

**EXTENDED PHASE 1 HABITAT SURVEY OF
LAND OFF
TANNERS STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY
2019-2021**



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Rachel Hacking Ecology Limited was commissioned in 2019 by Roman Summer Associates Limited, to undertake an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey of land at Tanners Street, Ramsbottom. The site will be the subject of a planning application for the construction of a three-storey, detached dwelling with associated access and garden.
- 1.2 The site is situated to the west of Tanners Street in Ramsbottom, Bury (O.S. grid reference: SD 78717 17025 – see Figure 1). The site is currently a garden which has not been recently maintained. It mainly comprises ruderal vegetation, with some ornamental planting, compost heaps and dense scrub. The northern and eastern boundaries are marked by stone walls, a hedgerow exists on the western boundary and the southern boundary is open, lined by an avenue of trees. The site is immediately bordered by dwellings with gardens on all sides. In the wider environment the site is in a residential area, at the edge of the town of Ramsbottom, with a woodland leading onto farmland to the west.
- 1.3 The aims of the survey were to:
- Describe and map the habitats present on the site
 - Assess the potential for protected species to be present on the site or just outside the immediate site boundary
 - Identify where further survey may be necessary.

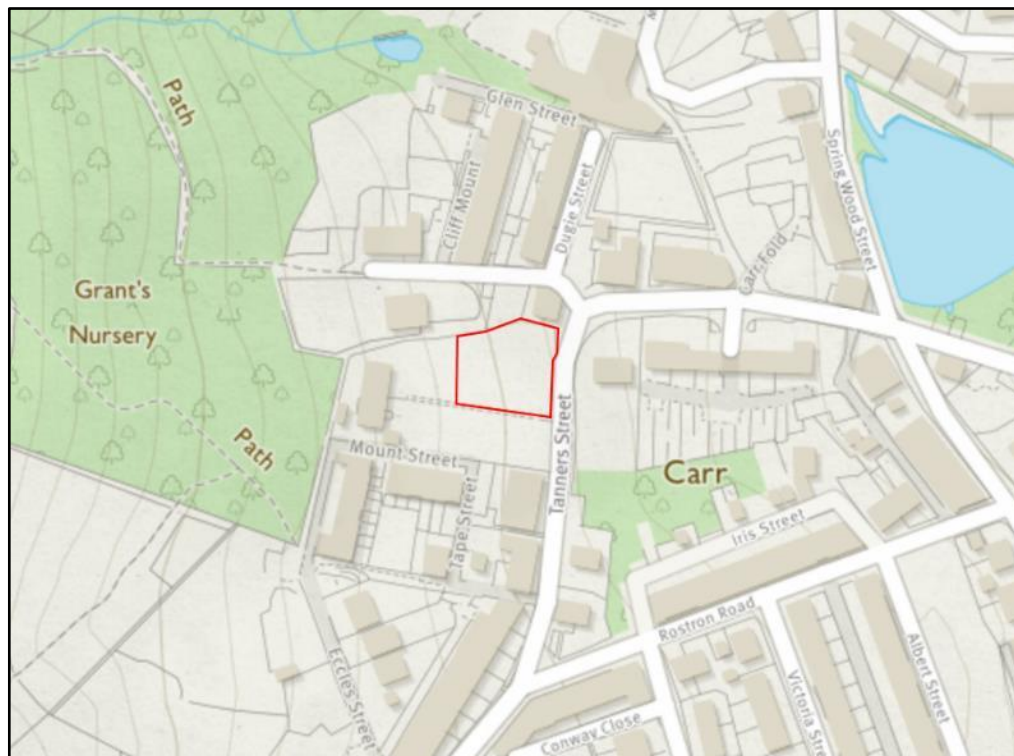


Figure 1 showing the site within the red line boundary

2.0 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 A Phase 1 Habitat survey was undertaken to JNCC standards (JNCC, 2010). The site was walked, and each habitat was assigned a Phase 1 habitat category. Species lists were taken at locations of botanical interest. All botanical nomenclature follows Stace, 2019. A Phase 1 map was produced showing habitat boundaries.
- 2.2 During the Phase 1 survey, the habitats were assessed for their potential to support protected species. This included, looking for signs of Badger activity (e.g. setts, paths, latrines and hairs on fences), assessing any waterbodies on site or near the site for their potential to support Great Crested Newt and assessing the potential for any buildings or mature trees to be used by bats.
- 2.3 The site was also surveyed for invasive, non-native plant species such as Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed.
- 2.4 Rosie Fisher (Ecologist) undertook the survey on 7th November 2019. The weather was overcast with occasional rain. Rosie has over five years of experience in conducting habitat and protected species surveys and is fully trained. October is a sub-optimal time of year for botanical surveys, however due to the habitats present on site a thorough assessment could be undertaken. Protected species assessments can be undertaken at any time of year. There were no constraints to the survey as the site was fully accessible.
- 2.5 A site visit was also undertaken on 19th August 2021 by Dr. Rachel Hacking, to check whether any habitats had materially changed.

3.0 RESULTS

HABITATS

- 3.1 The Phase 1 Habitat Map can be found at the back of the report. The habitats present are described below. The 2019 results are still valid in 2021.

Tall, Ruderal Herb

- 3.2 The majority of the site comprises tall, ruderal vegetation (see Photograph 1). Abundant species present include Common Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, Herb-Robert *Geranium robertianum* and Hedge Bindweed *Calystegia sepium*. Species occasionally present include Common Bent *Agrostis capillaris*, Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, Wood Avens *Geum urbanum*, Rosebay Willowherb *Chamaenerion angustifolium* and species of fern. An overgrown vegetable patch lies in the western part of the site (see Photograph 2). This is overgrown with tall, ruderal vegetation and also includes Redcurrant *Ribes rubrum*, Raspberry *Rubus idaeus* and Mint *Mentha* sp.



Photograph 1 showing the tall, ruderal herb on site, looking south



Photograph 2 showing the tall, ruderal herb in the vegetable patch on site

Continuous and Scattered Scrub

- 3.3 A band of dense scrub is present along the northern and eastern edges of the site (see Photograph 3). This habitat is dominated by Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. and frequently includes tree saplings including Willow *Salix* sp., Holly *Ilex aquifolium*, Silver Birch *Betula pendula*, Leyland Cypress *Cupressus leylandii* and Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*. Scrub species are also scattered within the tall, ruderal vegetation on site (see Photograph 4). Species present include Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Butterfly Bush *Buddleja davidii* and Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*.



Photograph 3 showing continuous scrub on site



Photograph 4 showing scattered scrub on site

Introduced Shrub

- 3.4 A flowerbed lies on the southern boundary of the site, under the line of trees (see Photograph 5). This is mapped as introduced shrub. Species present include *Montbretia* *Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora*, Winter Heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*, *Geranium* sp., Holly *Ilex aquifolium* and Lords-and-Ladies *Arum maculatum*.



Photograph 5 showing the introduced shrub on site

Intact Hedgerows

- 3.5 An intact hedgerow lines the western boundary of the site (see Photograph 6). This is species-poor and comprises Leyland Cypress *Cupressus leylandii*. A small section of hedgerow also occurs on the

eastern part of the site, along the boundary to Tanners Street (see Photograph 7). This comprises Garden Privet *Ligustrum ovalifolium*.



Photograph 6 showing the hedgerow on the western site boundary



Photograph 7 showing the hedgerow on the eastern site boundary

Scattered Trees

- 3.6 An avenue of trees lines the southern site boundary (see Photograph 8). These trees are semi-mature and species include Lime *Tilia x europaea* and Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*.



Photograph 8 showing line of trees on the southern site boundary

Boundaries and Other Habitats

- 3.7 A stone wall lines the eastern boundary to Tanners Street and part of the northern boundary. Several spoil heaps are present on site (see Photograph 9). These comprise a mixture of compost and other garden waste.



Photograph 9 showing spoil heaps on site

PROTECTED SPECIES

Badger

- 3.8 Badgers *Meles meles* are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. This Act, for example, makes it illegal to disturb a Badger whilst it is in a sett, to kill, injure or take a badger and to obstruct the entrance to a Badger sett.
- 3.9 No evidence of Badger activity such as latrines or feeding remains was located on the site. No Badger setts were located within the site or on the immediate site boundaries.

Bats

- 3.10 All bat species are European Protected Species under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Bats are also protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- 3.11 No buildings are present on site. The trees on site were assessed for their potential to support a bat roost. Two Lime trees along the southern site boundary were found to support rot holes. These holes were inspected and were found to be damp, due to facing upwards, and no evidence of bat use was found associated with the trees. Bats use linear landscape features, such as tree lines or hedgerows for foraging and commuting. The site supports such features, it is possible bats use the tree line and hedgerow on the west of the site for foraging.

Great Crested Newt

- 3.12 Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus* is a European Protected Species (EPS) under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the species is fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- 3.13 No ponds exist on the proposed development site and five waterbodies lie within 250 metres of the proposed development site. These were not accessible at the time of survey and since the survey, access permission has not been possible to obtain. The closest pond lies over 100m north of the site within woodland. This is 80m² and at the end of Deep Clough which holds flowing water. This pond has limited suitable connectivity to the site, through the woodland and a hedgerow, measuring 200m in length, with more optimum habitat lying around the pond. One pond lies 190m north of the site, in the woodland and is 850m². One pond lies 210m north of the site, is 250m² and appears man-made. These ponds possibly have poor water quality due to heavy shading from the surrounding trees, and are likely to be filled with leaf litter and detritus. Two large waterbodies lie 140m and 170m from the development site, separated by housing and three roads. These are old mill ponds. These are 3,000m² and 4,000m² and connected to flowing water. These are sub-optimal habitat for Great Crested Newt.

- 3.14 Suitable Great Crested Newt terrestrial habitat exists on the site; within the continuous scrub, tall, ruderal vegetation and hedgerow bases.

Nesting Birds

- 3.15 All bird species are protected at their nest under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- 3.16 The trees, hedgerows and scattered and continuous scrub on site, provide suitable nesting habitat for nesting birds.

INVASIVE SPECIES

- 3.17 Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* is abundant within the continuous scrub and tall, ruderal vegetation on site (see Photograph 10). Montbretia *Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora* is present within the introduced shrub on site (see Photograph 5 above). These species are invasive, non-native species, and are listed on Schedule 9 Part II (plants) of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). The Act makes it an offence to cause the species to grow in the wild.



Photograph 10 showing Himalayan Balsam on site

PROTECTED SITES

- 3.18 No statutory protected sites lie within the site boundary or immediately adjacent to the site. Four statutory protected sites lie within 3 kilometres:
- The closest is West Pennine Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This lies 430m west of the site, separated from the site by woodland, farmland, a disused quarry and two roads. This site is important for its mosaic of upland and upland-fringe habitats and the species supported by these.

- Lower Red Pasture SSSI lies 780m north of the site, separated by houses, roads, woodland and farmland. This is designated for its examples of herb-rich unimproved neutral/slightly acidic pasture.
 - Redisher Wood Local Nature Reserve (LNR) lies 1.7km south-east of the site. This is separated from the site by roads, farmland and some development. This comprises ancient woodland following Holcombe Brook.
 - Hodge Clough SSSI lies 2.25km north, separated by a large amount of farmland and woodland. This is designated for its geology.
- 3.19 The site itself lies within a SSSI Impact Risk Zone which lists certain types of development that may negatively impact on designated sites nearby. For the location of the proposed site, residential developments are only listed as a concern if over 100 units are proposed.
- 3.20 No non-statutory designated sites lie on site or immediately adjacent to the site. Four non-statutory designated sites lie within 1km of the site:
- The closest is Dick Field Clough Site of Biological Interest (SBI). This comprises woodland and grassland and lies 90m north-west of the site.
 - Holcombe Moor SBI lies 450m west of the site. This covers part of West Pennine Moors SSSI.
 - Carr Barn Wood SBI lies 650m north of the site and comprises woodland.
 - 700m south-east of the site lies Crow Lumb Wood SBI. This comprises woodland.

4.0 ASSESSMENT

HABITATS

- 4.1 The Phase 1 Habitats present on the site are common throughout the UK. No nationally rare or locally rare plant species were located during the extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey.
- 4.2 The habitats on site offer limited ecological value and are species-poor. The tall, ruderal vegetation and continuous scrub offer cover for wildlife. The scrub, tall, ruderal vegetation and introduced shrub provide a source of pollen and nectar for invertebrates. The continuous scrub, trees and hedgerows offer nesting habitat for birds.

Development Context

- 4.3 The proposed development will involve the loss of scrub, tall, ruderal vegetation and introduced shrub. The trees and boundary hedgerows are proposed to be mostly retained. Landscaping is proposed to be incorporated into the development plans. Given the low ecological value of the habitats to be lost, and with suitable landscaping incorporated into the new development, no specific habitat mitigation is considered necessary. However, it is recommended that bird and bat boxes are erected and the landscaping aims to bring ecological gain to the site, with species-rich native planting.

PROTECTED SPECIES

Badger

- 4.4 No Badger sett was located on the site or immediately adjacent to the site. No evidence of Badger activity was found, such as latrines. Badger is not considered to be a constraint on development at this time.

Bats

- 4.5 No buildings exist on site. The trees along the site boundary were assessed and two potential bat roosting features were found. These were further inspected and concluded to hold **negligible** bat roosting potential. No potential bat roosting habitat exists on the site and no evidence of bat activity was found during the survey. No further bat survey work is required. There will be no loss of bat foraging habitat from the development as little suitable foraging habitat exists.

Great Crested Newt

- 4.6 No ponds exist on site. Five ponds exist within 250 metres of the site boundary. Two of these are large waterbodies (mill ponds) that hold no habitat connectivity to the site due to fragmentation by roads and buildings. Three ponds hold limited habitat connectivity to the site via a 200 metres stretch of woodland and hedgerow. The commute to the nearest pond would be a significant commute, following suitable Great Crested Newt terrestrial habitat. The habitats immediately surrounding the ponds, which is mainly woodland, provide optimum suitable

terrestrial habitat for Great Crested Newt. Published guidance states that Great Crested Newt are unlikely to travel further than 50 metres from the breeding pond if suitable habitat exists around it.

- 4.7 The proposed development site supports suitable Great Crested Newt terrestrial habitat. The hedgerow understorey, continuous scrub and the tall, ruderal herb offer favourable habitat as they provide cover from predation and foraging habitat for Great Crested Newt. However, given the commutable distance between the surrounding ponds and the proposed development, and the habitat fragmentation caused by the existing residential developments, it is considered unlikely that Great Crested Newt occurs on the site. Therefore, no further Great Crested Newt survey work is necessary.

Nesting Birds

- 4.8 Suitable nesting habitat for birds is present within the trees, hedgerows and scrub on site. In general, nesting birds can be mitigated for by allowing no works to potential nesting habitats to be carried out within the bird nesting season (which is generally March – August) unless a nesting bird survey is undertaken first.

INVASIVE SPECIES

- 4.9 Himalayan Balsam is present on site. This species will require eradication prior to the work commencing, during site clearance work or during construction work, using a suitable methodology such as herbicide application or strimming. The Montbretia on site can be removed using a suitable extraction methodology or managed on site to prevent its spread.

PROTECTED SITES

- 4.10 No statutory or non-statutory designated sites lie on site or adjacent to the site. The nearest statutory protected site (West Pennine Moors SSSI) lies 430m from the development site and holds little connectivity to the site. The habitats in this site are upland habitats. The proposed development site, and the land immediately surrounding the site, does not support these habitats.
- 4.11 The closest locally designated site is Deep Clough LNR, 450m from the site. This is part of the SSSI. The development site lies within a SSSI Impact Risk Zone, which does not list the development type proposed as a risk to local sites. Therefore, there is expected to be no deleterious impact on protected sites in the locality from the development.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Further Survey

- 5.1 Protected species are a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a planning application. The presence of protected species, the effect of the proposed development and suitable mitigation, if required, must be established before planning permission can be granted. Following the findings from the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey, no protected species surveys are required. However, depending on the timing of the works, the following may be required:

- **Nesting Birds** - If any work to any potential bird nesting habitat needs to be carried out within the bird nesting season (generally March to August), then a nesting bird survey will be required by experienced personnel immediately prior to work commencing. Any active nests found must be protected with an adequately sized buffer zone.

Protected Species

- 5.2 If a protected species, such as a Great Crested Newt, or a large mammal hole, is found on site during the development works, work must stop and a suitably experienced ecologist be contacted for advice.

Invasive Species

- 5.3 The Himalayan Balsam should be removed prior to work commencing or during construction, using a suitable eradication methodology such as strimming or herbicide application. The Montbretia should be either removed from site using a suitable extraction methodology or managed on site to prevent its spread.

Habitat enhancement and creation

- 5.4 During the soft landscaping design, the following measures should be implemented to enhance the biodiversity value of the site:
- Where planting is proposed, this should include the provision of native and non-native flowering perennial, annual and shrub species, to provide a pollen and nectar source for invertebrates.
 - Bird and/or bat boxes could be erected onto the new development.
 - Tree planting – where practical, native tree species should be planted.

6.0 REFERENCES

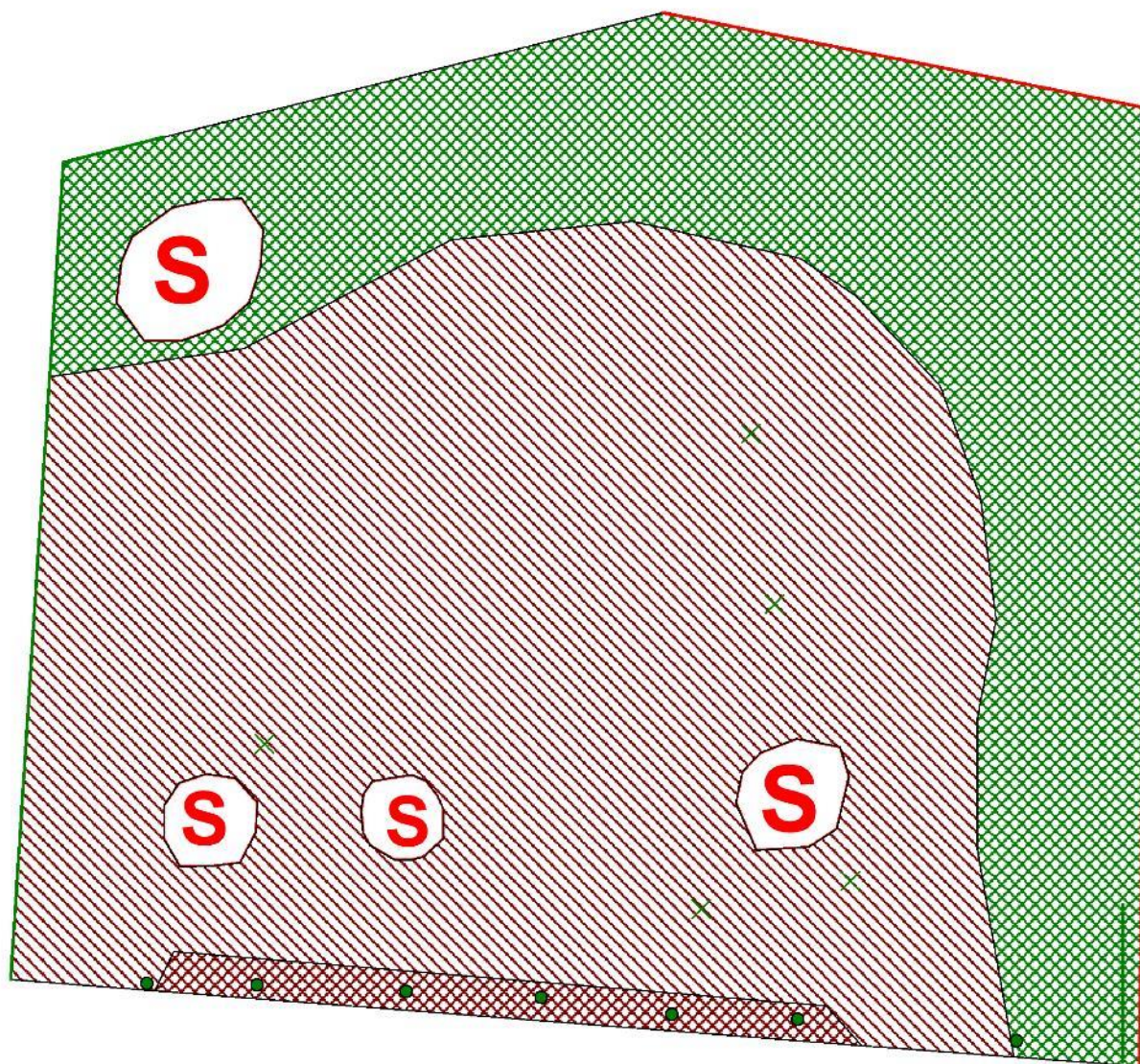
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PHASE 1 HABITAT MAP



Key

-  Continuous Scrub
-  Introduced Shrub
-  Spoil
-  Tall, Ruderal Herb
-  Intact Hedgerow
-  Wall
-  Scattered Scrub
-  Tree

Phase 1 Habitat Map

Tanners Street,
Ramsbottom, Bury

NOT TO SCALE

Drawn by: RF
Date: 14/11/2019



RACHEL HACKING ECOLOGY