



Bury Interchange – Phase I Southern Access

Bury, Greater Manchester

Ecological Impact Assessment

Prepared For: Wilmott Dixon

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Executive Summary

Site Details	The site is located in Bury Town centre. The approximate central grid reference of the site is SD 80377 10386. The main site is bounded by Pyramid Park/Market Street to the east; East Lancashire railway line to the south; Duke Street/Knowsley Place to the west; and Bury Interchange to the north.
Proposals	The site application boundary measures approximately 1.03ha. The description of development is as follows: Full planning application for the infill of the existing underpass, engineering works (including remediation works; foundation/piling works; and other associated engineering works) to recontour the land within Pyramid Park to tie into existing levels, the construction of a fully accessible pedestrian bridge structure (including alterations to Metrolink-related infrastructure) across the existing Metrolink line to allow access between Knowsley Place, the Metrolink platform (via lift and stairs) and Pyramid Park; improvements to the existing Metrolink platforms and canopies; construction of a new sloped footpath with stairs within Pyramid Park site from bridge; hard/soft landscaping; and associated drainage and lighting schemes.
Designated wildlife sites	There are no international, national or regional statutorily designated sites within influencing distance of the site. The Townside Site of Biological Importance (SBI), however, lies within the redline boundary, to the east of the site where the entrance road lies from Market Street. A planning application has already been approved on the Pyramid Park site (Ref: 70903) for remediation of this area of the SBI and so there will be no impacts on this area as a result of the proposed development. The area of SBI to retained to the east of Market Street will not be affected as a result of the proposals for this development.
Important Ecological Features present within or adjacent to the site	▶ The site consists mainly of developed land on the Union Square side of the site with ornamental planting and trees. Invasive species <i>Cotoneaster</i> sp. was observed on this part of the site. In the centre of the site lies the tram platform and Metrolink line which consists of mainly hardstanding with some scattered vegetation along the edges of the track. To the east the site the development extends onto an area known as Pyramid Park. This area comprises mainly scrub, areas of woodland and grassland and an entrance road from Market Street in the east. ▶ The habitats on the eastern side of the site at Pyramid Park have some suitability to support nesting birds, hedgehogs, amphibians, badgers, as well as foraging and commuting bats. The habitats at Union Square and on the Metrolink track line have suitability to support nesting birds.

Recommendations	The following recommendations are made to ensure that delivery of the project remains compliant with relevant legislation and policy: ▶ An invasive species management plan will be required to ensure that the <i>Cotoneaster</i> sp. is controlled and treated in line with an invasive species management plan prior to site development. ▶ A Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) is recommended for notable species such as common amphibians, badger and hedgehog which needs to be adhered to throughout the duration of works to avoid impacts on such species should they range onto site during construction operations. ▶ A pre-commencement badger survey is required ahead of construction to ensure that badgers have not ranged into the site. ▶ Invertebrate hotels and brash piles should be installed to provide suitable habitats for invertebrates and hedgehogs on site post-development. ▶ A sensitive lighting strategy will be required during construction and should be included as part of the development proposals, to minimise the effects of lighting on any commuting or foraging bats. ▶ Works should be completed outside of the nesting bird period (typically March to August), or vegetation should be removed following a nesting bird check undertaken by an ecologist no more than 24 hours before removal. Bird boxes should also be installed on new or retained trees as mitigation for any lost nesting habitat.
Conclusions	Overall, the impacts on ecological features on site are anticipated to be minimal and can be mitigated for. Currently, no further protected species surveys are required, and appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures have been provided, following the mitigation hierarchy and proposals are able to accord with all relevant wildlife policy and legislation, including local policies relating the local statutory development plan.

This Executive Summary is not a substitute for the full report. Refer to the full text of this report for further detail.

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Drawing 1: Baseline UK Habitats (G10850.002)
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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Environment Partnership (TEP) was commissioned by Wilmott Dixon (WD) in behalf of Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) in November 2024 to undertake an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) to support of a full planning application with the following description of development:

Full planning application for the infill of the existing underpass, engineering works (including remediation works; foundation/piling works; and other associated engineering works) to recontour the land within Pyramid Park to tie into existing levels, the construction of a fully accessible pedestrian bridge structure (including alterations to Metrolink-related infrastructure) across the existing Metrolink line to allow access between Knowsley Place, the Metrolink platform (via lift and stairs) and Pyramid Park; improvements to the existing Metrolink platforms and canopies; construction of a new sloped footpath with stairs within Pyramid Park site from bridge; hard/soft landscaping; and associated drainage and lighting schemes.

- 1.2 The scheme forms part of a two-phase redevelopment of the existing Bury Interchange building. The construction of the new Southern Access is key to enable Bury Metrolink to continue operating during the second phase works which includes the demolition and replacement of the existing Interchange building.
- 1.3 An Ecological Desk Study has been produced to support this EclA, reported under separate cover (TEP Ref: 10850.002). This EclA report should read in conjunction with the Desk Study.
- 1.4 This EclA report includes details of the methods employed and any limitations of the surveys undertaken. Results are provided with supporting maps, together with an evaluation of the ecological features within the Site, an assessment of the potential impacts associated with the development proposals and requirements for mitigation. The assessment has been undertaken with due consideration for current best practice guidelines (CIEEM 2017a¹, 2018²).

¹ CIEEM (2017a) Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing, 2nd Edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management

² CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine version 1.2. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester

Site Location

- 1.5 The site (central grid reference SD 80377 10386) is within the administrative area of Bury Metropolitan Borough Council. The main site is bounded by Pyramid Park/Market Street to the east; East Lancashire railway line to the south; Duke Street/Knowsley Place to the west; and Bury Interchange to the north. A small area of the existing interchange car park (bounded by Angouleme Way (A58) and Haymarket Street) is also included within the application redline boundary (Figure 1).

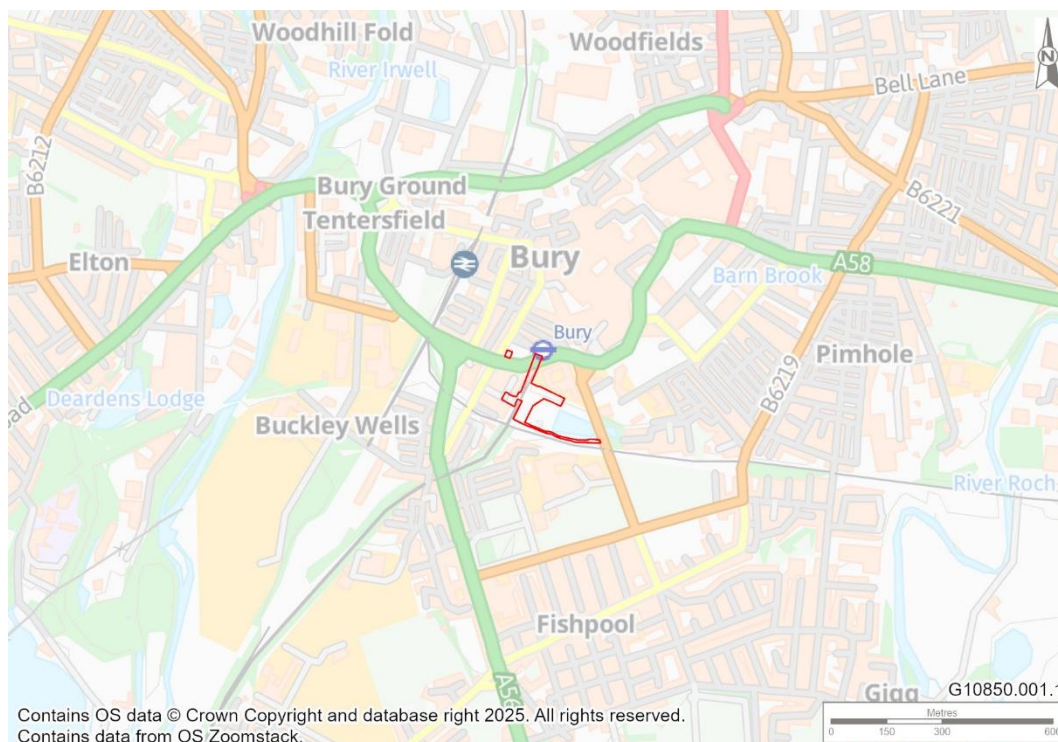


Figure 1: Site location

Proposals

- 1.6 In summary, the application proposals comprise the following specific work:
- Infill of the existing Metrolink underpass and associated pump room. Relocation of the pump room.
 - New Footbridge linking Union Square and Pyramid Park with vertical circulation leading to the southern end of the existing Metrolink Platform(s).
 - New accessible graded footpath (illuminated and drained) connecting bridge to Pyramid Park development area ground level.

- Engineering works, including land re-profiling, within Pyramid Park to tie into existing/proposed levels.
- Vegetation clearance with replacement landscaping and associated biodiversity enhancement works.
- Refurbishment and resurface of the Metrolink platform(s) and necessary structural alterations associated with construction of the vertical circulation and the access from the bridge.
- Replacement of the platform canopy (main supporting steel frame to be reused, solid metal canopy to be replaced with glazed)

Planning Context

- 1.7 Relevant information regarding local planning policy is provided in the Ecological Desk Study (TEP Ref 10850.002).
- 1.8 The site lies within the Bury Metropolitan Borough Council where planning policy currently follows the Bury Unitary Development Plan (UDP) Local Plan (adopted in August 1997) and the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan (adopted in March 2024). The Draft Bury Local Plan was published in March 2025 for consultation which will form part of a series of documents that together will form the overall development plan for Bury.
- 1.9 Under the National Planning Policy Framework 2024³ (NPPF), opportunities to achieve biodiversity net gain within developments should be pursued.

Pyramid Park

- 1.10 The proposed new Southern Access footbridge lands on to the Pyramid Park site. Bury Council, as applicant, has recently secured full planning permission (LPA ref. 70903/Full) for the remediation of the Pyramid Park site which was formerly a railway station and sidings before being reclaimed as public open space in the 1970's. Whilst the site is allocated as an opportunity site for development in the adopted UDP, the central part of the site is designated as a Grade B Site of Biological Importance (SBI), which is a non-statutory local wildlife designation, and a Wildlife Corridor is located east-to-west to the south of the site following the East Lancashire Railway line.

³ National Planning Policy Framework (2024). Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government..
<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/675abd214cbda57cacd3476e/NPPF-December-2024.pdf>

- 1.11 The planning application was informed by a suite of ecology and biodiversity net gain (BNG) reports prepared by TEP on behalf of the applicant. Ecology surveys conducted on the site in 2024 included:
- Phase 1 Habitat Survey and baseline habitat condition assessments;
 - National Vegetation Classification (NVC) survey;
 - Bat Activity Surveys including Night-time Bat Walkover (NBW) and static monitoring; and
 - Ground Level Bat Roost Assessment of trees and structures present on site.

- 1.12 Planning permission was subsequently granted in December 2024 subject to a suite of planning conditions including a pre-development requirement to prepare and submit for approval a precaution measures working method statement for bats, badger, mammals and amphibians prior to any earthworks or vegetation clearance.

- 1.13 The approval of a biodiversity gain plan before development commences was also required given that none of the statutory exemptions or transitional arrangements in Part 2 of the Biodiversity Gain (Town and Country Planning) (Modifications and Amendments) (England) Regulations 2024 apply.

Scope

- 1.14 This ecological assessment considers potential ecological effects upon any notable habitats or species which may be present or adjacent to the Site.
- 1.15 This report provides baseline information on the habitats and protected species present within the Site, gathered during a desktop study, undertaken in December 2024, and a UK habitat survey undertaken in November 2024.
- 1.16 This report presents the findings of the EcIA, the objectives of which are to:
- Detail the methods and results of the aforementioned surveys;
 - Identify features of ecological value within the Site, such as legally protected species or habitats of importance to biodiversity;
 - Identify any non-native invasive species within the Site and provide advice regarding removal or management;
 - Advise on avoidance or mitigation requirements that may be needed prior to development commencing; and
 - Provide outline recommendations for biodiversity enhancement within Site proposals in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and appraisal of the application proposals against relevant (ecology-based) statutory development plan policies and NPPF.

2.0 Methods

Desk Study

- 2.1 In line with current best practice (CIEEM, 2016⁴, 2017b⁵), information regarding designated sites, notable habitats and existing protected and notable species records of the past decade, within a 2km minimum radius of the Site was collated and reviewed to inform this ecological assessment. Further detail regarding ecological zones of influence (EZOI) applied for different ecological features and the sources of information included are presented in the Ecological Desk Study (TEP Ref 10850.002).
- 2.2 In brief, key data sources included Natural England (open source data), Environment Agency (open source data); Bury Metropolitan Council Environment Viewer, Bury Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and other relevant planning documentation such as the Bury Local Plan and Places for Everyone joint development plan, Greater Manchester Ecology Unit Records Centre (GMEU) and Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (GM BAP) and a review of relevant (within the past ten years) species records.
- 2.3 Statutory designated wildlife sites were searched for as follows (EZOI applied for each is indicated in brackets):
- Ramsar sites (10km);
 - National Sites Network (10km), includes Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA);
 - Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (5km);
 - National Nature Reserve (NNR) (5km); and
 - Local Nature Reserves (LNR) (2km).
- 2.4 Non-statutory designated wildlife sites were searched for within 2km of the Site and these may include:
- County Wildlife Sites (CWS); and

⁴ CIEEM (2016) Guidelines for Accessing and Using Biodiversity Data. Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management

⁵ CIEEM (2017b) Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd Edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management

- Sites of Biological Interest (SBI).

- 2.5 Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) are also identified in the search results provided by GMEU, but assessment of RIGS and other geological features do not fall within the scope of this EclA and are not discussed further.
- 2.6 Notable habitats were searched for within 250m of the Site. Notable habitats may include those listed under any of the following:
- Ancient woodland;
 - Main rivers;
 - Habitats of principal importance (HPI) as listed by the requirements of Section 41 (S41) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006⁶; and
 - Local Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats (LBAP).
- 2.7 Pre-existing records for notable species were reviewed from the combined data sources, where found from within approximately 2km of the Site. Notable species include those listed under any of the following:
- Protected animal species under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (EPS);
 - Protected bird species under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA1);
 - Protected animal species under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA5);
 - Protected plant species under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA8);
 - Invasive non-native plant species under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA9);
 - Invasive non-native species under the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019 (IAS);
 - Species of principal importance (SPI) as listed by the requirements of S41 of NERC;

⁶ Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.

- Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (PBA);
- Red and Amber listed Birds of Conservation Concern (BRd/BAm); and
- Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan Species (GM BAP).

Limitations

- 2.8 Species records can provide a useful indication of the species present within the search area, although the absence of a given species from the dataset cannot be taken to represent actual absence.

Habitats and Flora

Habitat Survey

- 2.9 A UK Habitat survey was completed by TEP on the 25th of November 2024 by a TEP ecologist, certified to Level 4 under the Field Identification Skills Certification. The survey was carried out in accordance with the assessment methods (JNCC, 2010) and Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM, 2017b). The method records the habitat types present, based on the UKHab descriptions. Plant species were identified in accordance with the New Flora of the British Isles (Stace, 2019).
- 2.10 The survey was expanded to include off-site habitats adjacent to the Site in order to provide context, where applicable. Adjacent habitats were viewed from accessible locations within the Site boundary. Habitats are displayed with the Site boundary in Drawing G10850.002.

Limitations

- 2.11 The habitat survey was undertaken outside of the optimum survey period of April to mid-October. Extensive survey work was also completed by TEP in summer 2024 (described in paragraph 1.1), as part of the surveys completed to support the application for remediation at Pyramid Park and so previous knowledge of the habitats on site have also informed this impact assessment. Due to the previous surveys undertaken and the small scale of habitat disturbance proposed this is not considered a significant constraint.
- 2.12 Any ecological survey represents a snapshot of ecological conditions at the time of survey; ecological conditions may change over time. Efforts to identify dominant plant species for the purposes of characterising broad habitat types do not constitute a detailed botanical survey.

Fauna

- 2.13 Ordnance Survey maps and aerials were reviewed to identify potentially suitable habitats offsite within influence (e.g. dispersal distances for mobile species) of the Site. The Ecological Desk Study identified any pre-existing records for protected and notable species within at least 2km of the Site.
- 2.14 The habitat survey included an extended assessment of the habitats present for their potential to support notable or protected wildlife species, as described at paragraph 2.7. Any signs indicating the presence of these species were recorded.
- 2.15 In combination, this data informed the ecological evaluation of the Site and impact assessment for the proposed development.

Limitations

- 2.16 Constraints or limitations upon survey methods or interpretation of survey findings are discussed in the relevant Ecological Technical Report.

Ecological Assessment Process

- 2.17 This EcIA follows the published guidelines (CIEEM, 2018) and accepted best practice approach (BS42020:2013⁷) of the mitigation hierarchy whereby impacts are first avoided or, where this is not possible, reduced or mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated.
- 2.18 In summary, the following procedure was undertaken during this EcIA:
 - Describe the baseline and identify important ecological features;
 - Describe important ecological features and identify those which may potentially be affected by the Site;
 - Identify potential impacts upon important ecological features and characterise the effect of such impacts (in respect of biophysical changes and taking account of relevant aspects of ecosystem structure or function);
 - Incorporate measures to avoid or reduce these effects;

⁷ British Standards Institution (2013) BS 42020:2013: Biodiversity — Code of practice for planning and development. BSI Standards Limited, London

- Determine whether residual ecological effects are considered significant after avoidance or mitigation;
- Identify appropriate compensation measures to offset significant residual effects; and
- Identify opportunities for ecological enhancement.

- 2.19 Important ecological features are identified and valued, ecological impacts are characterised and assessed, and recommendations for appropriate mitigation, compensation and enhancement are made, in accordance with CIEEM guidance.
- 2.20 BS42020:2013 defines a significant effect as one “which is important, notable, or of consequence, having regard to its context”. CIEEM describes significance as “a concept related to the weight that should be attached to effects when decisions are made”. CIEEM defines an ecological effect as significant if it is “sufficiently important to require assessment and reporting so that the decision maker is adequately informed of the environmental consequences of permitting a project”.
- 2.21 BS42020:2013 sets out a practical approach to determining the significance of an ecological effect, applicable at all levels of decision making in legal and policy terms, as follows:
- will the effect on biodiversity influence the balance of planning considerations and therefore the decision as to whether planning permission is likely to be refused or granted; and
 - if planning permission is granted, is the effect important enough to warrant the use of planning conditions and/or obligations to guarantee proposed measures or to impose restrictions, or to seek further requirements (e.g. for mitigation, compensation, enhancement, monitoring or management).
- 2.22 Significance is therefore assessed on a case-specific basis according to the importance of the ecological feature (wildlife site, habitat or species) within the conservation hierarchy, and the effect upon it.

Assumptions

- 2.23 Information provided by third parties, including publicly available information, is assumed to be correct at the time of publication.

3.0 Results

Planning Context

- 3.1 The NPPF at Chapter 15: Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment requires that development delivers net gains in biodiversity in addition to minimising the impacts on biodiversity. The chapter highlights the need to protect and enhance valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils, as well as recognising the wider benefits of ecosystems.
- 3.2 The Bury Unitary Development Plan (UDP (Adopted 29th August 1997) sets out future development or protection of land in the Borough. The council is currently working to replace the adopted UDP with the Bury Local Plan, for which a draft was produced in March 2025. The following policies relate to biodiversity and nature conservation:
- Policy EN6 – Conservation of the Natural Environment
 - ▶ EN6/2 - Sites of Nature Conservation Interest
 - ▶ EN6/3 - Features of Ecological Value
 - ▶ EN6/4 - Wildlife Links and Corridors
 - Policy EN8 – Woodland and Trees
 - Policy EN9 – Landscape
 - Policy EN10 – Environmental Improvement
- 3.3 The Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan (Adopted 21st March 2024) is a long-term plan of nine Greater Manchester districts including Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan. The document outlines the plan for jobs, new homes and sustainable growth. The following policies relate to biodiversity and nature conservation:
- JP-Strat 13 – Strategic Green Infrastructure
 - JP-S 2 – Carbon and Energy
 - JP-G 1 – Valuing Important Landscapes
 - JP-G 2 – Green Infrastructure Network
 - JP-G 3 – River Valleys and Waterways
 - JP-G 4 – Lowland Wetlands and Mosslands
 - JP-G 5 – Uplands

- JP-G 6 – Urban Green Space
- JP-G 7 – Trees and Woodland
- JP-G 8 – Standards for Greener Places
- JP-G 9 – A net enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity
- JP-G 10 – The Green Belt

Wildlife Sites

National Sites Network and Statutory Wildlife Sites

- 3.4 Full details regarding designated sites are provided within the Ecological Desk Study (TEP Ref 10850.002).
- 3.5 There is one statutory designated site of international importance within 10km of the Site, none of national importance within 5km and two of regional or local importance within 2km. These are:
- Rochdale Canal Special Area of Conservation (SAC), located 7.7km to the east of the site, which is designated for its population of *Luronium natans*;
 - Chesham Woods Local Nature Reserve (LNR), located 1.6km to the northeast of the site, which is designated for its woodland habitats and bird and butterfly assemblages; and
 - Hollins Vale LNR, located 1.8km to the southeast of the site, which is designated for its woodland and wetland habitats and associated plant and animal assemblages.
- 3.6 SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) highlight the potential for effects on a SSSI if certain types of development are planned within a specified radius of it. The Site falls within a single Impact Risk Zone (IRZ). The proposals do not meet any of the risk parameters identified for this IRZ.

Local Wildlife Sites

- 3.7 There are 12 non-statutory wildlife sites identified within 2km of the Site. Details are presented in the Ecological Desk Study. Of most relevance are the following:
- Townside Site of Biological Interest (SBI), located within the site boundary in the southeast, which is designated for its swamp and marsh habitats, along with an exceptional population of smooth newts found in 2012.
- 3.8 Other non-statutory wildlife sites identified by the Ecological Desk Study (TEP Ref 10850.002) are located at least 1km from the proposed works and have no impact pathways relevant to the site

or the proposed nature of the works. Given this and the small scale and nature of the proposals and distances concerned, no significant effect would be anticipated to arise upon these other non-statutory wildlife sites, and they are therefore scoped out from further assessment.

Habitats and Flora

Pre-existing Data

- 3.9 The Desk Study identified no notable habitats on, adjacent to or connected with the Site.
- 3.10 No records of protected and notable or non-native invasive flora species were returned within 2km of the site.
- 3.11 Habitats of ecological value present in and around the site are described below.

Woodland, Trees and Scrub

Other woodland; broadleaved

- 3.12 There is an area of semi-natural semi-mature broadleaved woodland which borders the Metrolink line in the southeast of the site. Willow species *Salix sp* dominate this area with occasional alder *Alnus glutinosa* and some elder *Sambucus nigra*. The understorey is sparse, dominated mostly by leaf litter and very little vegetation other than dandelion *Taraxacum officinale agg.* and cleavers *Galium aparine*.

Scattered trees

- 3.13 Numerous scattered trees are present around the site. The banks along the Metrolink tramline consist of scattered broadleaved trees, predominantly of goat willow *Salix caprea*, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and common ash *Fraxinus excelsior*. With cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*, bird cherry *Prunus padus* and elder also present.
- 3.14 Linear trees on the Union Square side of the site included a variety of species such as planted ornamental trees such as holm oak *Quercus ilex*, Himalayan birch *Betula utilis* and silver birch *Betula pendula* (Figure 2) as well as linear planted hybrid black poplar *Populus nigra x canadensis*, on the Pyramid Park side of the site, where the entrance road extends from Market Street.



Figure 2: Scattered Trees at Union Square

Bramble scrub and Introduced shrub

- 3.15 Dense/continuous scrub along the banks of the railway lines, mainly consists of bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and ivy *Helix hedera* and ornamental *Cotoneaster* species to the east of the Metrolink tramline at Union Square.
- 3.16 The western area of Pyramid Park (Figure 3), east of the Metrolink tramline, consists mainly of dense/continuous scrub to the north, dominated by bramble with occasional scattered silver

birch trees *Betula pendula* and grey willow *Salix cinerea* scrub, rose species *Rosa sp.* are also present, as well as cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*.



Figure 3: Dense Scrub North of the Site

Grasslands

Modified grassland

- 3.17 Some small areas within the Pyramid Park site include areas of modified grassland with species such as false oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* and red fescue *Festuca rubra* abundant.
- 3.18 Two areas of amenity grassland were also present within the area of Union Square.



Figure 4: Grassland at Pyramid Park site

Developed land

- 3.19 The area of Union Square in the west consists mainly of hardstanding (see Figure 2 above). As well as the areas that include the tram line, platform and Metrolink station in the centre of the site. Hardstanding also extends into the Pyramid Park site with tarmac walkways and an existing maintenance track which runs along the southern part of the site and leads to Market Street in the east.

Invasive Flora

- 3.20 *Cotoneaster* species was recorded during the UK Habitat survey along the banks of the railway lines and large areas are present at Union Square adjacent to the steps and buildings.



Figure 5: Cotoneaster species at Union Square

Habitat Connectivity

- 3.21 The site had limited connectivity to the wider area due to the main roads (A58 and A56) to the north and west of the site, as well as the residential developments to the south and east and town centre, commercial developments to the north and west. However, the Metrolink line on site and the East Lancashire railway line to the south do provide some, albeit limited, connectivity as semi-green corridor which could link the site the River Irwell and Elton Reservoir in the south and the River Roch and green open space in the east.

Fauna

Amphibians

- 3.22 The desk study returned the following amphibian records within 2km of the site:
- Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* (EPS, WCA5, S41, LBAP); and
 - Common toad *Bufo bufo* (S41).
- 3.23 There are no habitats, in the form of standing water, within the site or within 500m of the site that offer potential for breeding amphibians. However, there is a flooded area of marshy grassland to the east of the site within Pyramid Park that has some suitability for foraging and commuting amphibians. However, it should be noted that planning permission has been granted for comprehensive remediation works, as outlined in Chapter 1.0, which will lead to loss of the marshy grassland area within the Pyramid Park site.
- 3.24 In addition, the woodland and scrub habitats within the Pyramid Park side of the site offer some suitability for foraging, commuting and hibernating amphibians.

Badger

- 3.25 The desk study returned records of badger *Meles meles* (PBA) within 2km of the site.
- 3.26 No signs of setts or sett construction were found within or adjacent to the site during the site walkover. There is suitable sett building and foraging habitat within the Pyramid Park side of the site, particularly within the bramble scrub bank and woodland areas, and there are connective habitat corridors from the site to other suitable badger habitat in the wider area.

Bats

- 3.27 The desk study returned the following bats records within 2km of the site:
- Bats (EPS, WCA5, LBAP);

- Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (EPS, WCA5, LBAP);
- Pipistrelle sp. *Pipistrellus sp.* (EPS, WCA5, LBAP);
- Brown Long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus* (EPS, WCA5, S41, LBAP);
- Daubenton's Bat *Myotis daubentonii* (EPS, WCA5, S41, LBAP);
- Nathusius' Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus nathusii* (EPS, WCA5, S41, LBAP);
- Noctule *Nyctalus noctula* (EPS, WCA5, S41, LBAP);
- Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* (EPS, WCA5, S41, LBAP);
- Whiskered Bat *Myotis mystacinus* (EPS, WCA5, S41, LBAP); and
- Whiskered/Brandt's Bat *Myotis mystacinus/Myotis brandti* (EPS, WCA5, S41, LBAP).

Roosting

- 3.28 The majority of the trees within the redline boundary site were young in age and did not have any features to support roosting bats. There are some more mature trees on the eastern Pyramid Park area of the site, however, there were no trees found to support any features suitable for roosting bats.
- 3.29 Buildings and structures within the site were surveyed and it was found that there are no buildings or structures within or adjacent to the site that have any features suitable for roosting bats. A tunnel is present running under the tram line which links Duke's Street/Union Square to

the Pyramid Park site. Although access was limited, due to flooding at the time of the survey, the tunnel was well intact and did not show any features for roosting bats.



Figure 6: Tunnel under the railway leading to Pyramid Park

Foraging and Commuting

- 3.30 The site offers suitable foraging habitat for bats, especially the scrub and woodland areas within the Pyramid Park area of the site. The wider Pyramid Park site predominantly consists of marshy grassland, with areas of woodland/scrub edge and tall ruderal habitat around the boundary. There are also scattered urban trees present around the site.
- 3.31 The site has connectivity with the East Lancashire railway line to the south of the site and Metrolink tramline in the west linking the site to suitable bat commuting and foraging habitat in the wider landscape such as the River Irwell and surrounding habitats in the west and the River Roch and surrounding habitats in the east.

Birds

- 3.32 The desk study returned numerous records for protected and notable bird species within 2km of the Site boundary, full details of which are provided in the Ecological Desk Study (TEP Ref 10850.002).

3.33 Red listed birds (BRd) recorded within 2km of the site are:

- Black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa*;
- Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*;
- Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*;
- Curlew *Numenius*;
- Grasshopper warbler *Locustella naevia*;
- Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*;
- Herring gull *Larus argentatus*;
- House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*;
- Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*;
- Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret*;
- Linnet *Linaria cannabina*;
- Marsh tit *Poecile palustris*;
- Scaup *Aythya affinis*;
- Skylark *Alauda arvensis*;
- Spotted flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*;
- Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*;
- Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*;
- Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*;
- Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*;
- Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*; and
- Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*.

3.34 The woodland, scattered trees, dense scrub and introduced shrub within the application site red line boundary offers potential for a wide range of nesting and foraging birds, particularly common urban bird species.

3.35 The site is unsuitable for wintering birds, as no large waterbodies are present and the site is surrounded by dense scrub and banks, with no open sight lines which wintering birds prefer, in

order to avoid predation. In addition, there are no suitable features on site to support any Schedule 1 bird species.

Invertebrates

- 3.36 The desk study returned numerous invertebrate records within 2km of the site.
- 3.37 Some dead standing and fallen wood are present within the woodland area to the south and dense scrub habitat to the north of the Pyramid Park area of the site, which could support a varied invertebrate population including protected S41 species such as cinnabar moth, and other species of moth and butterflies.

Reptiles

- 3.38 The desk study returned no results of reptile within 2km of the site.
- 3.39 There was no habitat within the application site likely to support reptiles. Reptiles favour a range of habitat types and varying topography to provide a combination of necessary conditions required for shelter, foraging and basking. The scrub offers some suitability for shelter and foraging reptiles, however, is isolated from other suitable reptile habitats in the wider landscape as therefore this species will not be discussed further in this report.

Otter & Water Vole

- 3.40 The desk study returned results of otter *Lutra lutra* (EPS, WCA5) within 2km of the site. No records for water vole *Arvicola amphibius* were returned within 2km of the site.
- 3.41 Otters and water vole require primarily watercourses and riparian habitats for foraging and commuting, with otters also requiring wetlands or woodland in close proximity for shelter. There

were no suitable habitats within or adjacent to the site that would support otter or water vole at any of its life stages and therefore these species will not be discussed further within this report.

Other Relevant Species

- 3.42 Records of brown hare *Lepus europaeus* (WCA5, LBAP) and hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* (S41) were returned within 2km of the site.
- 3.43 The habitats on site did not contain the features such as hedgerows or open grassland to support brown hare and therefore this species will not be discussed further within this report.
- 3.44 The scrub and woodland habitats within the Pyramid Park side of the site to the east were suitable to support foraging and hibernating hedgehogs, as well as the area of introduced shrub to the west of the Metrolink tramline within Union Square.

4.0 Assessment of Potential Impacts

- 4.1 This section assesses the potential impacts on ecological features associated with the Site described in Section 1.0.
- 4.2 Consideration is given to the 'mitigation hierarchy', i.e. that impacts are first avoided or where this is not practicable, mitigated and as a final resort, compensated (off-set).

Wildlife Sites

Statutory Designated Sites

- 4.3 Given the distance and barriers to dispersal such as main roads and tram/railway lines between the application site and any statutory-designated sites, it is not considered likely that there will be any impacts on any designations as a result of the proposals. Therefore, they will not be discussed further in this report.

Non-statutory Designated Sites

- 4.4 The Townside SBI within the site boundary could be adversely impacted as a result of the proposed development, however, prior to this development commencing, the Pyramid Park site is to be remediated, under approved planning application 70903, and the SBI in this area lost. Therefore, this development will have no effect on this area of the SBI and this will not be discussed any further within this report.
- 4.5 In addition, the area of SBI to be retained to the east of Market Street will not be affected as a result of these development proposals due to the distance between the development plans for the site.
- 4.6 All other non-statutory designated sites are a considerable distance from the site and behind significant barriers such as main roads, so it is considered unlikely that they will be affected as a result of the proposed development.

Habitats and Flora

Notable Habitats

- 4.7 No notable habitats are found within the site or adjacent to the site, and it is considered unlikely that any protected habitats will be affected as a result of the proposed development.

Other Habitats

- 4.8 Habitats to be lost as part of the development proposals will include areas of scrub, woodland and grassland, within the Pyramid Park area of the application site, as well as some scattered trees. Mitigation for this will be discussed in Section 5.0 of this report.

Invasive Flora

- 4.9 Invasive species *Cotoneaster* species was recorded around the site. Some of these areas are assumed to be lost as a result of the development. Mitigation measures for its removal will be discussed in Section 5.0 of this report.

Fauna

Amphibians

- 4.10 There is no suitable breeding habitat for amphibians within the site boundary and within 500m of the site. However, there was suitable terrestrial habitat within the site that may offer suitable foraging and commuting habitat for common notable amphibians, such as common toad. As such their presence on site cannot be discounted, there will be implications for the proposed development for common amphibian species.

Badger

- 4.11 The overgrown scrub habitats present within the Pyramid Park area of the application site provide some habitat for badgers along with the connective habitat corridors of the railway line in the south and tram line within the site. Therefore, there is the potential for badgers to be present on site and for them to be negatively impacted as a result of the proposed development.

Bats

- 4.12 The grassland, scrub, woodland and scattered tree habitats present mainly around the Pyramid Park area of the application site offer commuting or foraging for bats in the area. If these habitats are to be lost as part of the proposals, this would negatively impact any commuting or foraging bats in the area. Mitigation for these impacts will be discussed in Section 5.0 of this report.

Birds

- 4.13 There is a risk of damage or destroying a nest if tree felling or lopping or vegetation clearance is carried out in the nesting period (generally considered to be between March to August inclusive, although geographical position of the Site will influence this period and some species nest also commonly nest outside this period).
- 4.14 The loss of any scattered trees, scrub and woodland habitat on site will impact foraging and nesting birds on site. Mitigation for these impacts will be discussed in Section 5.0 of this report.

Invertebrates

- 4.15 The deadwood and scrub present on site could support a small population of invertebrates, and the loss of these habitats will have a negative impact on these populations. Mitigation for this impact will be discussed in Section 5.0 of this report.

Hedgehog

- 4.16 The loss of any scrub and woodland habitats present on site will impact any hedgehog present on site. Mitigation for these impacts will be discussed in Section 5.0 of this report.

5.0 Mitigation and Enhancement

- 5.1 This section describes appropriate and proportionate measures for impact avoidance, mitigation and enhancement required or recommended to address the potential ecological effects described in Section 4.0.

Habitats and Flora

Notable Habitats

- 5.2 There are several mature trees on site. Appropriate tree protection measures (in line with BS5837:2012) will need to be put in place to ensure an adequate habitat buffer from any retained trees is maintained from the proposed development during construction of the site. Adequate replacement planting will be required for trees lost to the development. Any trees lost should be replaced on a minimum two-for-one basis to ensure there is no net loss of trees and native species should ideally be used in replacement planting. An Arboricultural Impact Assessment will be submitted as part of the planning application to address any tree loss (TEP Doc Ref: 10850.01.001).

Other Habitats

- 5.3 The loss of the woodland, scattered trees and scrub habitat on site should be mitigated for. Planting of trees, scrub and woodland areas within the development proposals should take place in order to ensure there is a net gain of biodiversity, in line with the Places for Everyone policy JP-G8 and the National Planning Policy Framework.

Invasive Flora

Avoidance and Mitigation Required

- 5.4 An invasive non-native species (INNS) method statement will be required to ensure the correct removal and disposal of the *Cotoneaster* species and measures must be included to prevent its spread during the bridge works.

Fauna

Amphibians

- 5.5 GCN are full protected and other common amphibians such as smooth newt, common toad and common frog are partially protected under the Habitats Regulations and the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). GCN and common toad are also a SPI.

Avoidance and Mitigation Required

- 5.6 Common toad can travel substantial distances overland, and it is possible commuting/foraging toad could be present on site. Loss of suitable terrestrial habitat has the potential to kill/injure common amphibians during construction. A Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) will be required to set out the working methods that will need to be adhered to avoid impacts on any amphibians that may be encountered during the works.
- 5.7 It is recommended that an Ecological Clerk of works (ECOW) supervise the removal of any vegetation of site. Scrub areas, woodland and grassland should undergo a staged strip in order for the ECOW to conduct a fingertip search of the ground for potential amphibians. Once the ECOW is satisfied that none are present, a full vegetation strip of the searched area can be carried out.
- 5.8 Where trees are to be removed, the root balls will also be searched for any hibernating amphibians. Any amphibians found will be relocated to a safe area within the Pyramid Park site, to the east of Market Street.
- 5.9 In the highly unlikely event, that a GCN is found during construction works, works must stop immediately and advice from the Project Ecologist sought. Contact with Natural England may be required, and a licence sought to continue works.

Badger

- 5.10 Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992⁸ from killing, injury and certain acts of cruelty. Their setts are also protected from damage, obstruction or destruction.

⁸ Protection of Badgers Act 1992 c. 51 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/51/>

Avoidance and Mitigation Required

- 5.11 It is recommended that a pre-commencement badger survey is undertaken on site and the surrounding 30m (where possible), to ensure badgers have not ranged into the site. The pre-commencement survey should take place no earlier than 3 months prior to commencement of the development.
- 5.12 A Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) is recommended for notable mammals including badger to set out the working methods that will need to be adhered to throughout the duration of works to avoid impacts on such species should they range into the site during construction operations.

Bats

- 5.13 All British bats are European protected species, afforded full protection under the Habitats Regulations and the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Bats are protected from killing or injury, and from disturbance at the place of rest. Bat roosts are also protected from obstruction, damage or destruction (whether or not a bat is in occupation at the time). All bats are listed as priority under the Greater Manchester BAP also.

Avoidance and Mitigation Required

- 5.14 During construction of the proposed development, and as part of the final development plans, a sensitive lighting strategy will be required to minimise the effects of lighting on any commuting or foraging bats in the area.
- 5.15 Where possible, habitats will be retained and enhanced, or replaced, to strengthen the commuting and foraging habitat on site, in particular the green corridors to the north and south of the site along with the scrub and woodland areas on site. Where possible, habitats such as scrub, grassland and trees have been included within the landscape design also to enhance the site and mitigate for any loss of suitable foraging habitats.
- 5.16 Consideration for bat boxes has been given to be included as mitigation for any potential roosting sites that will be lost as a result of the development.

Birds

- 5.17 Native nesting birds, their nests and eggs are protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) from damage and destruction, from the time of nest construction to fledging of the young. Many are also SPI.

Avoidance and Mitigation Required

- 5.18 Any vegetation clearance works should be completed outside of the nesting period (typically taken to be March to August inclusive). Where avoidance of the nesting period is not practicable, a nesting bird check must be carried out by an ecologist no more than 24 hours prior to the works, to confirm that no active nests are present. Nesting bird checks should only be undertaken as last resort on small areas of habitat. This will prevent fragmentation and loss of breeding bird territories within the site and surrounding landscape. In the event that an active nest is identified, works within the surrounding area must halt until the chicks have fledged. The required radius of the exclusion area will depend on the species found nesting and the context of the nesting location.

Additional Measures or Enhancement Recommended

- 5.19 Consideration for bird boxes has been given, to be included on retained trees as mitigation for any potential nesting sites that will be lost as a result of the development.

Invertebrates

- 5.20 The invertebrates historically recorded on site are S41 species of principal importance. The site provides habitats suitable for a variety of invertebrates including priority species such as cinnabar moths and other species of moth and butterfly.

Avoidance and Mitigation Required

- 5.21 The loss of the dead wood and scrub present on site could negatively impact any populations of protected invertebrates present on site. Habitats will be retained and enhanced where possible and a landscape design will include the addition of suitable habitats for a wide range of invertebrates, such as scrub and wildflower grassland.

Additional Measures or Enhancement Recommended

- 5.22 A bug hotel has been added to the design proposals to mitigate for the loss of any potential habitat for invertebrates as a result of the development.

Hedgehog

- 5.23 Hedgehog is a S41 species of principal importance.

Avoidance and Mitigation Required

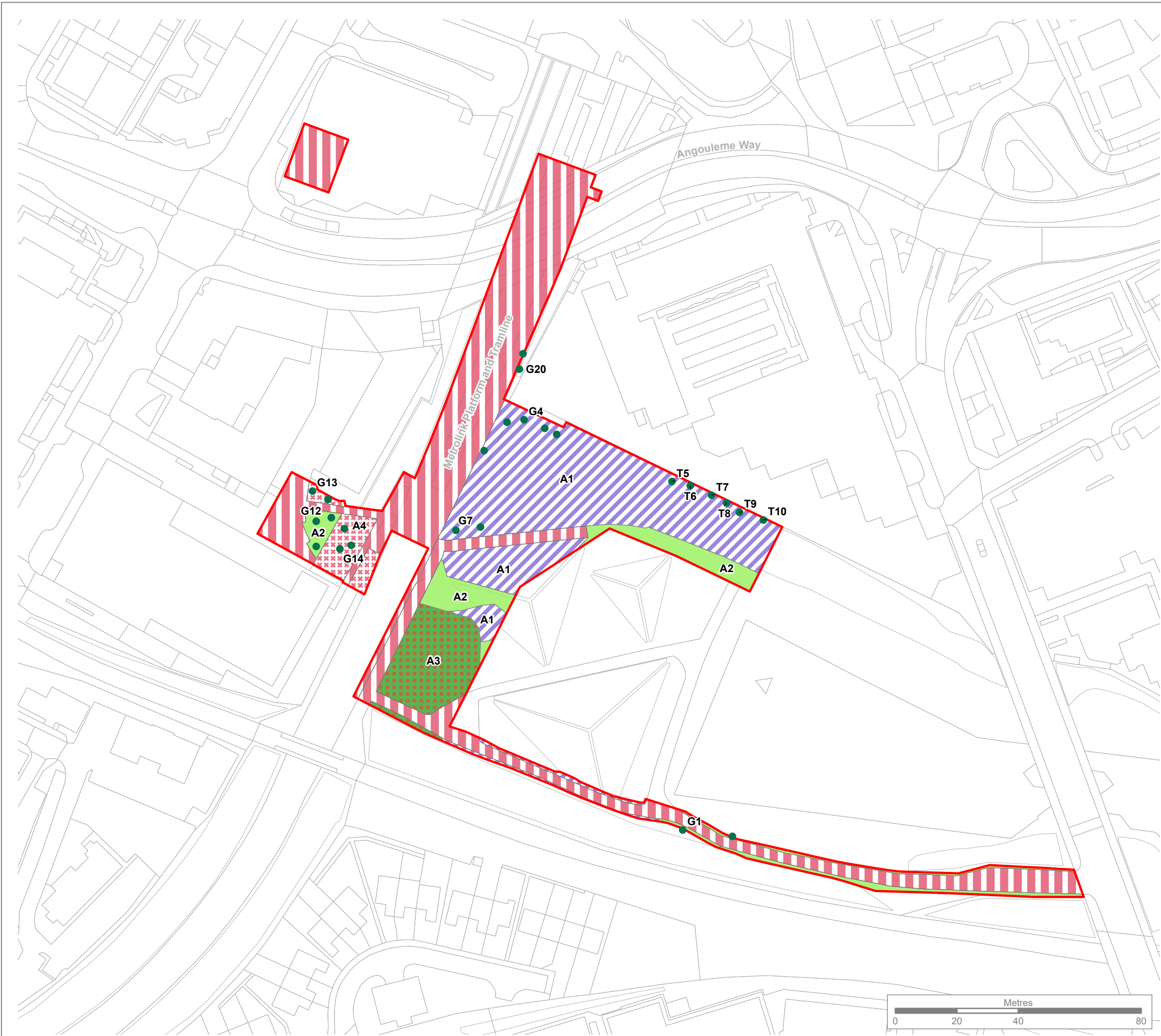
- 5.24 PWMS for notable mammals to include hedgehog is recommended to set out the working methods that will need to be adhered to throughout the duration of works to avoid impacts on these species that may be encountered during the construction stage.

Additional Measures or Enhancement Recommended

- 5.25 Brash piles should be formed and retained on site, providing sheltering and hibernation opportunities for hedgehogs locally. These can be created from the trees and scrub on site which will require removal.

Drawings

Drawing 1: Baseline UK Habitats (G10850.002)



KEY

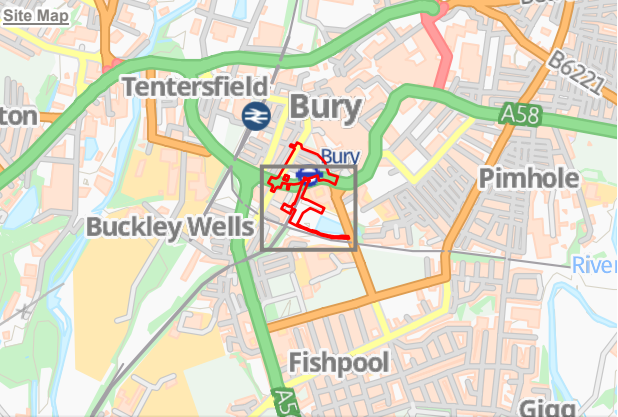
- Site boundary
- Urban tree
- Modified grassland
- Bramble scrub
- Other woodland, broadleaved
- Developed land, sealed surface
- Introduced shrub

Note:
The locations of habitats and habitat features are indicative.



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Site Map



Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date



THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP

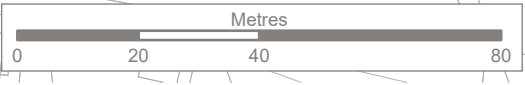
401 Faraday Street, Birchwood Park, Warrington, WA3 6GA
Tel 01925 844004 e-mail tep@tep.uk.com www.tep.uk.com

Project
Bury Interchange

Title
**Baseline UK Habitats
Phase 1**

TEP Drawing Number G10850.002	Drawing Number 10612-TEP-ZZZ-ZZZ-D-EN-000001
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Drawn SP	Checked CW	Approved EH	Scale 1:1,250 @ A3	Date 20/03/2025
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