environment Agency's surface water pollution risk assessment guidance, part of Environmental Permitting Regulations guidance.

Record the findings for water quality go on to section 4: WFD protected areas.

Section 4: WFD protected areas

Consider if WFD protected areas are at risk from your activity. These include:

- special areas of conservation (SAC)
- special protection areas (SPA)
- shellfish waters
- bathing waters
- nutrient sensitive areas

Use Magic maps to find information on the location of protected areas in your water body (and adjacent water bodies) within 2km of your activity.

Consider if your activity is:	Yes	No	Protected areas risk issue(s)
Within 2km of any WFD protected area ⁶	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	Yes, The River Irwell is a protected area (UKENR194)

⁶ Note that a regulator can extend the 2km boundary if your activity has an especially high environmental risk.

Record the findings for WFD protected areas and go to section 5: invasive non-native species.

Section 5: Invasive non-native species (INNS)

Consider if there is a risk your activity could introduce or spread INNS.

Risks of introducing or spreading INNS include:

- materials or equipment that have come from, had use in or travelled through other water bodies
- activities that help spread existing INNS, either within the immediate water body or other water bodies

Consider if your activity could:	Yes	No	INNS risk issue(s)
Introduce or spread INNS	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam line the banks of the River Irwell adjacent to the site boundary. Site activities may have an impact on the spread of these invasive species.

Record the findings for INNS and go to the summary section.

Summary

Summarise the results of scoping here.

Receptor	Potential risk to receptor?	Note the risk issue(s) for impact assessment
Hydromorphology	No	
Biology: habitats	No	
Biology: fish	No	
Water quality	Yes	Water clarity could be affected by the activities proposed due to dust and debris from the development site.

Protected areas	Yes	The River Irwell is a protected area and as waste water discharge will end up in the river Irwell to the south of the site at grid reference SD 79310 16461 it will likely have an impact on the protected area if waste water is not treated.
Invasive non-native species	Yes	Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam line the banks of the River Irwell adjacent to the site boundary. Site activities may have an impact on the spread of these invasive species.

If you haven't identified any receptors at risk during scoping, you don't need to continue to the impact assessment stage and your WFD assessment is complete.

If you've identified one or more receptors at risk during scoping, you should continue to the impact assessment stage.

Include your scoping results in the WFD assessment document you send to your activity's regulator as part of your application for permission to carry out the activity.