



Bury Interchange - Phase I Southern Access

Bury, Greater Manchester

Biodiversity Enhancement and Precautionary Working Measures

Prepared For: Willmott Dixon

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Drawings

Drawing 1: 16012-OOB-ZZZ-ZZZ-D-LA-000001 Landscape Masterplan

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Environment Partnership (TEP) was commissioned by Wilmott Dixon on behalf of Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) to produce a Habitat Management Plan and Precautionary Working Method Statement. This document is required to discharge conditions 15 and 17 of the full planning permission (decision notice 71834).

Background

- 1.2 Proposals are for the infill of an underpass, engineering works to recontour land, construction of a pedestrian bridge, improvements to Metrolink platforms, and landscaping at Pyramid Park. This is the first phase of a larger re-development project for the Bury Interchange travel hub.
- 1.3 Planning permission has been granted by Bury Metropolitan Borough Council (application no: 71834).
- 1.4 Bury Metropolitan Borough Council have issued conditions to the granted application as follows:

Condition 15

- 1.5 *Prior to any vegetation clearance or earthworks, a precautionary working measures method statement for mammals including hedgehog and amphibians shall be provided to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved measures shall be incorporated prior to the commencement of development and thereafter maintained for the duration of the construction of the development. Reason. In order to ensure that no harm is caused to a Protected Species pursuant to policies EN6/3 - Features of Ecological Value of the Bury Unitary Development Plan and National Planning Policy Framework Section 15 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.*

Condition 17

- 1.6 *Prior to above ground works, details of the location of 4 no bird and 2 no bat boxes shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval. The approved bird and bat boxes and locations shall thereafter be implemented prior to the first use of the development thereby approved. Reason. To ensure ecological enhancement of the site pursuant to Policies JP-G8 -A Net Enhancement of Biodiversity and Geodiversity and chapter 15 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment of the NPPF.*

Site Description

- 1.7 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.

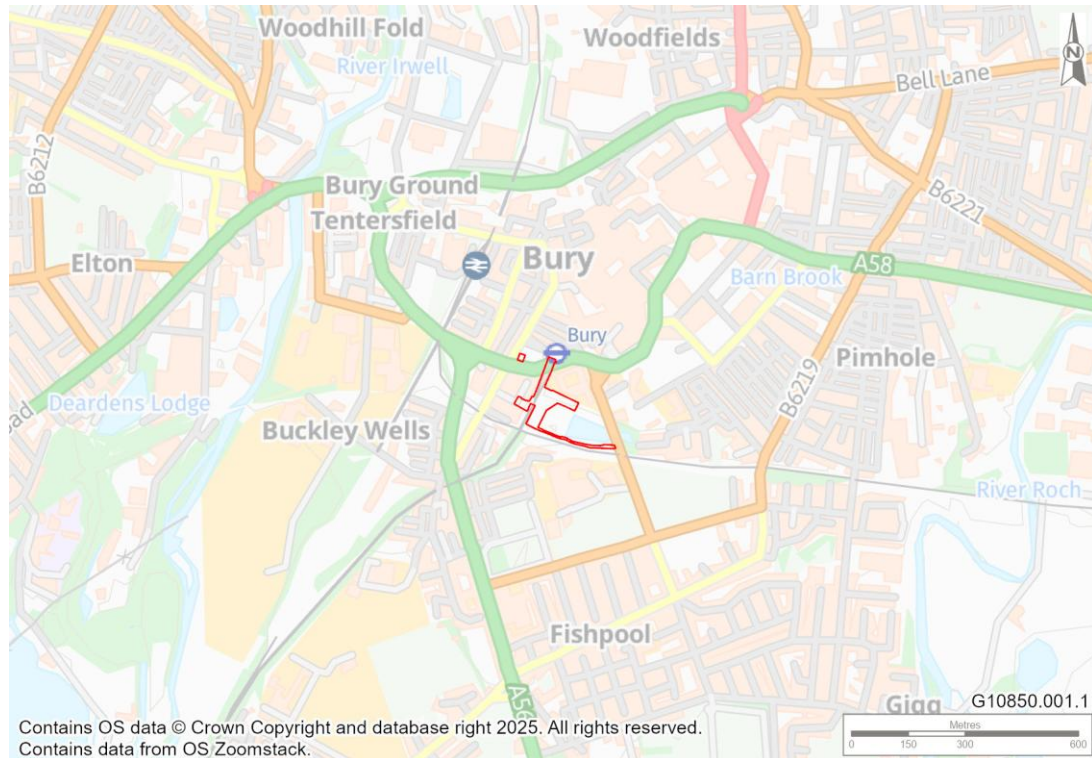


Figure 1: Site Location

Associated Documents

- 1.8 TEP have also produced ecological reports, those which have been used to inform this document are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of Assessments

Assessment undertaken by TEP	Scope and latest date undertaken	Report Reference
Ecological Desk Study - Phase 1	Undertaken in March 2025	10850.002
EclA Report - Phase 1	Undertaken in March 2025	10850.003
Biodiversity Net Gain Report - Phase 1	Undertaken in March 2025	10850.004

2.0 Ecological Baseline and Assessment of Potential Impacts

- 2.1 An Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) report (TEP Ref: 10850.003) was produced by TEP which identified and evaluated ecological features within the site.
- 2.2 A summary of the ecological baseline of the site and relevant features is provided below.

Habitats

- 2.3 The site consists mainly of developed land on the Union Square side of the site with ornamental planting and trees. 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.

Species

Amphibians

- 2.4 The desk study identified 27 records of common toad *Bufo bufo* for within 2km of the site.
- 2.5 Common toad are a species of principal importance (SPI) for biodiversity as listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Common toads, smooth newts *Lissotriton vulgaris* and palmate newts *Lissotriton helveticus* are also offered limited protection by section 9(5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, prohibiting the sale, barter, exchange or transport for sale or advertising to sell or to buy.
- 2.6 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. The woodland, mixed scrub and ornamental planting with trees provide suitable commuting and hibernating habitat for common amphibians. The presence of small populations of common toad cannot be discounted and therefore, there is the potential for common toad to be harmed during site clearance works.

Badgers

- 2.7 The desk study returned records of badger *Meles meles* (PBA) within 2km of the site.

- 2.8 Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 from killing, injury and certain acts of cruelty. Their setts are also protected from damage, obstruction or destruction.
- 2.9 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.

Birds

- 2.10 The desk study identified numerous records of schedule 1 birds and bird species of principal importance within 2km of the site.
- 2.11 All birds, their nests and eggs are protected by the law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), making it an offence to intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy an active nest or any part thereof.
- 2.12 The woodland, mixed scrub and ornamental planting with trees provide suitable commuting, foraging and nesting habitat for common bird species. The habitats on site are considered unsuitable for Schedule 1 bird species.

Hedgehog

- 2.13 42 records for hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* a species of Principal Importance (SPI) within 2km of the site.
- 2.14 Hedgehog are considered species of principal importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006. Hedgehogs are also partially protected under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, in that they are protected from being killed, injured or taken by certain methods.
- 2.15 The mixed scrub provides suitable foraging and hibernating habitat for hedgehog and there is potential for this species to be harmed during site clearance.

Other relevant species

Deer

- 2.16 There is a presence of deer within the site, and they have been recorded multiple times during site surveys.
- 2.17 Deer in the UK (such as roe deer, fallow deer, muntjac, red deer, and sika deer) are not protected by specific legislation concerning habitat disturbance. However:

Causing unnecessary suffering to deer is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

- 2.18 Developers have a general duty of care to avoid harm to wild animals during works. Deer can pose health and safety risks (collision, stress-related behaviour) if disturbed in confined spaces.

3.0 Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS)

- 3.1 In order to discharge **Condition 15**, and prior to site clearance works (i.e. topsoil stripping) commencing on site, precautionary working measures will need to be followed to ensure species such as amphibians, badger, birds, hedgehog, and deer on site are not harmed. These measures are outlined below.

Toolbox Talk

- 3.2 A toolbox talk will be delivered by the ECoW to ensure that all site contractors are made aware of the potential presence of potential species on site. The toolbox talk will include identification of these species, details of their legislative protection, details of the method statement, and what to do in the eventuality that these species are found.

Precautionary Working Methods

Staged Vegetation Clearance

- 3.3 Prior to site clearance works (i.e. topsoil stripping) commencing on site, any habitats on site to be cleared, such as scrub or introduced shrub will need to be cut to ground level using a staged and directional approach. This will need to be undertaken under supervision of the ECoW.
- 3.4 Prior to commencing, any potential sheltering features for amphibians or hedgehogs within the works area will be searched by hand by the ECoW, where possible. This will include features such as piles of tree branches and brash piles.
- 3.5 Cutting vegetation, including scrub and introduced shrub, to ground level will be undertaken using a staged approach under supervision of the ECoW. The ecologist will hand search the vegetation for protected species. Following the hand search, the vegetation may be cut to approximately 15cm. The vegetation should be cut using a directional approach to allow animals the opportunity to move away from the area into suitable retained off-site and boundary habitats. A final check will then be conducted by the ECoW. Once confirmed clear, the remainder of the vegetation may be cut to ground level.
- 3.6 Any animals found on site during the vegetation removal will be captured by the ECoW and released into suitable retained boundary habitat.

Hibernation Avoidance

- 3.7 Where possible, works which could affect features suitable for use by hibernating amphibians or hedgehogs, such as pulling up of the root systems of trees or hedgerows, should avoid the hibernation period. This is typically considered to be November to February, although it is temperature dependent. The hibernation

season is only considered to have ended once there has been a period of five consecutive nights of temperatures greater than 5°C.

- 3.8 If removal of hibernation features within the hibernation period is unavoidable, such removal should be undertaken sensitively under supervision of the ECoW. If any hibernating amphibians are encountered, works which affect the hibernation features must cease until the hibernation period ends.

Nesting Birds

- 3.9 Clearance of woody vegetation, such as trees, introduced shrub, scattered scrub and dense scrub, should avoid the nesting bird season of March to August (inclusive). If small areas of woody vegetation removal are required within the nesting bird season, this may occur (excluding larger areas of particularly dense vegetation), but a nesting bird check will be required.
- 3.10 Prior to any vegetation clearance within the nesting bird season, or at any time when bird nesting is suspected, a nesting bird check will be conducted of the affected area by the ECoW to confirm that no nesting birds are present which will be harmed by the works. The nesting bird check will take place no more than 24 hours prior to the planned vegetation clearance works.
- 3.11 In the event that an active bird nest is found, the ECoW will provide advice on setting up a suitable exclusion zone around the nest. The extent of the exclusion zone will depend upon the bird species present.
- 3.12 The exclusion zone will ensure that there is no physical disturbance to the nest as a result of the works. Works will not take place within the exclusion zone until the young have fledged, as confirmed by the ECoW. Monitoring visits of the active nest will be undertaken by the ECoW to confirm when the young have fledged.
- 3.13 If no active bird nests are found, vegetation clearance may proceed. If clearance works are not completed within 48 hours following the initial nesting bird check visit, further checks would be required to be undertaken by the ECoW. This will ensure that no bird nests are built within the intervening period between the nesting bird check and vegetation clearance.

General Avoidance Measures

- 3.14 The following standard PWMS will also be implemented during the works:
- Arisings from the work i.e., brash, trunks, grass cuttings, must be removed from site on the same day as the work takes place. This is to avoid providing refuge opportunities for birds, amphibians or hedgehog, which would then have to be hand searched by a suitably qualified ecologist prior to their removal at a later date.

- No site compounds, stored materials and soil piles sited within the core terrestrial habitat will be left uncovered. Soil storage mounds must be compacted before the end of each day's work to ensure they do not become attractive refuges. All stored materials and soil piles must be suitably covered with an inaccessible covering such as tarpaulin to prevent hedgehogs using this material as refugia.
- Open excavations should be covered overnight using plyboard and sandbags to fully seal any gaps. If this is not possible, a plank of wood placed at an angle no steeper than 40° should be left within the excavations, or sloping exits to trenches provided, so any hedgehogs or small mammals which fall into the trenches are able to escape.
- Existing access tracks into the site will be maintained. Vehicular or plant access should adhere to these access routes where feasible to prevent tracking over areas where hedgehogs could be present. If it is not possible to do so, an ecologist should be contacted for advice.
- Agreed access tracks into the site will be maintained. Vehicular access should adhere to these access routes where feasible to prevent tracking over areas where hedgehogs or amphibians could be present.
- Pipes stored on site would be capped or if caps are not available, stored vertically to prevent entrapment of any mammals.
- High-disturbance activities should be avoided within 1 hour after dawn and 1 hour before dusk, when deer are most active. Should deer be encountered, works in that area must be delayed until they have naturally dispersed, and work equipment and staff should move away to avoid additional stress on the animal.
- Additional caution is required in May-Jul when fawns (young deer) may be present and may remain concealed and immobile. If a fawn is found lying still (normal behaviour) within the working area, it must not be moved or touched and a 20m exclusion zone should be established immediately. The ECoW should be contacted and works ceased until further instruction is given.
- Any temporary fencing will be installed with escape gaps, or lower raised sections where safe, to avoid trapping deer.
- If an injured animal is found on site, this should be taken to a nearby wildlife rescue centre or vet that accepts wild animals. Additionally, if any young hedgehogs are found during the autumn, immediately prior to the hibernation period, these should also be taken to a wildlife rescue centre as it would be unlikely that these would survive the winter. Details of the nearest wildlife rescue centres to the site are provided in the Table below.

Table 2: Contact details for the nearest wildlife centre to the site

Name	Address	Telephone Number	Distance and Direction from the site
Kirklees Valley Wildlife Rescue	Kirklees Valley Wildlife Rescue, off Brandlesholme Road, Tottington, Bury BL8 4LP	01204 884086	Approx 2 miles northwest of the site

4.0 Bat and Bird Box Requirements

- 4.1 In order to discharge condition 17, details of bat and bird boxes to be provided within the scheme are required. Bat and bird box locations are provided in the landscape masterplan Drawing Ref: 16012-OOB-ZZZ-ZZZ-D-LA-000001.
- 4.2 Specifications of the bat box types recommended for installing on site are provided within Table 3 below. Specifications for bird boxes to be installed within trees on the site are provided in Table 4. In total 2no of bat boxes and 2no of bird boxes will be incorporated into the scheme design on existing trees to enhance bat roosting and bird nesting opportunities within the site.

Table 3: Bat Box Specifications

Bat Box Specification	Image
2F Schwegler Bat Box This is a standard nest box designed for smaller British bats and provides a summer roosting space for bats. Featuring a simple entrance hole at the front with a rough outer surface for bats to cling to and climb up. The 2F is manufactured from long-lasting Woodcrete, which is a blend of wood, concrete and clay which will not rot, leak, crack or warp, and will last for at least 20 - 25 years, making it suitable for long-term mitigation projects. Dimensions: Height 33cm x Diameter 16cm	

Table 4: Bird Box Specifications

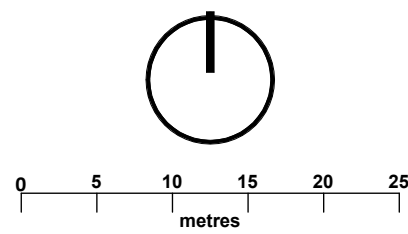
Bird Box Specification	Image
1B Schwegler Nest Box (26mm & 32mm) These Woodcrete nest boxes are famous for their durability - lasting for at least 20-25 years. Woodcrete is a breathable blend of wood, concrete and clay which will not rot, leak, crack or warp, whilst preventing condensation and maintaining more constant temperatures inside than wooden boxes. They are carefully designed to provide a stable environment and to mimic natural nest and roost sites with internal brood chamber dimensions that are similar to natural woodpecker cavities. Schwegler have a patented method of installation on trees that prevents the tree trunk from growing over the hanger from which the box is suspended. The 26mm entrance hole suits Blue, Marsh, Coal and Crested Tit and possibly Wren. All other species are prevented from using the nest box due to the smaller entrance hole. The 32mm entrance hole will attract larger species such as House Sparrow, Pied Flycatcher, Nuthatch and has even enticed Bat species.	

Siting, Installation & Maintenance of Bat/Bird Boxes

- 4.3 The bat and bird boxes should be sited in accordance with the Site Masterplan [Drawing Ref: 16012- OOB- ZZZ- ZZZ- D- LA- 000001]. Failure to do so may result in boxes being sited in sub-optimal positions that could lead to lower take-up by bats and birds.
- 4.4 Bat boxes should be sited on south-east to south-west aspect of trees, at a minimum height of 3m, if possible, with a clear flight path.
- 4.5 Bird boxes should be sited between the north and east aspects of trees, at a minimum of 2m above ground.
- 4.6 Proximity to suitable commuting and foraging habitat has also been considered during the siting process. It must be ensured that there is unobstructed access for bats and birds entering and leaving the boxes. Bat and bird boxes must be positioned away from artificial light spill.
- 4.7 It is recommended that new bat and bird boxes are installed during autumn and winter to ensure they are ready for use the following breeding season, although it is possible to install them at any time of year. Many birds will enter nest boxes during the autumn and winter, looking for a suitable place to roost or feed. They often use the same boxes for nesting the following spring.
- 4.8 All bat and bird boxes must be installed in line with the manufacturer's specifications to ensure no hazard is posed to members of the public.
- 4.9 Should the recommended boxes not be available, similar products are likely to be available from alternative suppliers. Any substitutions should be agreed with the Local Planning Authority.
- 4.10 Should the existing retained trees recommended not be suitable for installation of any boxes, an ecologist must be consulted, and an alternative location may be used, or it must be substituted for an alternative bat or bird box as described above.
- 4.11 Bat boxes do not typically require any maintenance. Bat boxes can only be inspected by appropriately licensed ecologists. Tree-mounted boxes should be replaced if they are damaged or removed. Bird boxes should be cleared out annually after the breeding bird season, with box maintenance recommended between October and February (inclusive).

Drawings

Drawing 1: 16012-OOB-ZZZ-ZZZ-D-LA-000001 Landscape Masterplan



Legend

- Site Boundary
- Areas covered in other Consultants' / the Contractor's package
Refer to notes on Site Plan
- Existing Levels to be Raised to +37m

Hardworks

- Tactile Paving
Hazard warning corduroy pavers
- Paving Type 1
Natural stone flags
- Paving Type 2
Tarmac
2 colours (TBC) - Slopes and landings to be contrasting shades to comply with BS8300.
- Paving Type 3
Existing concrete pavers to be retained
- Paving Type 4
Union Square granite paving to be retained / reinstated
- Proposed Steps with Handrails
- Existing Walls to be Retained
- Proposed Walls
- Natural Stone Kerb - Flush

Softworks

- Proposed Grass
- Existing Vegetation to be Retained / Reinstated
- Proposed Scrub Planting
- Proposed Wildflower Meadow
- Proposed Woodland Planting
- Proposed Tree / Sapling
- Existing Tree to be Retained

Furniture

- Proposed Bollard
- Proposed Bench
- Proposed Handrail to Steps and Ramps

Signage and Wayfinding

- Metrolink Flag Sign
To Metrolink's specification
- Metrolink Portal Sign
To Metrolink's specification

Lighting

- Existing Lighting Column to be Retained
- Proposed Lighting Column
Details and specification by lighting consultant
CCTV location to be confirmed by Engineers
- Existing Ground Spot Light
- Existing Relocated Ground Spot Light

Ecological Enhancements

- Bird Box
Specification TBC
- Bat Box
Specification TBC

Platform and Bridge Architecture and Engineering works
Refer to specialist designer's drawings

Pyramid Park Approach Route
Refer to contractor's drawings

Future Tram Lines
Shown indicatively

Stage 3 Issue	P04	BVE	BLU	18/12/24
Issued For Coordination	P03	BLU	BLU	17/12/24
Issued for Coordination	P02	BLU	BLU	16/12/24
Draft Issue	P01	BVE	BLU	22/11/24
Revision Note	Rev.	Author	Aprvd	Date

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Client Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM)

Project Bury Interchange

Title Site Masterplan

Dwg. No.	16012- OOB- ZZZ- ZZZ- D- LA- 000001	Rev.	P04
Scale	1 : 500 @ A1	Date	Dec 2024

Stage 3



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