



BIODIVERSE
CONSULTING

VICTORIA STREET

**PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL
REPORT**

FOR: OSPREY CHARGING LTD

REF: BIOC25-328 | V1.0



CLIENT	PROJECT	
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DOCUMENT CONTROL

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V1.0	26/11/2025	Initial to Client	NA	JK	LM	PR



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Biodiverse Consulting Ltd was commissioned to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of land within Bury at Victoria Street BL8 2QR. The Site is proposed to be developed into electric car charging bays and associated parking. This report presents the key ecological constraints and opportunities in relation to the development, as summarised in the table below.

This document is a draft for review by client.

ECOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR VICTORIA STREET	
Designated Sites	There are no statutory and eight non-statutory designated sites within 2km of the Site.
Habitats	Negligible Value: Developed Land; Sealed Surface Low Value: Other Neutral Grassland and Bramble Scrub
Great Crested Newt	Negligible Value: The Site contains no waterbodies and limited terrestrial habitat with no connectivity to potential GCN breeding ponds in the wider area.
Bats	<u>Roosting</u> Negligible Value: absence of potential roosting features onsite. <u>Foraging and commuting</u> Negligible Value: limited area of low-quality foraging grassland and no connectivity features in the wider landscape.
Birds	Negligible Value to nesting birds due to the absence of suitable nesting opportunities. Low Value for foraging common garden species within the grassland onsite.
Hedgehog	Negligible Value: The frequent disturbance and limited suitable terrestrial habitat onsite with no connectivity to more suitable habitats in the wider area
Further Survey and Assessment	No further surveys are required but a range of mitigation and avoidance measure are proposed



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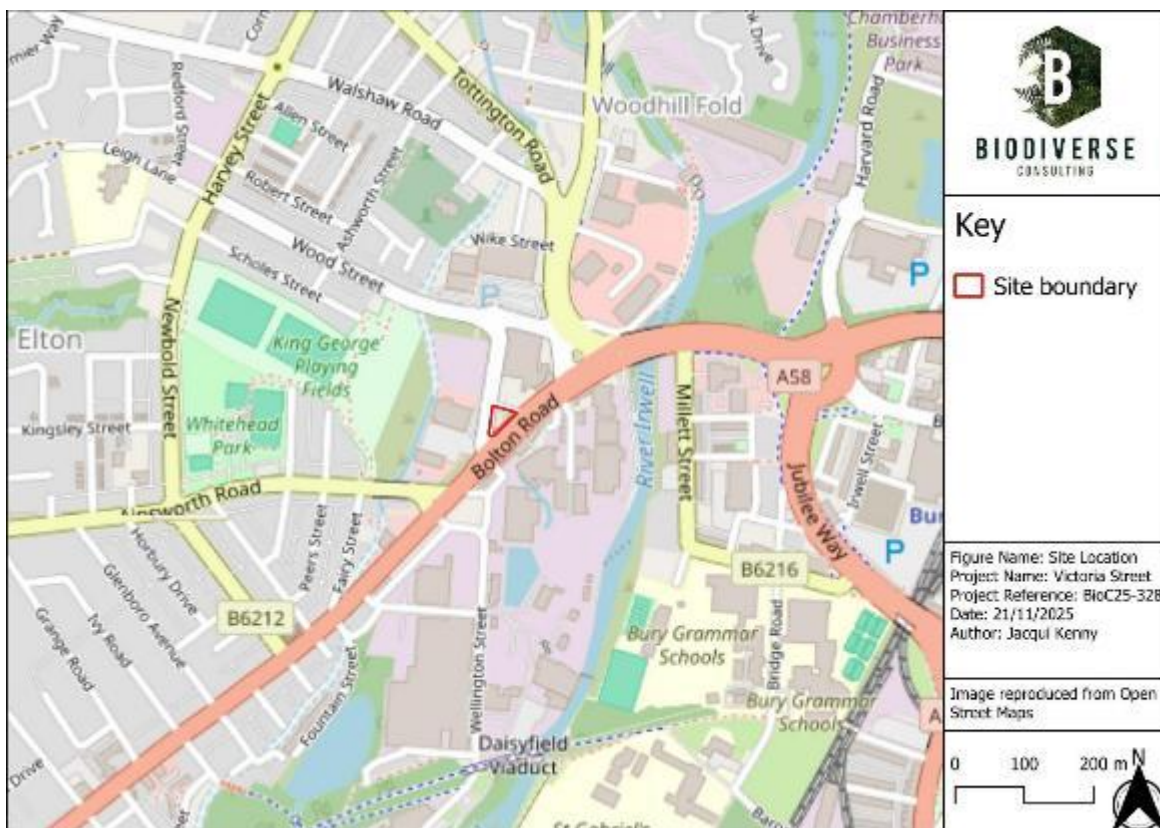


1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

The Site is located east of Victoria Street, Bury, BL8 2QR at a central grid reference of SD 79533 10845 as illustrated in Figure 1. The 0.088ha Site currently consists of grassland and tarmac surfaces that are used for additional parking.

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION



1.2 REPORT OBJECTIVES

The aim of this report is to determine the potential ecological constraints and opportunities to development. The objectives of this report are to:

- Identify and describe ecological features/receptors that may be present on site or within an identified Zone of Influence (ZoI) and assign an ecological value.
- Assess the potential for the development to impact the identified features.
- Outline potential mitigation, compensation or enhancement measures if required.
- Determine the need for and scope of further surveys.



1.3 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The Site is proposed to be developed into a total of eight charging bays and points with associated infrastructure and access areas based on plans “Site Layout Plan EBD V3¹” (Figure 2).

FIGURE 2: POST DEVELOPMENT



¹ Osprey Charging Network Ltd (2025) Site Layout Plan EBD V3



2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 SURVEY AREA

The survey area comprised the 'Site' (Figure 3) and, where access was available, an appropriate buffer.

FIGURE 3: SURVEY AREA





2.2 DESK STUDY

A desk study was undertaken to obtain pre-existing ecological information relevant to the assessment. The desk study included:

- An assessment of aerial imagery and Ordnance Survey mapping.
- A search of the MAGIC website² for designated sites, European Protected Species and Priority Habitats within 2km of the Site.
- A request to the Greater Manchester Local Record Centre (LRC) for records of non-statutory designated sites and protected and priority species.

2.3 FIELD SURVEY

Table 1 provides a summary of the field surveys undertaken, with details provided in subsequent sections. All surveys were undertaken by suitably experienced ecologists (details available on request).

TABLE 1: SURVEY SUMMARY

SURVEY TYPE	DATE	TEMPERATURE	CLOUD	PRECIPITATION	WIND ³
PEA/BNG	16/10/2025	10°C	100%	None	0

2.3.1 Habitats/Protected Species

The Site was subjected to a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) walkover survey with habitats assessed in line with the UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) methods⁴. As part of the survey, the Site was also checked for evidence of protected and priority species, and habitats were assessed for their potential to support them.

2.3.2 Bats

Survey methods and assessment are based on the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) Good Practice Guidelines⁵. A Daytime Bat Walkover (DBW) assessed habitats for bats to roost, commute, and forage both on Site and in the surrounding area. The aim is to determine the suitability of the Site for bats, to assess whether further bat surveys will be needed and how those surveys should be safely carried out.

² Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (www.magic.gov.uk)

³ Beaufort Wind Force Scale at <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/guides/coast-and-sea/beaufort-scale>

⁴ Butcher, B., Carey, P., Edmonds, R., Norton, L. and Treweek, J. (2023) The UK Habitats Classification User Manual Version 2 at <http://www.ukhab.org/>

⁵ Collins, J. (ed) (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th Edition). Bat Conservation Trust



2.4 LIMITATIONS TO SURVEY

The survey was conducted outside of the peak botanical season. However, given that botanical species were still identifiable, and the urban context of the Site this was not considered a significant limitation to the findings within this report.

2.5 ASSESSMENT

The PEA surveys may provide sufficient information to accurately determine the value of some features, whereas other features may require further study to allow this. Features for which sufficient information is available at this stage are assigned a value using a geographic frame of reference in line with guidance from the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) (Appendix H).



3 RESULTS

3.1 DESK STUDY

3.1.1 Designated Sites

There were no statutory and eight non-statutory designated sites located within 2km of the Site boundary, a summary of which is within Table 2 and a plan showing their location in relation to the Site itself in Appendix E.

The Site is within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ); however, the development is not of a type that triggers consultation between the LPA and Natural England.

TABLE 2: DESIGNATED SITES

DESIGNATION	SITE NAME	REASON FOR DESIGNATION	DISTANCE FROM SITE
Non-Statutory Designated Sites			
Site of Biological Importance (SBI)	Townside	Contains swamp habitat	1106m south-east
SBI	Daisyfield	Contains priority grassland and woodland habitats. Is of biological significant to aquatic invertebrates.	1129m south
SBI	Kirklees Brook	Is of biological importance to aquatic invertebrates and bats.	1200m north-west
SBI	Lower Hinds	Contains Priority Habitat Calcareous Grassland	1233m south
SBI	Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal	Contains ponds and canal habitats	1247m south
SBI	Barracks Lodge	Contains ponds that are of biological importance for aquatic invertebrates and amphibians.	1255m south-west



DESIGNATION	SITE NAME	REASON FOR DESIGNATION	DISTANCE FROM SITE
SBI	Cyrus Ainsworth's Nurseries and Parkers Lodgers	Contains priority woodland habitat.	1339m west
SBI	Elton Reservoir	Contains priority grassland habitats and is of significance to waterfowl and wintering birds.	1527m south

3.1.2 Priority Habitats

There are no records of Priority Habitats within or bordering the site. There are records of Priority Habitats within 2 km of the Site including:

- Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh
- Deciduous Woodland
- Good-quality Semi-improved Grassland
- Lowland Fens
- Lowland Meadows
- Lowland Dry Acid Grassland

The GIS map of the Priority Habitats is provided in Appendix F.

3.1.3 Protected and Priority Species

A summary of recent (2015–present) records of protected, priority or otherwise notable species provided by the LRC is presented in Appendix G and relevant records are discussed in the results sections below. The LRC search results are available on request.

3.1.4 European Protected Species Licencing

The MAGIC website identified six granted European Protected Species (EPS) licences and one Great Crested Newt (GCN) Class Survey Licence from the past 10 years within 2 km. Details are within Table 3 and Table 4 respectively.

TABLE 3: EUROPEAN PROTECTED SPECIES LICENCES

REFERENCE	SPECIES	LICENCE END DATE	REASON	DISTANCE FROM SITE
2015-8936-EPS-MIT-1	Common pipistrelle	30/06/2020	Destruction of a resting place	530m south



REFERENCE	SPECIES	LICENCE END DATE	REASON	DISTANCE FROM SITE
2015-8936- EPS-MIT	Common pipistrelle	30/06/2020	Destruction of a resting place	530m south
EPSM2012- 5060	Common pipistrelle	01/10/2015	Affects and destroys a breeding site	680m south-west
2018-33380- EPS-BDX	Common pipistrelle	30/04/2018	Affects, damages and destroys a resting and breeding site	1300m south-west
2019-40402- EPS-BDX	Common pipistrelle	30/04/2019	Affects, damages and destroys a resting and breeding site	1300m south-west
2019-40402- EPS-BDX-1	Common pipistrelle	03/05/2019	Affects, damages and destroys a resting and breeding site	1300m south-west

TABLE 4: GREAT CRESTED NEWT (GCN) CLASS SURVEY LICENCE

ID	SURVEY DATE	PRESENCE	GRID REFERENCE	DISTANCE FROM SITE
47947	17/10/2016	Present	SD792103	750m south

3.1.5 Landscape Context

A review of aerial imagery and Ordnance Survey mapping shows that the surrounding landscape comprised predominately of residential and commercial buildings with associated landscaping and infrastructure. The A58 Bolton Road, a busy main road, runs along the eastern boundary of the Site. Within the wider landscape the River Irwell was 171m east and Woodhill Brook was approximately 490m north of the Site. Whitehead Park was approximately 120m west of the Site. In the wider area the landscape comprised of residential and commercial buildings within the town of Bury and Greater Manchester.



3.2 FIELD SURVEY

3.2.1 Habitats

The 0.088ha Site was dominated by Other Neutral Grassland with parcels of Other Developed, Sealed Surface and Bramble Scrub. Detailed accounts of the UKHab habitats are provided below. A map of the UKHab habitats is provided in Appendix A, corresponding Target Notes in Appendix B, and full species lists for the habitats in Appendix D.

IMAGE 1: g3c OTHER NEUTRAL GRASSLAND



IMAGE 2: h3d BRAMBLE SCRUB



IMAGE 3: u1b DEVELOPED LAND, SEALED SURFACE



3.2.1.1 g3c Other Neutral Grassland

A 0.07ha parcel of Other Neutral Grassland that covers most of the Site. Sward height was varied with heights of 70cm at the centre and less than 5cm at the parcel edge. The grass to forb ratio was 60:40 with a species diversity of 8 species per m². Notable species present included cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, yarrow *Achillea millefolium* and red clover *Trifolium pratense*. A small area of the Other Neutral Grassland had wetter ground (Appendix B TN4) with species such as common reed *Phragmites australis* and marsh horsetail *Equisetum palustre* present. Much of the



habitat parcel was damaged by pedestrian desire paths (Appendix B TN1) and rubbish (Appendix B TN2).

The Other Neutral Grassland was of Low Value.

3.2.1.2 *h3d Bramble Scrub*

Within the southeast was 0.001ha of Bramble Scrub that was less than 0.5m in height. The scrub consisted of species such as bramble *Rubus fruticosus agg.* and some species from the Other Neutral Grassland encroaching into the Bramble Scrub such as common bent *Agrostis capillaris*.

The Bramble Scrub was of Low Value.

3.2.1.3 *u1b Developed Land, Sealed Surface*

A 0.017ha parcel of Developed Land, Sealed Surface composed of tarmac and gravel within the west of the Site. The parcel was used as car parking.

The Other Developed Land, Sealed Surface was of Negligible Value.

3.2.2 Invasive Non-Native Species

The desk study returned no records of Schedule 9⁶ Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) within 2km of the Site. Additionally, no INNS species were identified onsite.

⁶ Schedule 9, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981



3.2.3 Protected Species

Protected species are afforded a level of legal protection which means that their presence may pose a constraint to development. A summary of relevant legislation and associated species is provided in Appendix H.

The following sections describe the results of the field surveys and an appraisal of desk study data. Species not addressed below are considered extremely unlikely to be present and/or affected by the development and so are scoped out of further assessment.

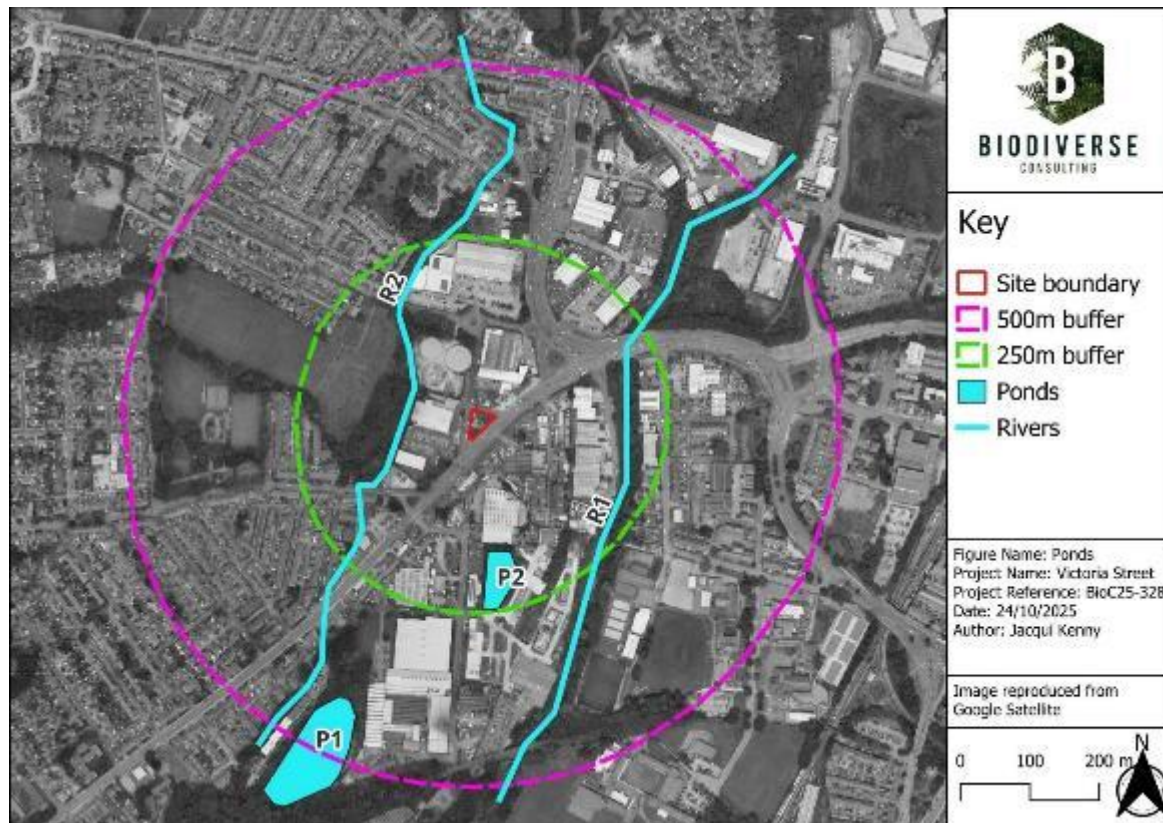
3.2.3.1 Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*)

The desk study returned 27 records of GCN, within 2km of the Site. No field evidence of GCN was identified during the survey.

There were no ponds onsite and two ponds and two watercourses within 500m of the Site, the location of which is within Figure 4. All offsite watercourses and ponds were separated by a dense network of A-roads and, commercial and residential properties. This dense urban landscape was a significant barrier, restricting connectivity from ponds and watercourses to Site. Furthermore R2, and P1 were not suitable for breeding GCN due to R2 being a fast flowing, wide river and P1 being a reservoir.

There was no suitable breeding habitat onsite, while the Other Neutral Grassland afforded limited foraging habitat for adult GCN. There was an absence of shelter habitats onsite.

Due to the urban context of the Site, negligible connectivity to offsite ponds, and frequent disturbances, GCN are likely absent, and the Site is of Negligible Value for the species.

**FIGURE 4: POND LOCATIONS**

3.2.3.2 Bats

The LRC returned a total of 202 records of bat comprising of common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, noctule *Nyctalus noctule*, and Brandt's bat *Myotis brandtii* within 2km of the Site. No evidence of bat activity was identified during the survey.

The Site had an absence of potential roosting features and so was of Negligible suitability for roosting bats.

The Other Neutral Grassland onsite afford limited foraging opportunities as the parcel is too small to provide significant resources for the species group. Additionally, the well-lit urban environment of the Site was only suitable for bat species more tolerant to lighting and often recorded in urban locations such as common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle.

Within the wider landscape, there was suitable habitat such as grassland and trees within Whitehead Park, 120m west of the Site. There was an absence of suitable commuting features onsite, and the landscape was fragmented by commercial buildings between the Site and more suitable habitats offsite.



Given the absence of roosting features, the urban context of the Site, and more suitable habitats within the landscape, the Site was assessed to be of Negligible Value to roosting, foraging and commuting bats.

3.2.3.3 Birds

The desk study returned 114 records of Species of Conservation Concern (SoCC), which includes species on Schedule 1⁷ Section 41⁸ and Red and Amber⁹ listed species. Most of these species were waterfowl, located 1527m north within the Elton Reservoir. No field evidence of bird activity was observed onsite.

The Site had an absence of suitable nesting opportunities due to the absence of trees and buildings, while the grassland parcels were too disturbed by pedestrians and dogs to be of value to ground nesting birds. The Other Neutral Grassland affords limited foraging habitat to a variety of common garden species.

Given the absence of nesting and foraging opportunities, combined with the frequent disturbance and limited size of the Site, the Site was assessed to be of Negligible Value to birds, and are likely absent from Site.

3.2.3.4 Hedgehog

The desk study returned 55 records of priority species hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* within 2km of the Site. No field evidence of hedgehog was observed onsite.

The Site has limited potential to support priority species such as hedgehog through the presence of suitable foraging habitat within the varying sward height of the Other Neutral Grassland parcel. Connectivity to the wider landscape was negligible due to the network of busy A-roads and commercial buildings.

Due to the dense urban landscape, negligible connectivity to more suitable habitats and frequent pedestrian and dog disturbances to the Site, the Site was assessed to be of Negligible Value to hedgehog, and they are considered to be absent from Site. Precautionary measures detailed within Section 4.4 will safeguard this species during construction.

⁷ Schedule 1 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

⁸ Section 41 Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2017

⁹ Stanbury et al. Birds of Conservation Concern 2021



4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The development has the potential to adversely impact valuable ecological features and some of these impacts may also constitute legal offences. The broad impacts include:

- Direct harm of animal species
- Disturbance of animal species
- Loss and degradation of valuable habitats
- Loss and degradation of habitats that support protected/priority species

Many of these impacts can be adequately addressed at this stage and therefore a range of good practice avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures are recommended below.

4.2 FURTHER SURVEY AND ASSESSMENT

No further surveys are necessary to inform the assessment of the potential ecological impacts of the development. A range of good practice avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures are recommended to address ecological impacts and reduce the likelihood of legal offences.

4.3 AVOIDANCE

The following measures should be incorporated into the design of the development, including the construction phase, to avoid and reduce impacts on wildlife:

- External lighting will be designed in line with BCT guidance¹⁰ to reduce impacts bats and a range of other wildlife associated with retained and off-site habitats.

4.4 MITIGATION

Mitigation is proposed to reduce the impacts on wildlife that cannot be avoided through design:

- All construction activities will be programmed to daytime hours to reduce disturbance to sensitive nocturnal species, such as bats and roosting bird species.
- Excavations should be securely covered or fenced overnight or otherwise provide a means of escape for animals that may become trapped in the form of a ramp at least 300mm wide and angled no greater than 45°. Excavations should be inspected for the presence of animals before work recommences and, in the event of trapped animals being trapped, an ecologist contacted for advice.

¹⁰ Bat Conservation Trust (2023) Guidance Note 08/23: Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night



4.5 COMPENSATION/ENHANCEMENT

Compensation is proposed to address the impacts on habitats which cannot be avoided or mitigated:

- Landscape planting to compensate for any shrub loss shall include species native to the local area as well as berry and fruit-bearing species alongside pollinator species, to provide increased foraging opportunities in the local area.



APPENDICES



APPENDIX A – UKHAB MAP





APPENDIX B – TARGET NOTES MAP





TARGET NOTES

TN 1 Damage
Pedestrian desire footpath
causing damage to the
Other Neutral Grassland.



TN 2 Damage
Pedestrian rubbish within
the Other Neutral
Grassland.



TN 3 Damage
Pedestrian desire footpath
causing damage to the
Other Neutral Grassland.



TN 4 Other
An area of moist grassland
within the Other neutral
Grassland





APPENDIX C – BAT SUITABILITY AND SURVEY EFFORT

POTENTIAL SUITABILITY	DESCRIPTION	
	ROOSTING HABITATS IN STRUCTURES	POTENTIAL FLIGHT-PATHS AND FORAGING HABITATS
None	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any roosting bats at any time of the year (i.e. a complete absence of crevices/suitable shelter at all grounds/underground levels).	No Habitat features on site likely to be used by any commuting or foraging bats at any time of the year (i.e. no habitats that provide continuous lines of shade/protection for flight-lines or generate/shelter insect populations available to foraging bats.
Negligible (a)	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains as bats can be use small and apparently unsuitable features on occasion	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used as flight-paths or by foraging bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains in order to account for non-standard bat behaviour.
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically at any time of the year. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions(b) and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity and not classic cool/stable hibernation site, but could be used by individual hibernating bats(c))	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of bats as flight-paths such as gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream, but isolated, i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitats. Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.
Moderate	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size,	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by



POTENTIAL SUITABILITY	DESCRIPTION	
	ROOSTING HABITATS IN STRUCTURES	POTENTIAL FLIGHT-PATHS AND FORAGING HABITATS
	shelter, protection conditions(b) and hibernation – categorisation described in this table is made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed	bats for flight-paths such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland, or water.
High	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions(b) and surrounding habitat. These structures have a potential to support high conservation status roosts, e.g. maternity or classic cool/stable hibernation site.	Continuous high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by bats for flight-paths such as river valleys. Streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge. High-quality habitat what is well connected to the wider landscape what is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland. Site is close to and connected to known roosts,



POTENTIAL SUITABILITY	DESCRIPTION	
	ROOSTING HABITATS IN STRUCTURES	POTENTIAL FLIGHT-PATHS AND FORAGING HABITATS
	a. Negligible is defined as ‘so small or unimportant as to be not worth considering, insignificant’. This category may be used where there are places that a bat could roost or forage (due to one attribute) but it is unlikely that they actually would (due to another attribute) b. For example, in terms of temperature, humidity, height above ground level, light levels or levels of disturbance c. Evidence from the Netherlands shows mass swarming events of common pipistrelle bats in the autumn followed by mass hibernation in a diverse range of building types in urban environments (Korsten et al., 2016 and Jansen et al., 2022). Common pipistrelle swarming has been observed in that UK (Bell, 2022 and Tomlinson, 2020) and winter hibernation of numbers of this species has been detected at Seaton Delaval Hall in Northumberland (National Trust, 2018). This phenomenon requires some research in the UK, but ecologists should be aware of the potential for larger numbers of this species to be present during the autumn and winter in prominent buildings in the landscape, urban or otherwise.	



APPENDIX D – SPECIES LISTS FOR HABITATS

OTHER NEUTRAL GRASSLAND

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>
Meadow foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>
Bush vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i>
Dandelions	<i>Taraxacum</i> sp.
Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus</i> sp.
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
Dock	<i>Rumex</i> sp.
Common bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>
Red fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>
Common knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>
Edler (sapling)	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
Common ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.
Marsh horsetail	<i>Equisetum palustre</i>
Common ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>
Common reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
Ash (sapling)	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>

BRAMBLE SCRUB

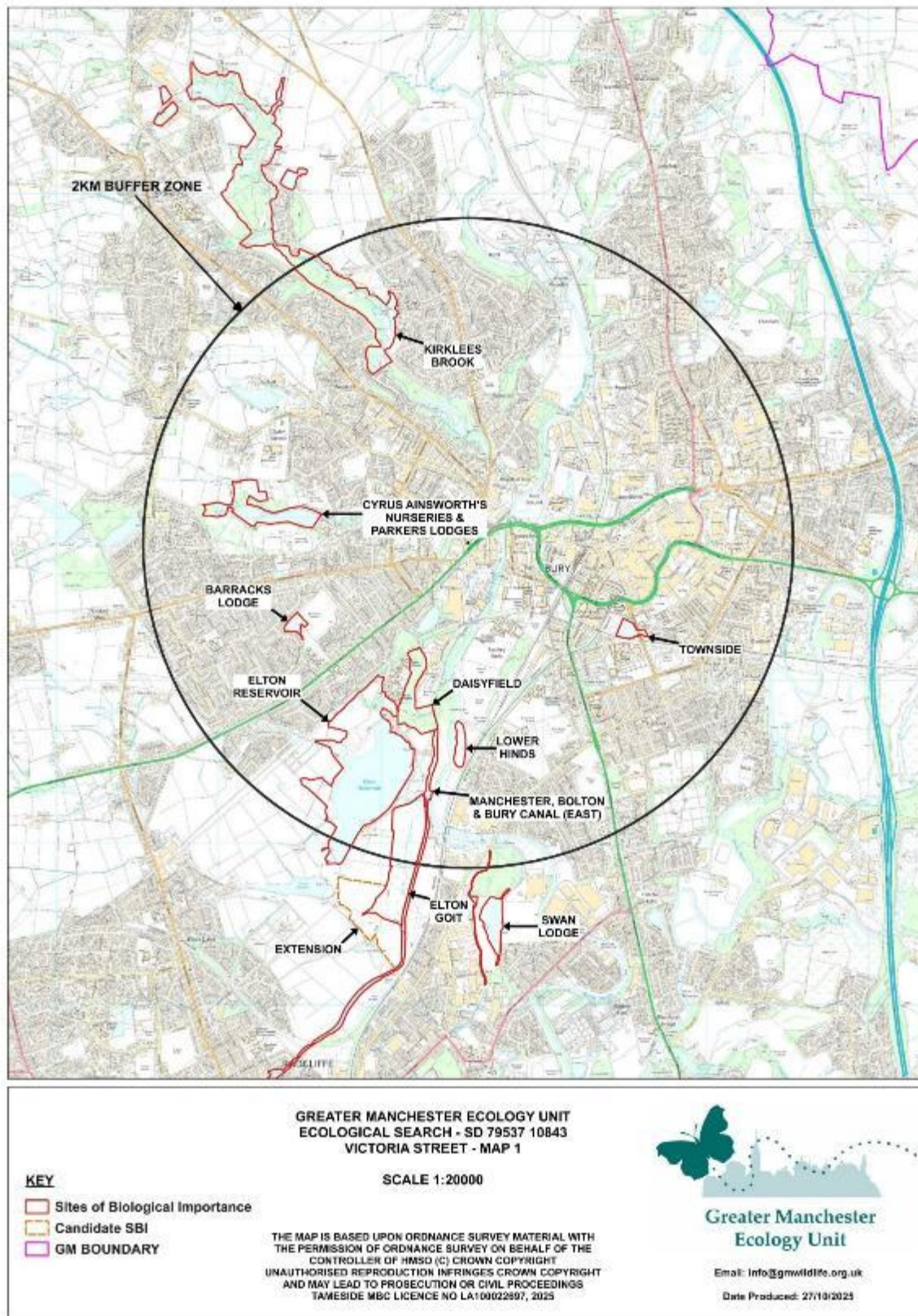
COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.
Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>



COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Common bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>
Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>
Bush vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i>

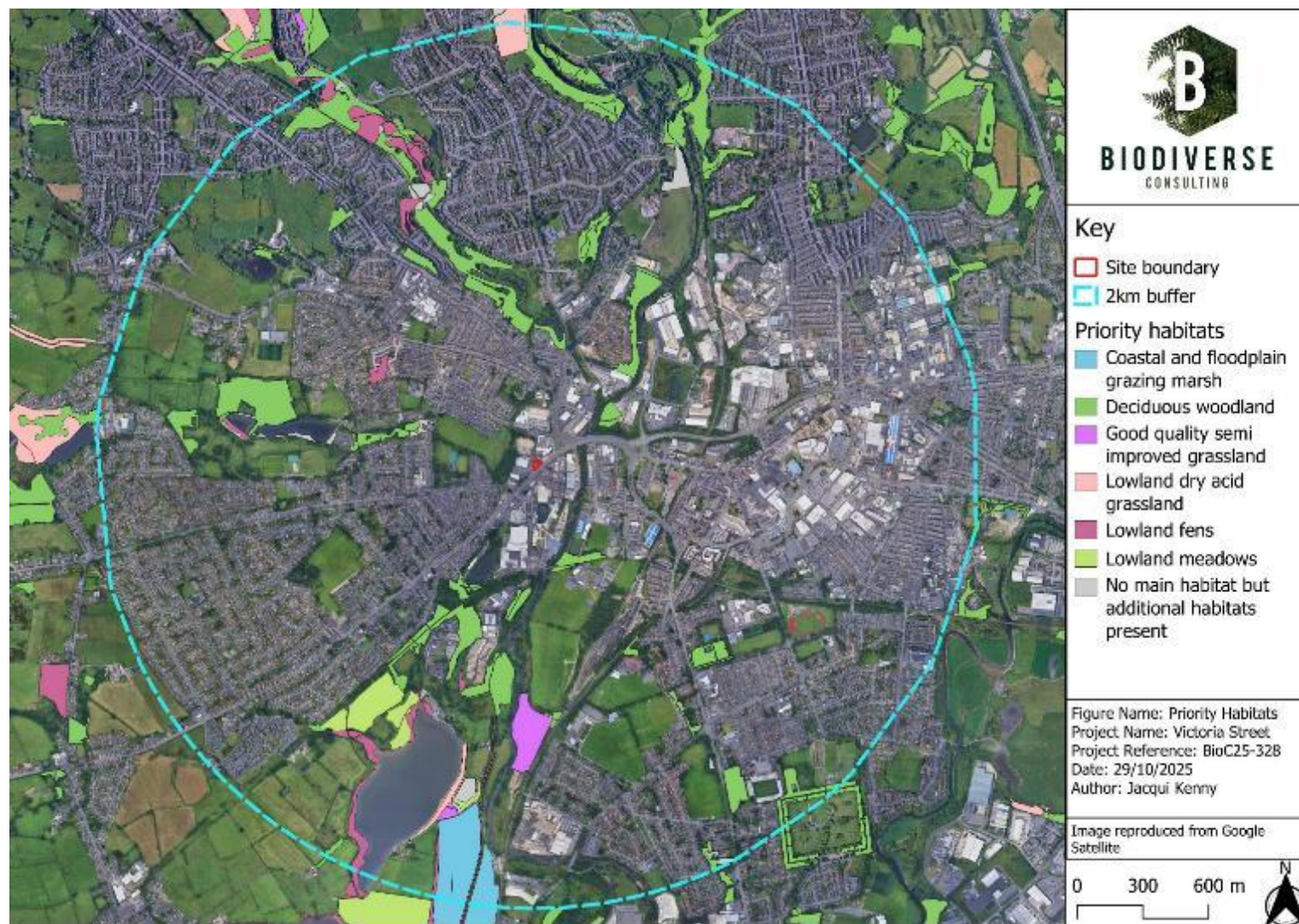


APPENDIX E – NON-STATUTORY DESIGNATED SITES MAP





APPENDIX F – PRIORITY HABITATS MAP





APPENDIX G – LOCAL RECORDS SEARCH

PROTECTED SPECIES RECORDS FROM LRC

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ABUNDANCE	YEAR
BIRDS			
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostrata avosetta</i>	5	2020
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	14	2023
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	30	2024
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	12	2021
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	77	2021
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	3	2017
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	16	2021
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	15	2019
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	20	2021
Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	1	2021
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	1	2017
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	203	2024
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	20	2021
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	52	2022
Common Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	28	2022
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	120	2021
Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	52	2021
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	60	2021
Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	1	2020
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	5	2021
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	43	2021
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	14	2021
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	60	2021
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	154	2024
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	199	2021



Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	16	2020
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	590	2022
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	18	2023
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	26	2021
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	8	2015
Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	2	2020
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	110	2022
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	41	2021
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	37	2021
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	2	2021
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	39	2021
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	1	2015
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	41	2021
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	5	2017
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	135	2023
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	35	2021
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	36	2021
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	144	2025
Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoideus</i>	7	2020
Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>	2	2021
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	103	2021
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	4	2021
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	204	2023
Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	1	2017
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus Vanellus</i>	350	2023
Leach's Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	1	2018
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	38	2021
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	114	2022
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	83	2021



Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	193	2022
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	47	2021
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	173	2022
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	2	2020
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	61	2015
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	224	2022
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	4	2019
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	1	2022
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	76	2021
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	71	2021
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	7	2019
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	24	2021
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	193	2021
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	6	2020
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	137	2021
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	118	2021
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	33	2021
Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	17	2020
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	47	2021
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	2	2020
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	21	2021
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	9	2021
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniculus</i>	187	2025
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	76	2021
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	13	2018
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	23	2021
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	9	2021
Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	2	2020
Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	250	2021



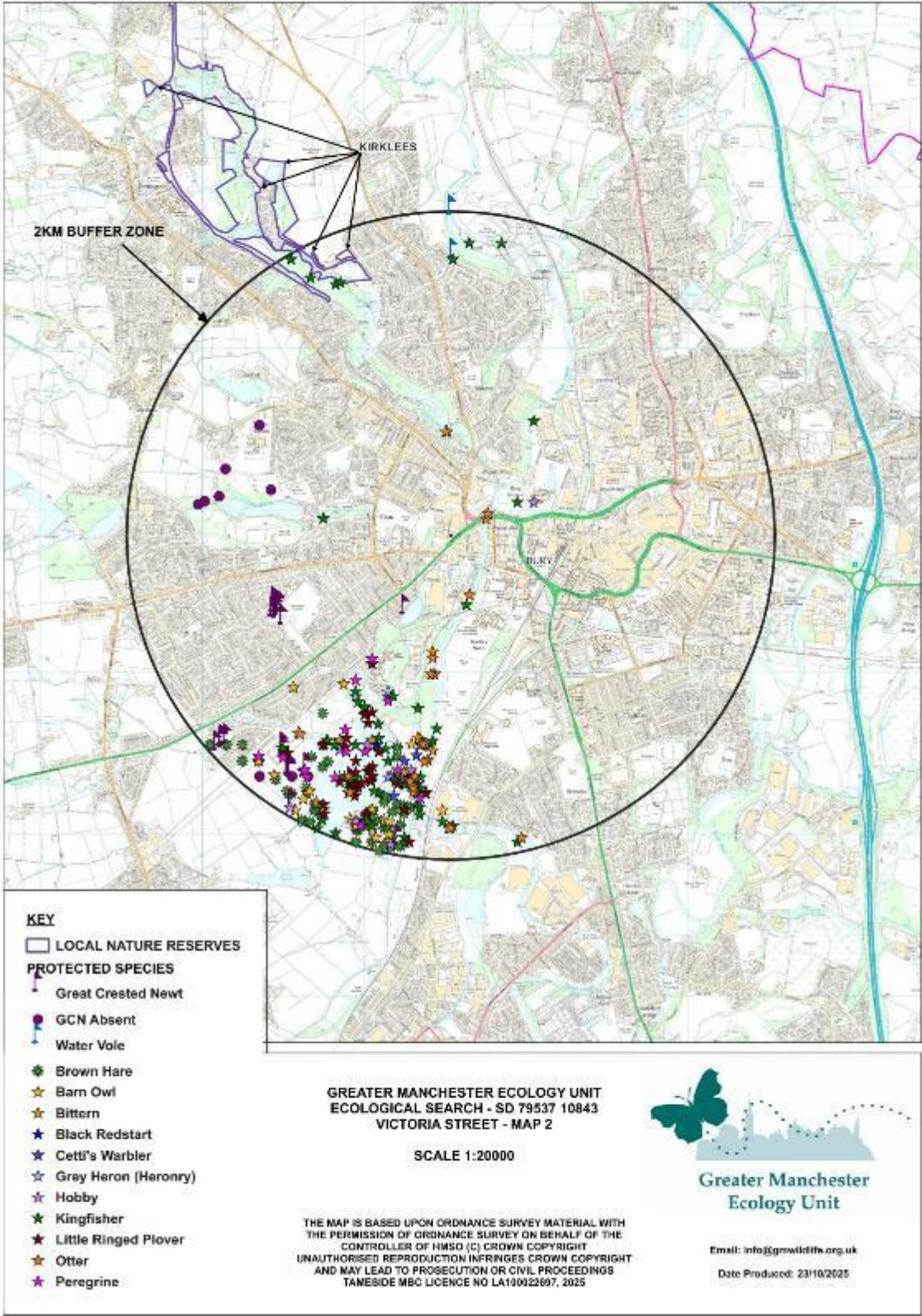
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	12	2021
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	99	2021
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	109	2021
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	48	2022
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	1	2017
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	192	2024
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	55	2021
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	59	2021
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	122	2025
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	23	2021
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	113	2021
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	58	2021
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	216	2022
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	23	2020
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	8	2019
Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	4	2021
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	25	2021
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	22	2021
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	4	2021
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	63	2021
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	39	2021
Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	58	2021
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>	201	2022
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	119	2021
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	3	2020
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	2	2017
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	6	2021
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	140	2022
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	217	2022

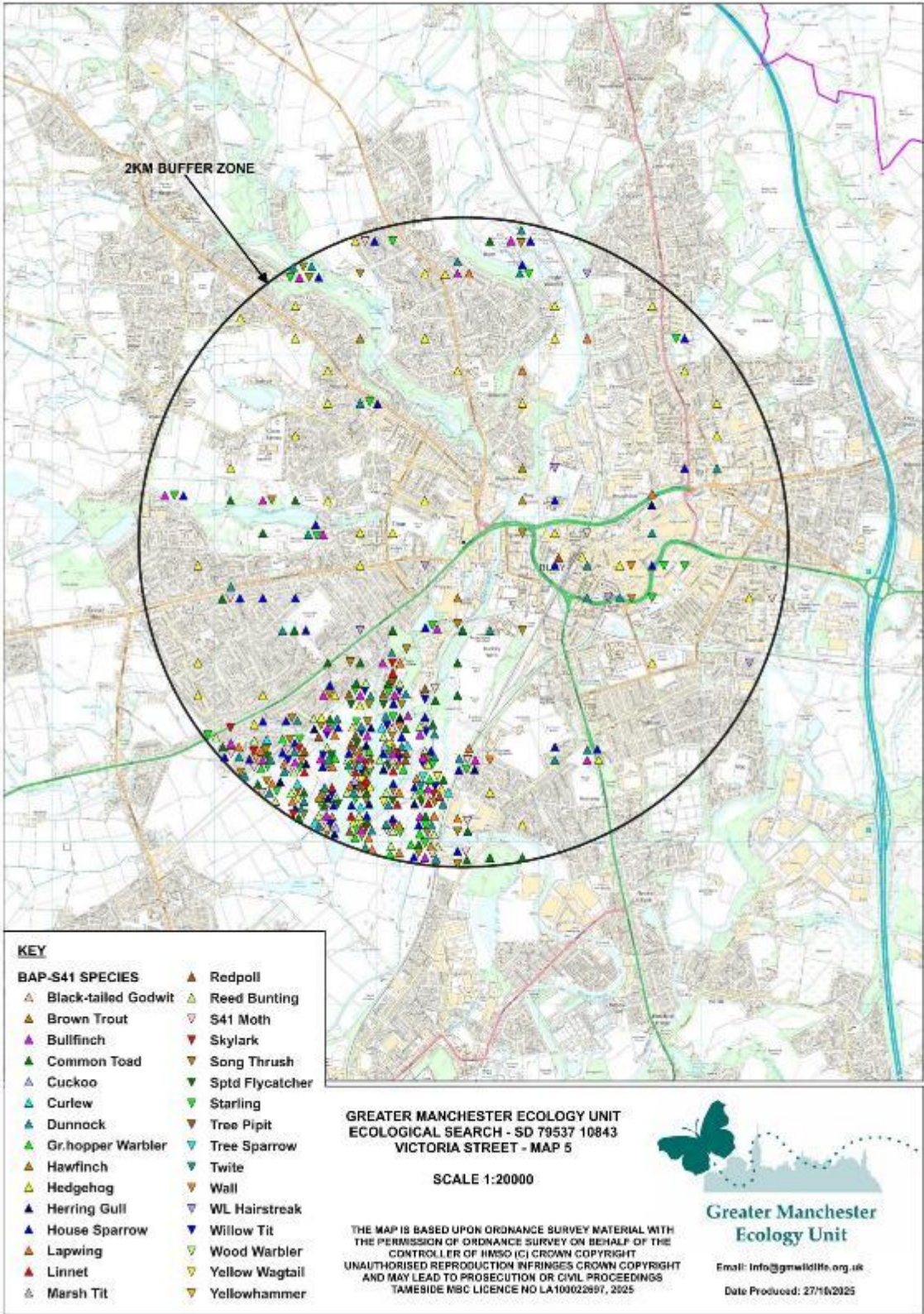


Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	71	2021
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	5	2019
INVERTEBRATES			
Buff ermine	<i>Spilarctia luteum</i>	2	2023
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	4	2023
Dot moth	<i>Melanchra persicariae</i>	2	2024
Grey Dagger	<i>Acronicta psi</i>	1	2020
Ghost moth	<i>Hepialus humuli</i>	1	2023
Knotgrass moth	<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	2	2021
Latticed heath moth	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>	2	2023
Shaded broad-bar	<i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>	1	2023
Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	2	2020
White ermine	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	1	2021
White-letter hairstreak	<i>Satyrium w-album</i>	11	2019
TERRESTRIAL MAMMALS			
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	13	2023
Brown hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	53	2024
Brown long-eared bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	5	2020
Common pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	147	2023
Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	55	2025
Noctule bat	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	11	2023
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	33	2024
Pipistrelle sp.	<i>Pipistrellus sp.</i>	26	2023
Soprano pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	13	2023
Whiskered/Brandt's bat	<i>Myotis brandtii</i>	1	2020
FISH			
Brown trout	<i>Salmo trutta</i>	1	2024
AMPHIBIANS			
Great crested newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	27	2022



Common toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	52	2024
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APPENDIX H – POLICY AND LEGISLATION

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981¹¹, as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000¹² and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006¹³, is the main legislation that protects wildlife in Great Britain and is the mechanism for defining and protecting nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The legislation makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or their eggs or nests (with certain exceptions) and disturb any bird species listed under Schedule 1 to the Act, or its dependent young while it is nesting;
- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild animal listed under Schedule 5 to the Act; intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct any place used for shelter or protection by any wild animal listed under Schedule 5 to the Act; intentionally or recklessly disturb certain Schedule 5 animal species while they occupy a place used for shelter or protection; and
- Pick or uproot any wild plant listed under Schedule 8 of the Act. Schedule 9, Part II of the Act also lists many species for which it is an offence to plant, or otherwise cause to grow, in the wild. Any material containing Japanese knotweed is also identified as controlled waste under the Environmental Protection Act 1990¹⁴ and must be disposed of properly at licenced landfill according to the Environmental Protection Act (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991¹⁵.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017¹⁶ (the 'Habitat Regulations'), as amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019¹⁷, establish the requirements for protecting sites that are internationally important for

¹¹ Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69>

¹² The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents>

¹³ Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents>

¹⁴ The Environmental Protection Act 1990. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents>

¹⁵ The Environmental Protection Act (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1991/2839/made>

¹⁶ The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents/made>

¹⁷ The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111179512/contents>



threatened habitats and species – the National Site Network – and thus the requirement for a ‘Habitat Regulations Assessment’ of plans or developments with potential to affect them.

The Habitat Regulations also establish the strict protection of some species – European Protected Species – and make it an offence to deliberately capture, kill or disturb certain wild animals, and to damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal even if the animal is not present at the time.

Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

The NERC Act 2006^{Error! Unknown switch argument.} places a duty on local planning authorities to have due regard for biodiversity and nature conservation during their operations, and thus ensures that biodiversity is a key consideration in the planning process. The Act also establishes a list of species and habitats of principal importance (‘Priority’ Species and Habitats) for the conservation of biodiversity.

The Environment Act 2021¹⁸

The Environment Act 2021 provides a framework for environmental protection in the UK. It is a wide-range piece of legislation affecting many aspects of the natural environment, including biodiversity. The act sets clear targets to halt the decline in wildlife populations through a legally binding target for species abundance by 2030 and a requirement to increase species populations by 10% by 2042. The Act also establishes mandatory requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain in new developments.

Ramsar Convention

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the ‘Ramsar Convention’¹⁹) provides the only international mechanism for protecting internationally important wetlands; such sites are designated as Ramsar sites. It is government policy that Ramsar sites are afforded the same level of protection as sites in the National Site Network and so they are also subject to HRA.

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

Badgers receive strict protection under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992²⁰, which prohibits the taking, injuring, selling, possessing or killing of badgers and makes it an offence to ill-treat any badger, damage, destroy, disturb or cause a dog to enter a badger sett.

¹⁸ The Environment Act 2021. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted>

¹⁹ The Ramsar Convention <https://www.ramsar.org/>

²⁰ Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/51/contents>



The Hedgerow Regulations 1997

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997²¹ establishes the legal protection of important countryside hedgerows, principally ancient and species-rich hedgerows. The Hedgerow Regulations also provide arrangements for planning authorities to protect important hedgerows in the countryside by controlling their removal through a system of notification.

National Planning Policy Framework 2024

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2024²² sets out the Government's requirement for the planning system in England and in doing so establishes the framework within which local planning authorities can develop their own planning policies. The NPPF explicitly addresses the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment, including biodiversity, through paragraphs 187–201.

Government Circular ODPM 06/2005 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (England only)

This Circular provides administrative guidance on the application of the law relating to planning and nature conservation as it applies in England.

Part IV – *Conservation of Species protected by Law* states that the presence of a protected species is a material consideration when considering a development proposal that may result in harm to the species or its habitat and that planning authorities must have regard to European Protected Species protected under the Habitat Regulations.

The presence or otherwise of European Protected Species, and the extent that they may be affected by the proposed development, must be established before the planning permission is determined, otherwise all relevant material considerations may not have been addressed in making the decision.

Biodiversity Action Plans

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) was developed to fulfil the Rio Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992, to which the UK is a signatory. The UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework²³ succeeded the UKBAP and expired in 2019, but the UKBAP priority species and habitats are

²¹ The Hedgerow Regulations 1997. Available from: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1997/1160/contents/made>

²² National Policy Planning Framework 2024. Available from: [National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/national-planning-policy-framework)

²³ UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. Available from: <https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/587024ff-864f-4d1d-a669-f38cb448abdc>



retained through the NERC Act 2006. Regional and local BAPs have also been developed for species/habitats of nature conservation importance at regional and local levels.

APPENDIX I – VALUE OF ECOLOGICAL FEATURES

VALUE	EXAMPLES
International	- An internationally designated site or candidate site (SPA, pSPA, SAC, cSAC, pSAC, Ramsar site) or an area which meets the designation criteria for such sites. - Internationally significant and viable areas of a habitat type listed in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive, or smaller areas of such habitat, which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole. - Any regularly occurring, globally threatened species. - A regularly occurring population of an internationally important species, which is threatened or rare in the UK, of uncertain conservation status - A regularly occurring, nationally significant population/number of any internationally important species.
National	- A nationally designated site (e.g. SSSI, NNR) or a discrete area which meets the published selection criteria for national designation (e.g. SSSI selection guidelines) irrespective of whether or not it has yet been notified. - A viable area of a UK BAP priority habitat, or smaller areas of such habitat which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole. - A regularly occurring significant number/population of a nationally important species e.g. listed on the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). - A regularly occurring population of a nationally important species that is threatened or rare in the county or region. - A feature identified as being of critical importance in the UK BAP.
Regional / County	- Viable areas of key habitat identified in the Regional or County BAP or smaller areas of such a habitat, which are essential to maintain the viability of the larger whole. - Regional/county significant and viable areas of key habitat identified as being of regional value in the appropriate English Nature (now Natural England) Natural Area. - A regularly occurring significant population/number of any important species important at a regional/county level. - Any regularly occurring, locally significant population of a species which is listed in a Regional/County Red Data Book or BAP on account of its regional rarity or localisation. - Sites of conservation importance that exceed the district selection criteria but that fall short of SSSI selection guidelines.
City/District/ Borough	Areas of habitat identified in a District/City/Borough BAP or in the relevant Natural Area profile.



VALUE	EXAMPLES
	• Sites that the designating authority has determined meet the published ecological selection criteria for designation, including Local Nature Reserves selected on District/City/Borough ecological criteria. • Sites/features that are scarce within the District/City/Borough or which appreciably enrich the District/City/Borough habitat resource. • A diverse and/or ecologically valuable hedgerow network. • A population of a species that is listed in a District/City/Borough BAP because of its rarity in the locality or in the relevant Natural Area profile because of its regional rarity or localisation. • A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a District/City/Borough important species during key phases of its life cycle.
Parish	• A feature considered scarce within a Parish or which appreciably enriches the Parish resource.
Local	• Areas identified in a Local BAP or the relevant natural area profile. • Sites/features which area scarce in the locality or which are considered to appreciably enrich the habitat resource within the local context, e.g. species-rich hedgerows. • Local Nature Reserves selected on Parish/Local ecological criteria. • Significant numbers/population of a locally important species <u>e.g.</u> one which is listed on the Local BAP. • Any species, populations or habitats of local importance.
Low	• Habitats of moderate to low diversity which support a range of locally and nationally common species, the loss of which can be easily mitigated.



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