

Ascerta

Landscape, Arboricultural & Ecological Solutions
for the Built Environment

Bat Nocturnal Surveys

Forest Cottage,
Wood Road Lane,
Summerseat,
Bury, BL9 5PZ

Ref: P.1780.22

Date: June 2023

(See revision dates below)

Rev	Date	Details

Ascerta

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Reference	P.1780.22
Site	Forest Cottage
Client	Marcos Simonetti
Date	20 th June 2023
Field Work by	Lizzie Atkinson MSc CIEEM, Jack Kay MSc CIEEM, Amy Swindells MSc, Danielle Johnson MSc
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P.1780.22.03 Dawn Re-Entry Survey (11.07.23)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Daytime Time Building Inspection, Ascerta has been instructed by Marcos Simonetti to carry out a nocturnal bat surveys of the building B1 at Forest Cottage, Wood Road Lane, Summerseat, Bury, BL9 5PZ (hereafter referred to as **the site**).

A dusk emergence survey was carried out building B1 on 19th June 2023 by Lizzie Atkinson, Amy Swindells, Jack Kay and Danielle Johnson. A dawn re-entry survey was carried out on building B1 on 11th July 2023 by Lizzie Atkinson, Amy Swindells and Jack Kay.

Low-moderate levels of bat activity was recorded during the nocturnal bat surveys carried out on 19th June 2023 and 11th July 2023. No bats were recorded emerging or re-entering building B1 with low-moderate common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle foraging and commuting activity recorded. The majority of activity was concentrated within the garden area, south of the building B1. Bats were also recorded commuting south-west towards the river Irwell.

Following the nocturnal emergence and re-entry surveys at building B1, it was confirmed that bats are not using the building as a roost at the time of the surveys. It is considered that there will be no adverse impact on bats provided the recommendations below are followed:

- If works have not begun by July 2024, a further daytime assessment and or nocturnal surveys at building B1 may be required to assess how bats are using the site;
- Development should consider sensitive lighting be used to meet Bat Conservation Trust lighting guidance so not to cause detrimental effect to light sensitive species; and
- Habitat enhancement with the installation of a mixture of bird nest features and bat box attached to new buildings with the number of boxes to be determined upon finalised formal plans.

1.0 Introduction

Ascerta has been instructed by Marcos Simonetti to carry out nocturnal bat surveys at the building B1 within the site. The site OS grid reference is SD 794 144 and the What3Words reference is short.irrigate.unrated. The extent of the site is displayed in photograph 1.1 below.



Photograph 1.1; Site Extent – Google Maps accessed 2022.

Site Description

The site lies on the outskirts of Summerseat, approximately four miles north of Bury town centre. The site comprises a residential dwelling (B1), garage (B2) and storage barn (B3) with areas of amenity grassland and introduced shrubs. Broadleaved woodland lies within the south of the site with areas of bare ground and scattered scrub present within the understorey. Species poor hedgerow partially lines the site boundaries and scattered trees are present throughout. The river Irwell meandering to the west of the site and the East Lancashire Railway Line to the east.

Previous Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment/ Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

The site was visited on 5th December 2022 by Lizzie Atkinson when a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Daytime Building Inspection, which includes an assessment of the potential for protected species to be using the site or surroundings, was carried out in accordance with the *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: A Technique for Environmental Audit* (JNCC, 2010). The report was prepared following methods detailed in the CIEEM '*Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland*' (2018) and '*Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing*' (2017).

During this assessment, it was found that buildings B1 and B2 were assessed to provide **moderate** bat roost potential and B3 was assessed to provide **low** bat roost potential. The full building descriptions are given in *P.1780.22A Ascerta Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Forest Cottage, Rev A*, which should be read in conjunction with this report.

Rationale

From the previous Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Daytime Building Inspection, it has been determined that buildings B1 and B2 were assessed to provide **moderate** bat roost potential and B3 was assessed to provide **low** bat roost potential and therefore to comply with current legislation (see Appendix 4) bat nocturnal surveys must be undertaken. Nocturnal bat surveys were carried out at B1 only at client's request.

Nesting Birds

During the course of the survey(s), evidence of and/or observations of nesting birds within the site may be identified. Any information regarding nesting birds on site will be mapped and discussed further within the report, including recommendations for further actions, where applicable, in order to satisfy current wildlife legislation and to achieve our client's objectives.

Survey Report

This report was prepared following methods detailed in the CIEEM '*Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland*' (2018) and '*Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing*' (2017).

This report presents the results of the bat survey's undertaken following the guidelines set out by the Bat Conservation Trust (Collins 3rd Edition 2016) and Interim Guidance Note, May 2022.

The report includes recommendations for further actions where applicable in order to satisfy current wildlife legislation and to achieve our client's objectives. Relevant legislation is detailed within Appendix 4.

2.0 Objectives

Our client's objectives are to ascertain the potential ecological constraints and opportunities of the site.

Our objectives are as follows:

- Carry out nocturnal bat surveys of building B1 within the site;
- Provide recommendations for mitigation measures where current legislation requires;
- Provide recommendations that seek to enhance the ecological value of the site; and
- Provide recommendations to assist our clients in achieving their objectives whilst satisfying current wildlife legislation.

3.0 Survey Methods

The following bat surveys will be undertaken following the guidelines set out by the Bat Conservation Trust (Collins 3rd Edition 2016) and Interim Guidance Note, May 2022.

3.1 Desk Study

The local biological records centre Greater Manchester Ecology Unit was consulted for records of bats within 2km of the site in December 2022. A review of the designated sites and habitats within 2km of the site will be undertaken using the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) and the Natural England websites. The full results are given in *P.1780.22A Ascerta Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Forest Cottage, Rev A*. Only findings relating to bats are detailed in this report.

Any European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) applications within 2km of the site will also be searched for and detailed in Section 4.1.

3.2 Bat Emergence/Re-entry Survey Methods

During the bat emergence and re-entry surveys, surveyors will be strategically positioned around the building (locations marked on drawing P.1780.22.02 and P.1780.22.03, in Appendix 1), focussing on areas where potential access points had been identified during the Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment to observe any bats leaving or entering a roost. These will be recorded, and any emergences/re-entries will be identified on drawings in Appendix 1. Surveyors will also record any general bat activity whilst on the site during the survey.

The dusk emergence survey commenced 15 minutes before sunset and continue until 1 hour and 30 minutes after sunset.

The dawn re-entry survey commenced 1 hour and 32 minutes before sunrise and continue 15 minutes after sunrise.

During the survey, the following details will be noted:

- Weather and temperature;
- Time bat detected / seen and if they emerged from or entered the building;
- Frequency at which the bat was detected;
- Location of bats and if they were foraging and commuting;
- Direction of flight; and
- Number and species of bats present.

3.3 Surveyor and Equipment Information

Table 3.1: Survey equipment used by the surveyors during bat emergence/re-entry surveys on the respective dates 19th June 2023 and 11th July 2023.

Date	Surveyors	Equipment
19 th June 2023	Lizzie Atkinson Jack Kay, Amy Swindells and Danielle Johnson	Echo Meter Touch (EMT) connected to Samsung A12 Sony AX53 4K, with two Nightfox XC5 infrared torches Peersonic RPA3
11 th July 2023	Lizzie Atkinson Jack Kay Amy Swindells	Echo Meter Touch (EMT) connected to Samsung A12 Peersonic RPA3 and Sony AX53 4K, with two Nightfox XC5 infrared torches Peersonic RPA3

3.4 Data Collection and Analysis

During bat emergence/ re-entry surveys, surveyors will also collect bat call data on their respective equipment (see Section 3.5).

Temperature, wind speed/direction and cloud cover were recorded at the beginning and end of the survey, along with any significant weather changes during the survey (e.g. heavy showers).

3.5 Limitations

The surveys were undertaken during the appropriate time of year and within suitable weather conditions, however there was light rain at the end of the dawn survey on the 11th July 2023, due the level of bat activity throughout the survey the rain is not considered to limit the conclusions of this report.

During the nocturnal bat surveys, surveyors were strategically positioned around the building in order to monitor all access features identified during the building inspection undertaken in December 2022 therefore not considered a limit the conclusions of this report.

The absence of biological data records does not necessarily mean the absence of species. This has been taken into account within the conclusions of the report.

4.0 Survey Results

4.1 Desk Study

Seven hundred and ninety-four records were returned for bats, including one hundred and thirty roost records. Species present include four hundred and fifty nine for common pipistrelle, two hundred and fifty for daubenton's bat, fourteen for myotis species, one hundred and seventy-nine pipistrelle species, forty-five for soprano pipistrelle, four Brandt's bat, eighteen for brown long-eared bat, one for Natterer bat, thirty-two for noctule bat, thirty-six for whiskered bat, ten for whiskered/brandt's bat and eight unknown bat species. The majority of records returned were located within Kirklees Valley LNR and Kirklees Brook SBI. The most recent record was in April 2020 for a common pipistrelle roost approximately 1.4km east of the site. The closest record to site was in 2012, for a pipistrelle species roost approximately 75m north-east of site.

One European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) applications within 2km of the site since 2016 was identified using Magic Maps and is detailed below (distance and direction from site):

- 2020-45495-EPS-MIT-2 for the destruction of a resting place for common pipistrelle. Licence start date: 27/10/2020, end date: 31/10/2025 (1.2km north-east).

4.2 Survey Conditions

Weather Conditions

During each survey, surveyors recorded weather conditions. The table below shows the weather conditions for each survey undertaken on 19th June 2023 and 11th July 2023.

Table 4.1: Weather conditions

Survey date	Temp (°c)	Cloud Cover (°/8)	Wind (Beaufort Scale)	Precipitation
19 th June 2023 (start of survey)	18	4/8	F0	Dry
19 th June 2023 (end of survey)	17	7/8	F0	Dry
11 th July 2023 (start of survey)	13	8/8	F0	Dry
11 th July 2023 (end of survey)	13	8/8	F0	Light rain towards end of survey

Survey Timings

The following table shows bat survey timings for all surveys undertaken between on 19th June 2023 and 11th July 2023.

Table 4.2: Survey timings

Survey Date	Dusk/Dawn Time	Survey Start Time	Survey End Time
19 th June 2023	21:42	21:27	23:12
11 th July 2023	04:52	03:20	05:07

4.3 Bat Emergence/re-entry surveys

Bat emergence/re-entry surveys were undertaken on 19th June 2023 and 11th July 2023 for building B1. Detailed bat emergence/re-entry survey data can be found in Appendix 2. Table 4.3 below details the key findings for the bat emergence/ re-entry surveys.

Table 4.3: Key findings regarding emergence and re-entry surveys.

Survey Date	Species	Emergence/re-entry	Location and Surveyor
19 th June 2023	Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	Commuting	Activity commenced at surveyor DJ, located south-east of B1 (see P.1780.22.02 in Appendix 1) at 21:47 (5 minutes after sunset) with a commuting bat that was heard not seen (HNS).
	Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	Commuting	Surveyor DJ recorded two commuting common pipistrelle bats commuting south towards the river Irwell.
	Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	Foraging	Surveyor DJ recorded common pipistrelle foraging throughout the survey between 22:08 and 23:01 by up to four bats at one time. Activity was concentrated within the garden area south of B1.
	Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	Foraging	At surveyor AS, located south-west of B1, activity commenced at 21:47 (5 minutes after sunset) with a HNS foraging bat.
	Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	Foraging	Surveyor AS recorded intermittent common pipistrelle foraging activity between 22:15 and 23:07. The majority of activity was concentrated to the south and west of B1. Six foraging bats were HNS.
	Soprano pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>)	Foraging	AS recorded two single soprano pipistrelle bats foraging south of B1 at 22:29 and 22:51.

	Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	Commuting	At surveyor JK, located north-east of B1, activity commenced at 22:01 (19 minutes after sunset) with a HNS commuting common pipistrelle. JK recorded a further four HNS commuting common pipistrelle bats throughout the survey.
	Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	Foraging	JK recorded intermittent HNS common pipistrelle foraging activity between 22:14 and 22:48. A single bat was recorded foraging east of B1 at 22:48.
	Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	Pass	At surveyor LA, located north-west of B1, activity commenced at 22:18 (36 minutes after sunset) with a brief common pipistrelle pass that was HNS.
	Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	Foraging	Surveyor LA recorded intermittent common pipistrelle foraging between 22:26 and 22:49 and all activity was HNS. Surveyor LA was also equipped with a Sony AX53 4K, with two Nightfox XC5 infrared torches which recorded no emergences from the building.
Conclusion			
During the dusk emergence survey carried out at B1 on 19th June 2023, no bats were recorded emerging from B1. Bat activity commenced at 21:47 (5 minutes after sunset) and ceased at 23:01 (1 hour and 19 minutes after sunset). A moderate level of bat activity was recorded with the majority of foraging activity concentrated within the garden area south of B1. Common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle were the only bat species recorded during the survey.			
Survey Date	Species	Emergence/re-entry	Location and Surveyor
11 th July 2023	Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	Foraging	Activity commenced at 03:23 (1 hour and 29 minutes prior to sunrise) at surveyor LA, located south-east of B1 (see P.1780.22.03 in Appendix 1) with a HNS foraging bat.
	Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	Foraging	LA recorded intermittent common pipistrelle foraging activity throughout the survey between 03:27 and 04:19. The majority of activity was HNS, with a single bat observed foraging within the garden to the south-east of the building.
	Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	Commuting	LA recorded a single common pipistrelle commuting north-east at 04:00.
	Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	Foraging	At surveyor AS, located west of B1, activity commenced at 03:27 (1 hour and 25 minutes prior to sunrise) with a foraging bat that was HNS. As recorded a further two foraging bats between 03:29 and 04:15, which were both HNS.

	Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	Pass	AS recorded two brief common pipistrelle passes that were HNS during the survey.
	Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	Commuting	At surveyor JK, located north-east of B1, activity commenced at 03:53 (59 minutes prior to sunrise) with a HNS commuting bat. JK recorded a further three commuting common pipistrelle bats between 03:59 and 04:28, with a single bat observed commuting west. JK was also equipped with a Sony AX53 4K, with two Nightfox XC5 infrared torches which recorded no bats re-entering the building.
Conclusion			
During the dawn re-entry survey carried out at B1 on 11th July 2023, no bats were recorded re-entering building B1. Bat activity commenced at 03:23 (1 hour and 29 minutes prior to sunrise) and ceased at 04:28 (24 minutes prior to sunrise). A low-moderate level of bat activity was recorded with the majority of foraging activity concentrated south-east of B1. Common pipistrelle bats the only bat species recorded during the survey.			

4.4 Evidence/observations of nesting bird species

During the survey evidence/observation of nesting birds was not identified.

4.5 Other wildlife

On 19th June 2023, surveyor LA recorded a kestrel flying north over the site at 21:56. LA also recorded a heron flying north over the site at 22:00.

5.0 Evaluation and Recommendations

From the previous Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Daytime Building Inspection carried out on 5th December 2022, buildings B1 and B2 were assessed to provide **moderate** bat roost potential and B3 was assessed to provide **low** bat roost potential. Nocturnal bat surveys were carried out at B1 only at the client's request.

A dusk emergence survey was carried out building B1 on 19th June 2023 by Lizzie Atkinson, Amy Swindells, Jack Kay and Danielle Johnson. A dawn re-entry survey was carried out on building B1 on 11th July 2023 by Lizzie Atkinson, Amy Swindells and Jack Kay.

Low-moderate levels of bat activity were recorded during the nocturnal bat surveys carried out on 19th June 2023 and 11th July 2023. No bats were recorded emerging or re-entering building B1 with low-moderate common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle foraging and commuting activity recorded. The majority of activity was concentrated within the garden area, south of the building B1. Bats were also recorded commuting south-west towards the River Irwell.

Following the nocturnal emergence and re-entry surveys at building B1, it was confirmed that bats are not using the building as a roost at the time of the surveys. As such, works to buildings B1 within the site can proceed without being detrimental to maintenance of the local bat population at a favourable conservation status (i.e. the proposals meet the third test of the 'three test assessment' as outlined in the Habitats Regulations). Features on the building still have a potential for supporting bat roosts and bats are known to move roosts often. If works have not occurred by have not begun by July 2024, a further daytime assessment or nocturnal survey may be required to confirm bats are not using the buildings to roost.

6.0 Enhancements

In order to meet requirements for biodiversity protection and enhancement outlined within the NPPF, it is recommended that ecological enhancements are included. These could include:

1. Provision of bird boxes (25mm and 32mm entrance hole box, house sparrow terrace, swift box), attached to or integrated within retained or new buildings on site. The amount to be determined upon confirmation of the proposals;
2. Provision of bat features (e.g. Vivara Pro WoodStone Bat box or similar) attached to a retained tree on site or provision of a bat box (e.g. Vivara bat bricks or '*bird brick houses*' bat boxes) integrated within new or retained buildings. The amount to be determined upon confirmation of the proposals;
3. It is recommended that the broadleaved woodland within the site as well as habitats adjacent to the river Irwell are retained and enhanced to maintain connectivity throughout the site for wildlife; and
4. Suitable landscaping incorporating species that provide a food or shelter resource to wildlife to include hawthorn, hazel, holly, blackthorn, field maple, dog rose and honeysuckle as hedgerow species and oak, alder, field maple, silver birch, crab apple, rowan and bird cherry as tree species together with implementing a relaxed mowing regime and establishing wildflowers in these areas.

7.0 Conclusions

Building B1 was subject to two nocturnal bat surveys following the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Daytime Building Inspection which classified the building as having moderate bat roost potential. Low-moderate bat activity was recorded during the bat surveys and no bats were seen to emerge or re-enter the building. Therefore, it is considered that bats are not using the building as a roost at the time of the surveys.

The building provides opportunities for nesting birds.

The following recommendations have been made to avoid impact on bats and birds during the works:

- If works have not begun by July 2024, a further daytime assessment and or nocturnal surveys at building B1 may be required to assess how bats are using the site;
- Development should consider sensitive lighting be used to meet Bat Conservation Trust lighting guidance so not to cause detrimental effect to light sensitive species; and
- Habitat enhancement with the installation of a mixture of bird nest features and bat box attached to new buildings with the number of boxes to be determined upon finalised formal plans.

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

8.0 References

Ascerta report (2022) *P.1780.22A Ascerta Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Forest Cottage, Rev A*

Bat Conservation Trust (2018) *Bats and lighting in the UK- bats and the built environment series 08/18*
Bat Conservation Trust, London.

CIEEM (2017) *Guidelines on Ecological Report Writing*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester

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

CIEEM (2021) Bat Mitigation Guidelines: A guide to impact assessment, mitigation and compensation for developments affecting bats. Beta version.

Collins, J. (Ed.) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (3rd edn) and Interim Guidance Note, May 2022. The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

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

Maddock, A. (2008). UK biodiversity action plan; priority habitat descriptions. *UK Biodiversity Action Plan*, 94pp.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Governments (2021). *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)*. [online] Available at: [National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/917717/nppf-2021.pdf)

Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) [online] Available at: [MAGIC \(defra.gov.uk\)](https://magic.defra.gov.uk/)

Appendix 1



- Survey area
- J3.6 - Buildings
- Surveyor location 19.06.23
- Camera location 19.06.23
- Bat flight lines 19.06.23

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

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CLIENT:
Macros Simonetti

PROJECT:
Forest Cottage

DRAWING TITLE:
Dusk Emergence Survey (19.06.23)

SCALE: NTS@A3	DRAWN BY: LA	DRAWING No: P.1780.22.02
DATE: 21/06/2023	CHKD BY: LK	REV: -



- ▬▬▬ Survey area
- J3.6 - Buildings
- Surveyor location 11.07.23
- + Camera location 11.07.23
- Bat flight lines 11.07.23

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CLIENT:
Macros Simonetti

PROJECT:
Forest Cottage

DRAWING TITLE:
Dawn Re-Entry Survey (11.07.23)

SCALE: NTS@A3	DRAWN BY: LA	DRAWING No: P.1780.22.03
DATE: 11/07/2023	CHKD BY: LK	REV: -

Appendix 2

Lead Surveyor Bat Survey Form

Ascerta

Site name/number: Brest Cottage

Name: Lizzie

Date: 19/06/13

Weather:

Building/tree reference: B1

Detector: OUT TO RANGING A12

Start

End

Surveyor names: LA, JK, AS, DJ

Dawn Dusk

Wind:

FO

FO

Check list:

Sunset/sunrise time: 21:42

Temperature:

18

17

All lead surveyor details filled in

North arrow marked on map

Drawing/map named & dated

Surveyor positions marked on drawing

Survey start time: 21:27

Precipitation:

0

0

Survey end time: 23:12

Cloud cover:

4/8

7/8

Notes/ site information (limitations, access issues, lighting etc.)

Sketch plan view:

LA

JK



AS

DJ

Time	Species	Activity observed (clearly identify any emergence/re-entry)	Flight Line	Total No. of Bats	Time	Species	Activity Observed (clearly identify any emergence/re-entry)	Flight Line	Total No. of Bats
2218	CP	Pass-very brief	HNS	1					
2226	CP	foraging	HNS	1					
2232	CP	foraging	HNS	1					
2240	CP	foraging	HNS	1					
2245	CP	distant foraging	HNS	1					
2246	CP	foraging	HNS	1					
2249	CP	foraging	HNS	1					

kestrel flying
 over NW @ 21:56
 Hawk flying over
 NW @ 22:00

Bat Survey Form (Non-Lead Surveyor)

Site name/number:

Forest Cottage

Surveyor name:

SK

Date:

19/06/23

Surrounding habitat:

Woodland/scrub/steams

Survey leader? Yes/No

No

Detector type:

Personic A4

managed Garden/wood stand

Surveyors checklist:

Completed all information at top of form ☒

Drawn viewpoint/marked any emergence ☒

Added north arrow to compass ☒

Photo of viewpoint taken at start of survey ☒

Recorded observations and completed summary ☒

Summary:

Emergence/Re-entry (Circle): Yes
No (if yes state number and species)

Overall activity levels:

Very low

☒ Low

Medium

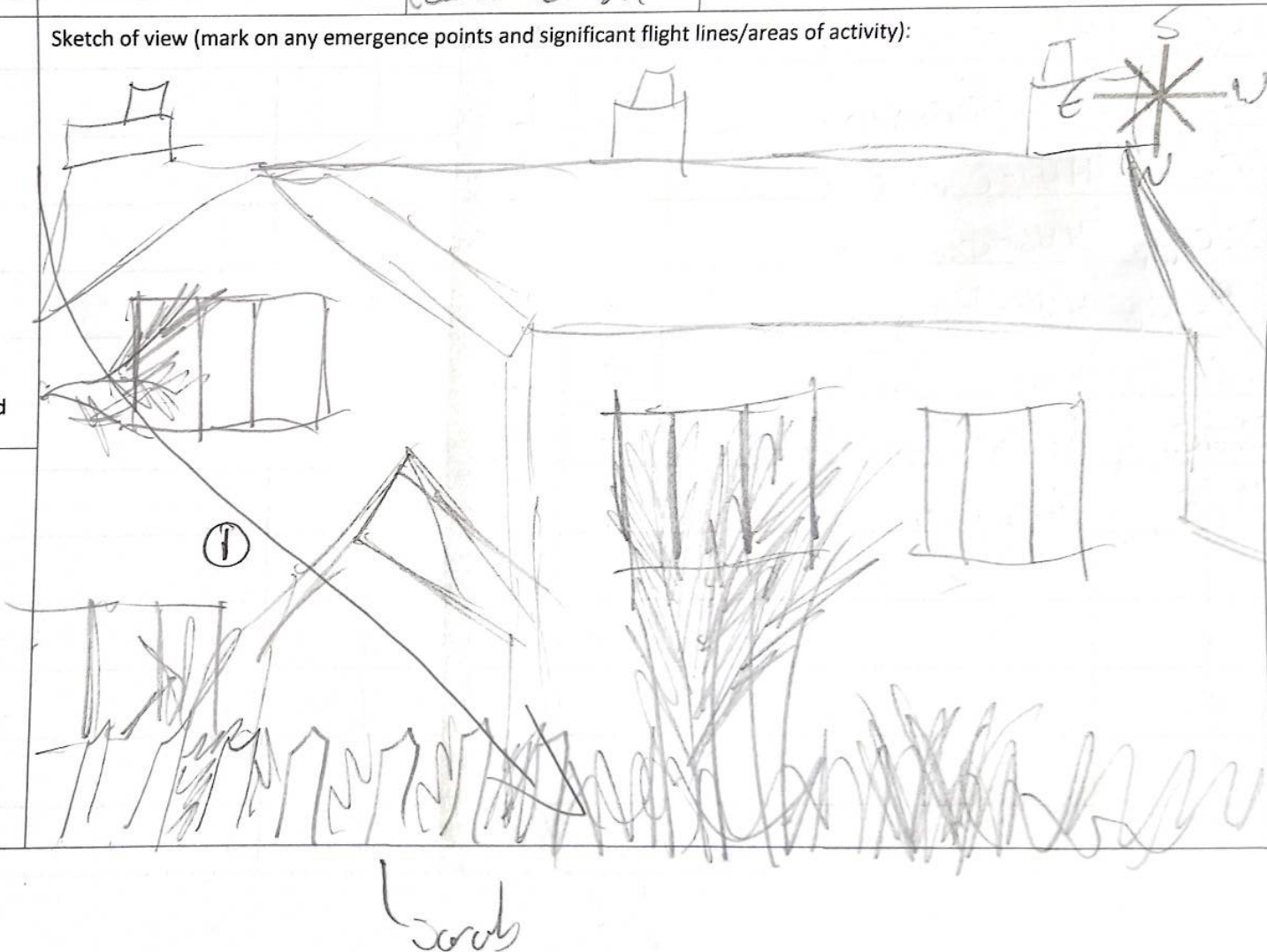
High

Constant

Social calling (Circle): Yes

☒ No

Sketch of view (mark on any emergence points and significant flight lines/areas of activity):



[illegible]

Bat Survey Form (Non-Lead Surveyor)

Ascerta

Site name/number:

Forest Cottage,
Bury

Surveyor name: Amy

Survey leader? Yes/No ☒ No

Date: 19/06/23

Detector type:

AB

Surrounding habitat:

Broadleaf trees, river,
road.

Surveyors checklist:

Completed all information at top of form ☒

Drawn viewpoint/marked any emergence ☒

Added north arrow to compass ☒

Photo of viewpoint taken at start of survey ☒

Recorded observations and completed summary ☒

Summary:

Emergence/Re-entry (Circle): Yes
No (If yes state number and species)

Overall activity levels:

Very low

Low

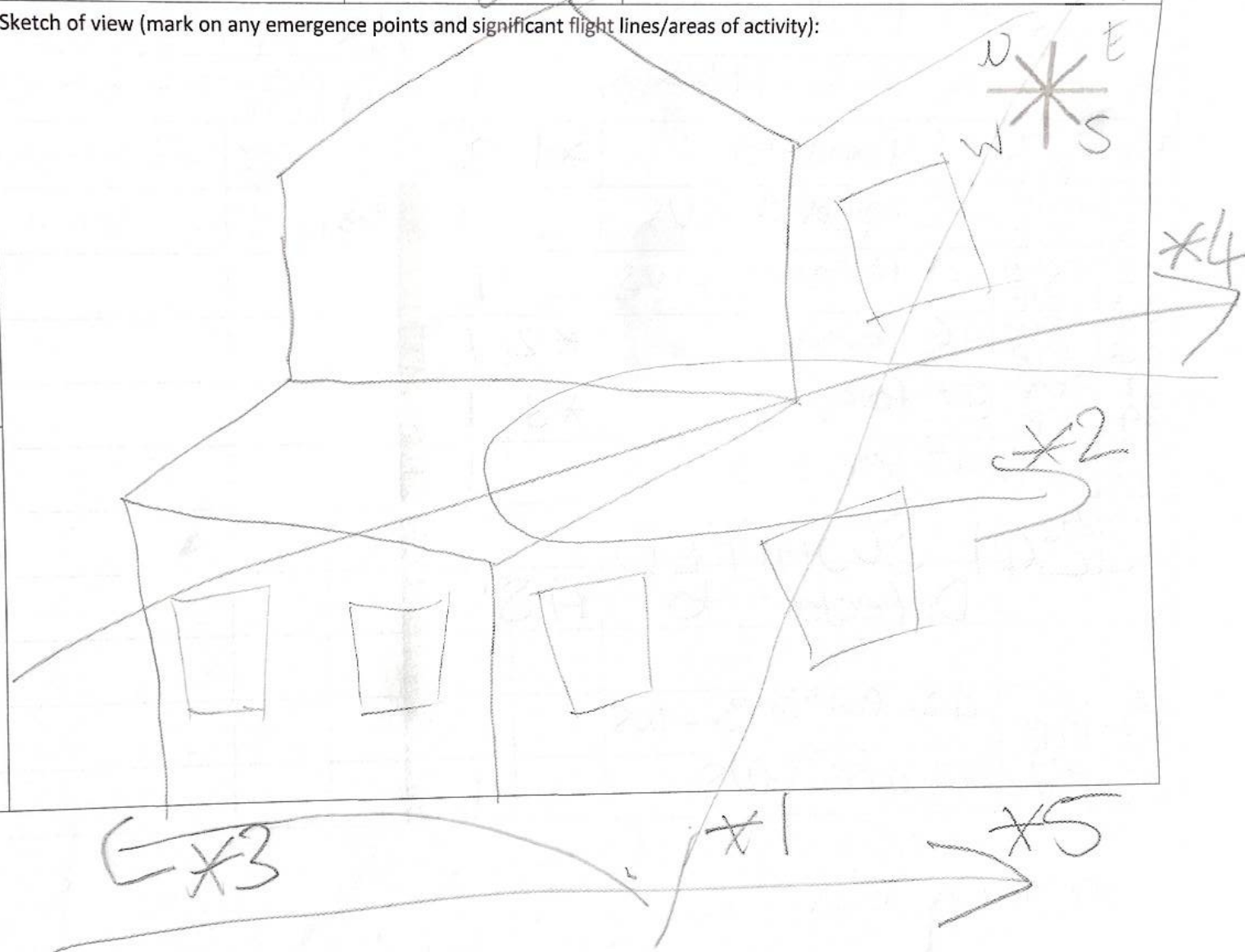
☒ Medium

High

Constant

Social calling (Circle): ☒ Yes ☐ No

Sketch of view (mark on any emergence points and significant flight lines/areas of activity):



Time	Species	Activity observed (clearly identify any emergence/re-entry)	Flight Line	Total No. of Bats	Time	Species	Activity Observed (clearly identify any emergence/re-entry)	Flight Line	Total No. of Bats
21 47	cow PIP	45 foraging, HNS		1	22 46	cow PIR	44 Pass, HNS		1
22 08	cow PIP	45 Pass, HNS		1	22 48	cow PIP	43 foraging	*4	1
22 12	cow PIP	40 Pass, HNS		1	22 51	cow PIP	54 foraging	*5	1
22 15	cow PIP	43 foraging	*1	2	23 00	cow PIP	43 foraging, HNS		1
22 18	cow PIP	42 foraging, HNS		1	23 07	cow PIP	46 foraging, HNS		1
22 21	cow PIP	45 foraging, HNS		1					
22 26	cow PIP	46 foraging	*2	1					
22 29	cow PIP	51 foraging	*3	1					
22 32	cow PIP	45 foraging, HNS		1					
22:41	SWAPPED								
	Detector to A8								
22 42	cow PIP	42 foraging, HNS		1					
22 44	cow PIP	47 Pass, HNS		1					

Bat Survey Form (Non-Lead Surveyor)

Site name/number:

Forest Cottage
Wood Road Lane

Surveyor name: Danielle

Survey leader? Yes/No

Date: 19.06.23

Detector type: A7

Surrounding habitat:

River Irwell
Trees, woodland, shrubs

Surveyors checklist:

- ✓ Completed all information at top of form
- ✓ Drawn viewpoint/marked any emergence
- ✓ Added north arrow to compass
- ✓ Photo of viewpoint taken at start of survey
- ✓ Recorded observations and completed summary

Summary:

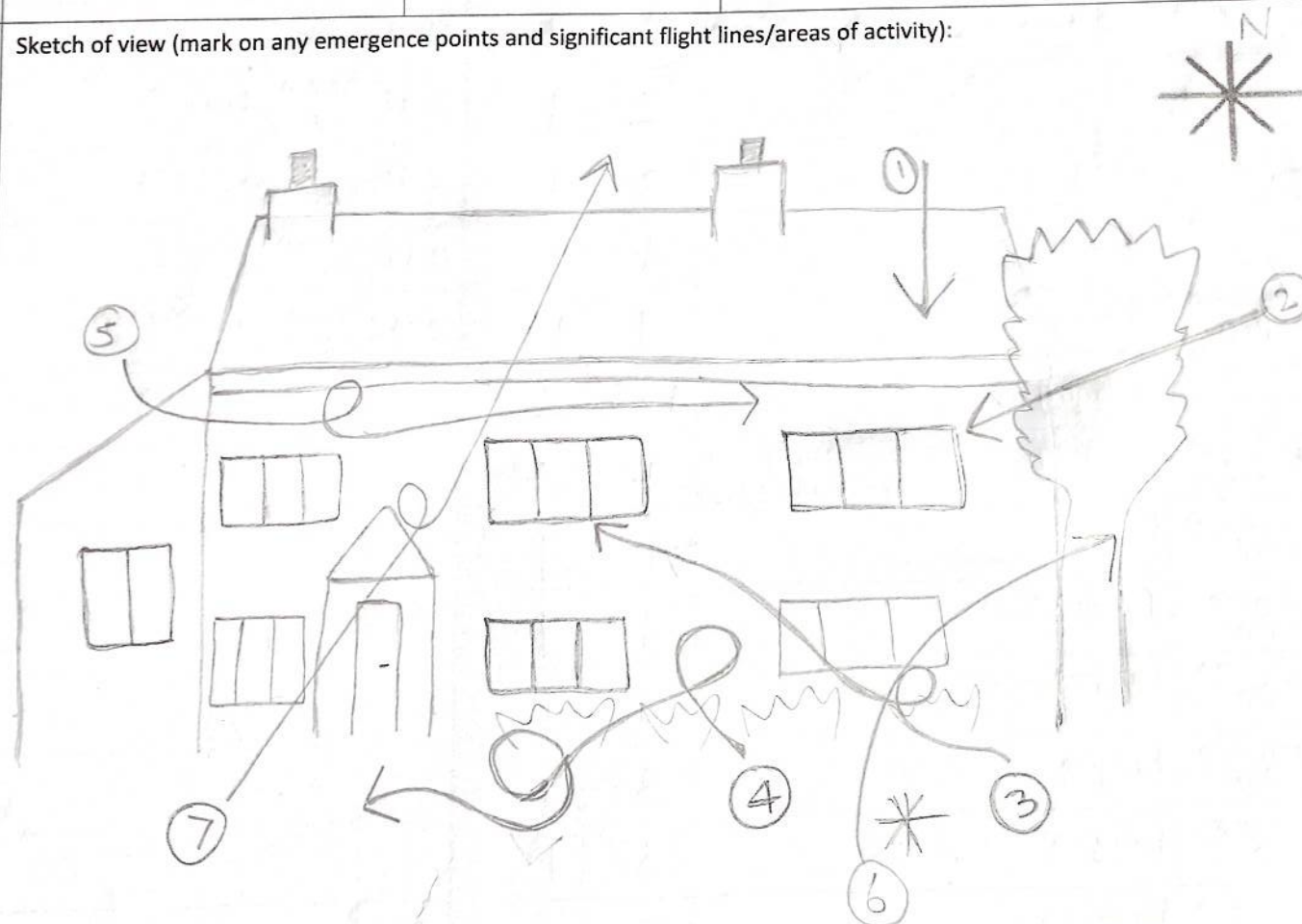
Emergence/Re-entry (Circle): Yes
No (If yes state number and species)

Overall activity levels:

Very low
Low
Medium
High
Constant

Social calling (Circle): Yes No

Sketch of view (mark on any emergence points and significant flight lines/areas of activity):



Time	Species	Activity observed (clearly identify any emergence/re-entry)	Flight Line	Total No. of Bats	Time	Species	Activity Observed (clearly identify any emergence/re-entry)	Flight Line	Total No. of Bats
21:47	Common Pip	HNS - Commuting			22:40	Common Pip	Commuting	5	1
21:56	Common Pip	Commuting South towards River	1	1	22:41	Common Pip	foraging	4	1
22:02	Common Pip	Commuting towards River	2	1	22:47	Common Pip	HNS		1
22:08	Common Pip	foraging	3	1	22:48	Common Pip	foraging	6	1
22:10	Common Pip	foraging	4	1	22:49	Common Pip	foraging	6	1
22:12	Common Pip	foraging	4	1	22:54	Common Pip	Commuting	5	1
22:15	Common Pip	foraging	4 & 5	2	23:01	Common Pip	foraging	7	1
22:17-22:20	Common Pip	foraging - Constant Activity (CA) Ended: 22:20	4	4					
22:22	Common Pip	foraging	4	1					
22:26	Common Pip	foraging	4	1					
22:28	Common Pip	foraging	5	1					
22:29	Common Pip	foraging	3	1					
22:32	Common Pip	foraging	3	1					
22:37	Common Pip	foraging	5	1					

Lead Surveyor Bat Survey Form

Site name/number: *Forest Cottage*

Name: *Uzzu A*

Date: *11/07/23*

Weather:

Building/tree reference: *B1*

Detector: *Oni + Sonar + A12*

Dawn

Dusk

Start

End

Surveyor names: *UA, JK, AS*

Wind:

FO

FO

Check list:

All lead surveyor details filled in
North arrow marked on map
Drawing/map named & dated
Surveyor positions marked on drawing

Sunset/sunrise time: *0452*

Temperature: *13*

13

Survey start time: *03:20*

Precipitation: *0*

light rain

Survey end time: *05:07*

Cloud cover: *8/8*

8/8

Notes/ site information (limitations,
access issues, lighting etc.)

Sketch plan view:

AS



Bat Survey Form (Non-Lead Surveyor)

Ascerta

Site name/number:

Forest
collage

Surveyor name: SK

Date: 11/07/23

Surrounding habitat: Scrub/Woodland/

Survey leader? Yes/No

Detector type:
Pico-2011c A7

Hrd stand / introduced shrubs

Surveyors checklist:

Completed all information at top of form ☒

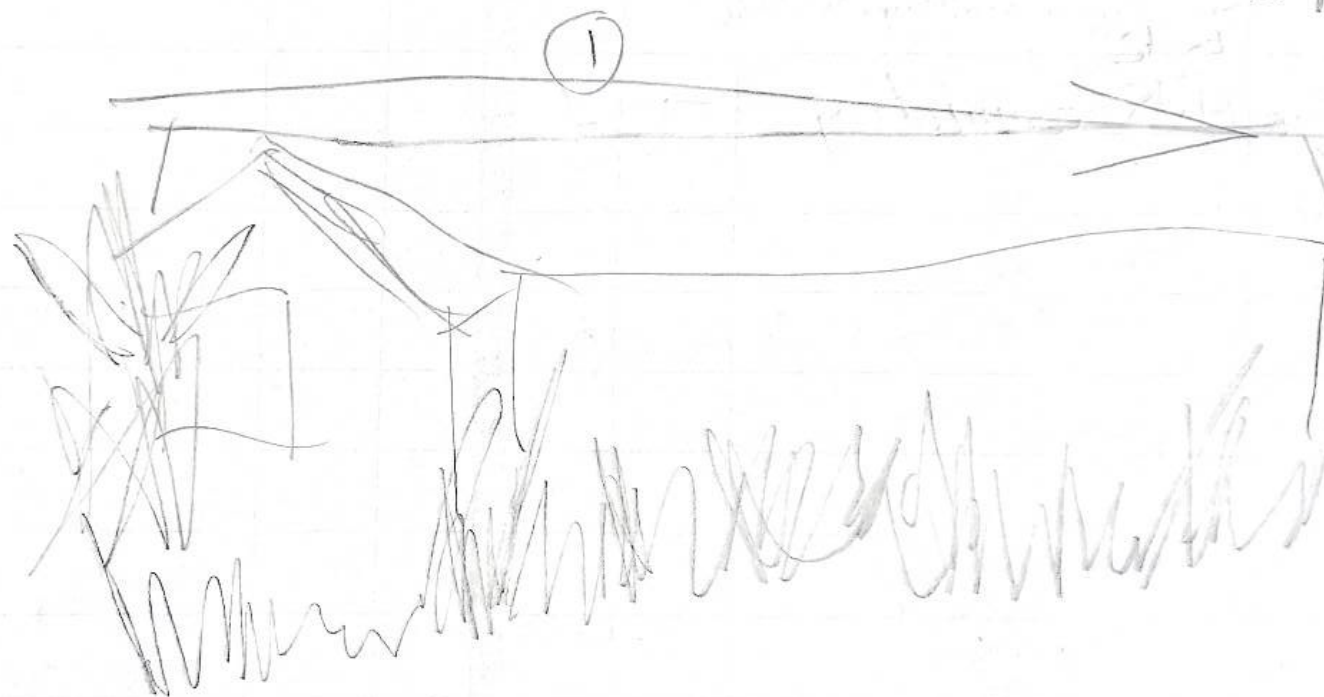
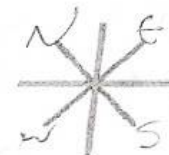
Drawn viewpoint/ marked any emergence ☒

Added north arrow to compass ☒

Photo of viewpoint taken at start of survey ☒

Recorded observations and completed summary ☒

Sketch of view (mark on any emergence points and significant flight lines/areas of activity):



Summary:

Emergence/Re-entry (Circle): Yes
No (If yes state number and species)

Overall activity levels:

Very low

Low

Medium

High

Constant

Social calling (Circle): Yes No

[illegible][illegible]

Bat Survey Form (Non-Lead Surveyor)

Site name/number:

Forrest cottage
Bury

Surveyor name:

Amy

Date:

11/7/23

Surrounding habitat:

river,
Broadleaf trees, shrubs,
road.

Survey leader? Yes/No

No

Detector type:

AG

Surveyors checklist:

Completed all information at top of form

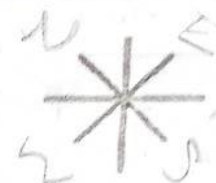
Drawn viewpoint/marked any emergence

Added north arrow to compass

Photo of viewpoint taken at start of survey

Recorded observations and completed summary

Sketch of view (mark on any emergence points and significant flight lines/areas of activity):



Summary:

Emergence/Re-entry (Circle): Yes

No (If yes state number and species)

Overall activity levels:

Very low

Low

Medium

High

Constant

Social calling (Circle): Yes No

[illegible]

Appendix 3

SITES OF BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE IN GREATER MANCHESTER
Greater Manchester Ecology Unit
Dukinfield Town Hall, King Street, Dukinfield, Tameside, SK16 4LA
(Private & Confidential)



SITE NAME : Flushes at Springside		District : Bury
LOCATION : Bury West	GRID REF : SD791136	GRADE : C

SITE DESCRIPTION

A mosaic of flushes, marshy, acid and neutral grassland, woodland and scrub on the slopes above the River Irwell. A rare example of species-rich grazed habitats in the farmed landscape between Bury and Ramsbottom. Species rich grasslands are a Greater Manchester Biodiversity Priority Habitat.

The steep slopes in the central areas of the site support a mixture of acid and neutral grassland. The quality of the grassland is variable. Grasses include abundant common bent, crested dog's-tail and sweet vernal-grass with meadow foxtail occasional and mat grass and wavy hair-grass rare. Soft rush is also abundant with species-rich areas supporting frequent tormentil and occasional field horsetail, compact rush, hard rush, creeping buttercup, meadow buttercup, ribwort plantain, common sorrel, knapweed, sneezewort, ragwort, meadow vetchling white clover, and greater bird's-foot-trefoil. Selfheal and yarrow are rare. Devil's-bit scabious and harebell are recorded. The grassland is grazed by cattle and is heavily poached. Hawthorn scrub is frequent with bramble locally abundant and elder occasional. Alder is locally abundant near the river.

A number of small flushes occur on the slopes. These support locally abundant wood horsetail, giant horsetail and towards the Irwell butterbur, with occasional marsh thistle, great hairy willowherb, hoary willowherb, American willowherb, soft rush and meadowsweet. Reed canary-grass, hairy sedge, marsh ragwort, brooklime, water forget-me-not and common valerian are also present but rare. Tufted hair-grass and angelica are recorded. The invasive Himalayan balsam is frequent and the invasive Japanese knotweed rare.

A small stream runs along the northern boundary into the Irwell. A hedge bank lies alongside the stream with sessile oak and hawthorn. The ground flora on the bank includes giant horsetail, lemon-scented fern, broad buckler-fern, creeping soft-grass and bramble. The invasive Himalayan balsam is present.

The west of the site is now primarily woodland. This area is still grazed. Oak is dominant in the canopy with holly occasional and hazel rare in the understorey. Creeping soft-grass, bluebell and yellow pimpernel are locally abundant, hard fern, lady fern, wood sorrel and wood dock occasional and remote sedge rare in the ground flora. Sycamore, beech and ash regeneration is present. Some open areas of flush still occur, species recorded similar to those listed above, with marsh arrowgrass and a number of bilberry hummocks also recorded. Towards the top of the slopes areas of tall ruderal and scrub habitat are present. Species include rosebay willowherb, nettles and bramble.

The eastern end of the site has now been agriculturally improved and removed from the SBI.

SITES OF BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE IN GREATER MANCHESTER
Greater Manchester Ecology Unit
Dukinfield Town Hall, King Street, Dukinfield, Tameside, SK16 4LA
(Private & Confidential)



SITE NAME : Flushes at Springside

DISTRICT : Bury

LOCATION : Bury West

GRID REF : SD791136

GRADE : C

SITE DESCRIPTION CONTINUED

Birds observed include greenfinch, chaffinch, wren, song thrush (UK Biodiversity Priority Species), woodpigeon, bullfinch (UK Biodiversity Priority Species) and blackbird. Birds recorded include grasshopper warbler (UK Biodiversity Priority Species), whitethroat, sparrowhawk, greater spotted woodpecker, heron, grey wagtail. Kingfisher, sand martin, mallard and goosander

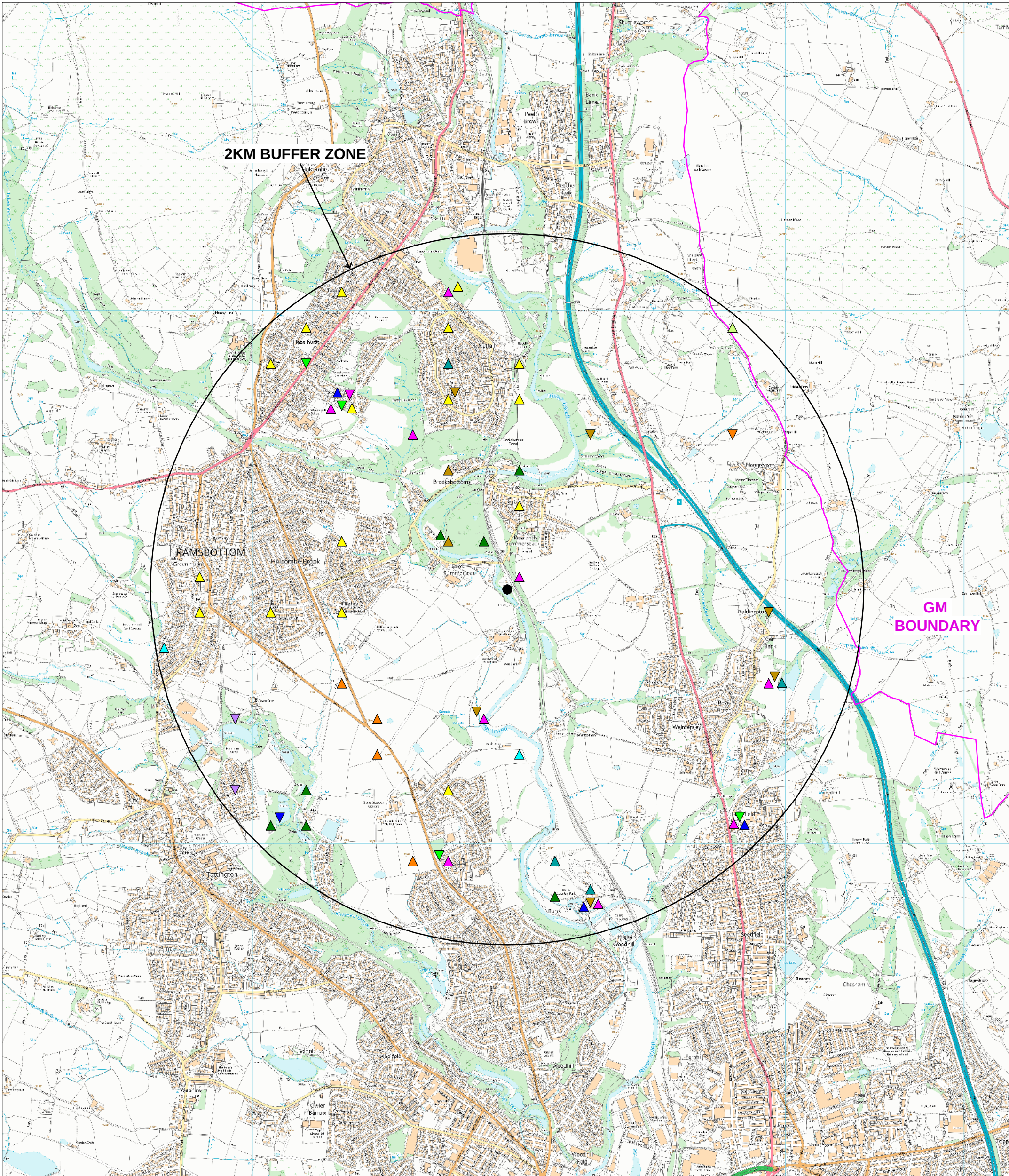
Meadow brown, green-veined white and small skipper butterflies were observed. Brown hawker dragonfly is recorded.

The habitat figures given are an approximation and are only intended to give an indication of the relative proportions of each habitat.

SITES OF BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE IN GREATER MANCHESTER
Greater Manchester Ecology Unit
Dukinfield Town Hall, King Street, Dukinfield, Tameside, SK16 4LA
(Private & Confidential)



SITE NAME : Flushes at Springside			District : Bury		
LOCATION : Bury West			GRID REF : SD791136		
GRADE : C	AREA (HA) : 3.7	ALTITUDE (M) : 95-130		DATE : 18.7.18	
STATUS : BAP		SURVEYOR : D Dutton		INITIAL SURVEY DATE : 18.9.92	
NO OF REVISIONS : 3		OWNER : LA/Private		District REF : C32	
HABITATS PRESENT	Area (ha)	HABITATS PRESENT	Area (ha)		
Woodland broadleaved (semi-nat)	0.6	Woodland plantation			
Scrub	1.4	Acid grassland	0.1		
Neutral grassland – species rich	0.3	Neutral grassland – species poor	0.7		
Marshy grassland/flush	0.6	Calcareous grassland			
Tall ruderal	0.01	Ericaceous heath lowland/upland			
Bog		Swamp/Fen/Reedbed			
Pond/small lodge		Reservoir/large area of open water			
Canal		Running water - River/stream/ditch	0.01		
Quarry/cliff/rock/wall		Other			
Areas of habitat covering less than 0.1ha. recorded as 0.01					
Qualifying Features Code (taken from Part 2 or Part 3 of the Greater Manchester SBI Selection Guidelines 2016). Gr2 – Semi-Natural Grasslands					
Supplementary Features Code - for other features that are not the primary reason for SBI selection, but are identified either as a supplementary attribute (taken from Part 1) and/or by almost reaching the Guideline threshold (Parts 2 & 3).					
COMPLETE FOR GAINS AND PARTIAL LOSSES ONLY					
Loss since Last Survey : 0.5			Loss since First Survey : 0.5		
Primary cause : Agricultural Improvement			Secondary cause :		
Gain since Last Survey : 0.2			Gain since First Survey : 2.2		
Primary cause : Resurvey (0.2)			Secondary cause : Technical Gain – more accurate mapping tools (2.0)		
Net change since Last Survey : -0.3			Net change since First Survey : +1.7		



KEY
SECTION 41 SPECIES

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| ▲ BROWN TROUT | ▲ REED BUNTING |
| ▲ BULLFINCH | ▲ SMALL HEATH |
| ▲ COMMON TOAD | ▲ SONG THRUSH |
| ▲ CURLEW | ▲ STARLING |
| ▲ DUNNOCK | ▲ WALL |
| ▲ HEDGEHOG | ▲ WL HAIRSTREAK |
| ▲ HOUSE SPARROW | ▲ WILLOW TIT |
| ▲ LAPWING | |

GREATER MANCHESTER ECOLOGY UNIT
ECOLOGICAL SEARCH - SD 7943 1443
FOREST COTTAGE - MAP 5

SCALE 1:20,000

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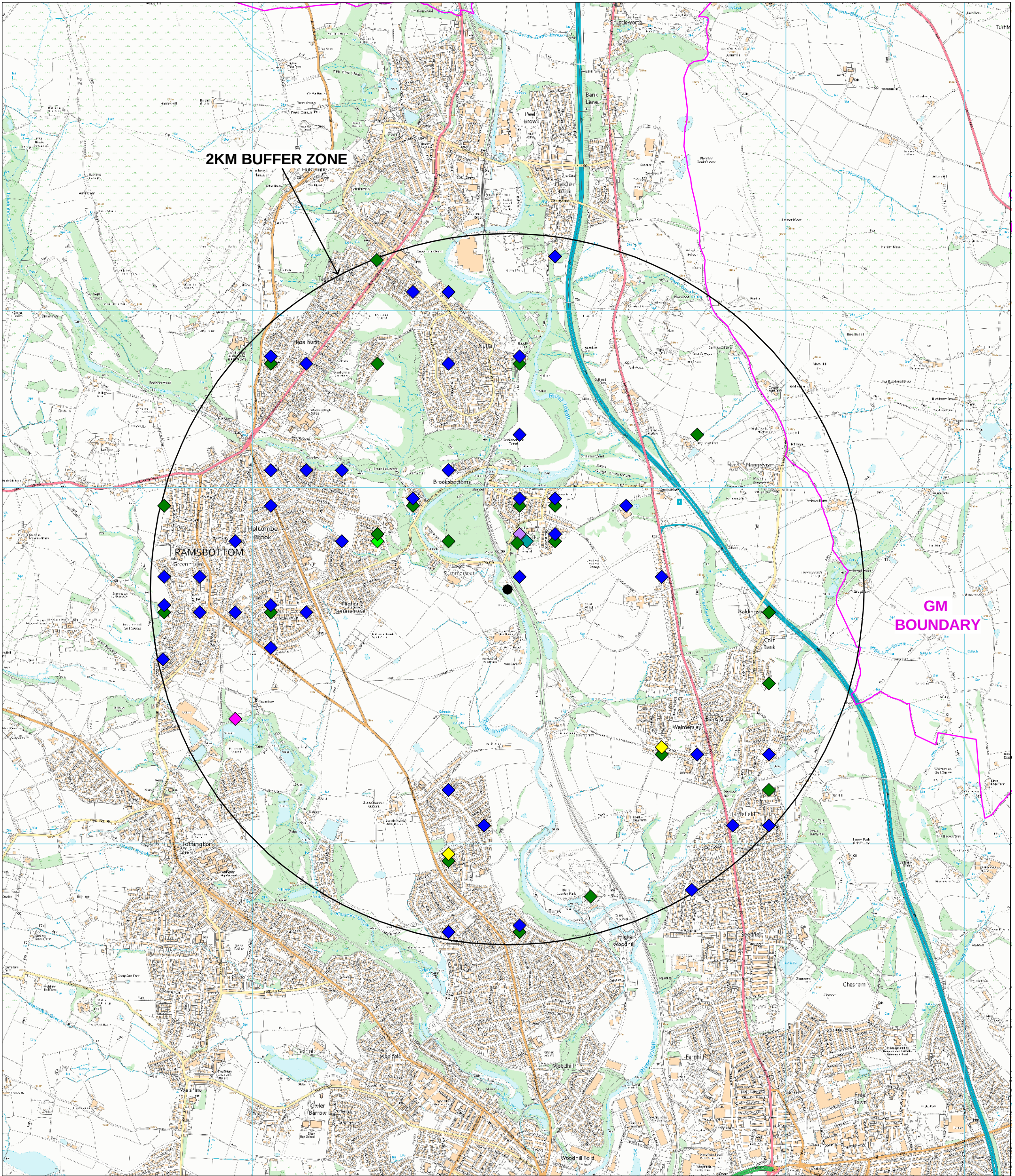
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Greater Manchester
Ecology Unit

Telephone 0161 342 4409
Email: gmeu@tameside.gov.uk

Date Produced: 30/11/2022



**GREATER MANCHESTER ECOLOGY UNIT
ECOLOGICAL SEARCH - SD 7943 1443
FOREST COTTAGE - MAP 4A**

SCALE 1:20,000

BAT DATA COURTESY OF SOUTH LANCS BAT GROUP

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Date Produced: 30/11/2022

- KEY**
BAT ROOSTS
- ◆ BAT SP
 - ◆ COMMON PIPISTRELLE
 - ◆ DAUBENTON'S BAT
 - ◆ MYOTIS SP
 - ◆ PIPISTRELLE SP
 - ◆ SOPRANO PIPISTRELLE
 - ◆ WHISKERED/BRANDT'S BAT

NOT TO BE PLACED ON THE PUBLIC RECORD

2KM BUFFER ZONE

REDISHER
WOOD

RAMSBOTTOM

KIRKLEES

GM
BOUNDARY

KEY

PROTECTED SPECIES

-  GREAT CRESTED NEWT
-  GREAT CRESTED NEWT ABSENCE
-  WATER VOLE
-  WATER VOLE ABSENCE
-  BROWN HARE
-  BARN OWL
-  GREY HERON (HERONRY)
-  KINGFISHER
-  OTTER
-  PEREGRINE

SITES

-  LOCAL NATURE RESERVES

GREATER MANCHESTER ECOLOGY UNIT
ECOLOGICAL SEARCH - SD 7943 1443
FOREST COTTAGE - MAP 2

SCALE 1:20,000

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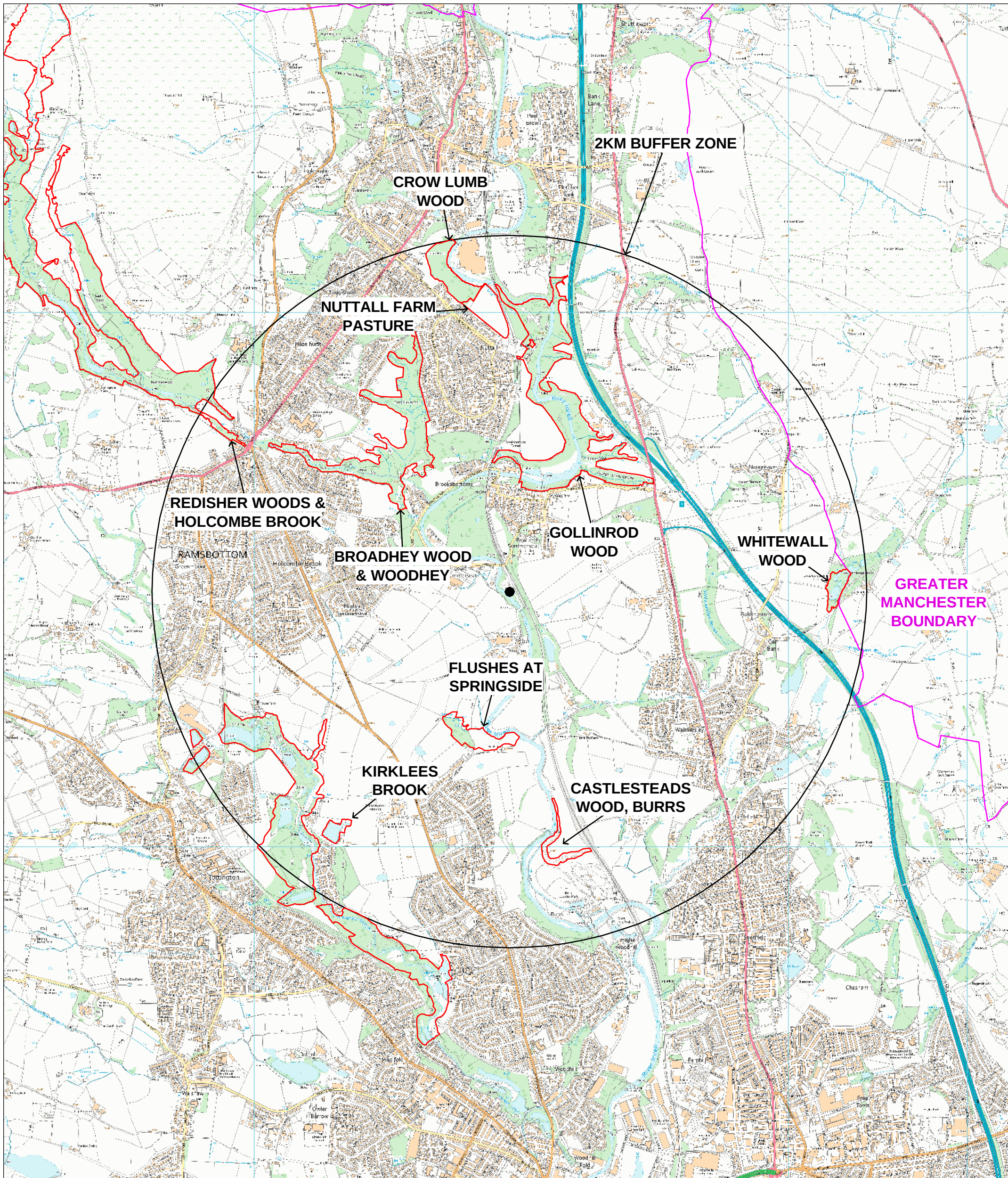
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Date Produced: 29/11/2022



**GREATER MANCHESTER ECOLOGY UNIT
ECOLOGICAL SEARCH - SD 7943 1443
FOREST COTTAGE - MAP 1**

KEY
SITE OF BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE
SBI BOUNDARY

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Date Produced: 29/11/2022

Appendix 4

Appendix 4: Relevant Legislation

European Legislation

The following Directives have been adopted by the European Union and provide protection for fauna and flora species of European importance and the habitats which support them:

- Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive);
- Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive).

UK Legislation

The Habitats Directive has been transposed into national legislation through the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (The Habitats Regulations). This provides for the designation and protection of 'European Sites' (SPAs, SACs and Ramsar Sites, including proposed or potential European Sites) and the protection of 'European Protected Species'.

The key UK legislation relating to nature conservation is the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (W&C Act). This Act is supplemented, *inter alia*, by provision in the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000, and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act). Additional species and habitat specific UK legislation includes the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

The Environment Act sets out how the UK will maintain environmental standards following leaving of the EU. The Bill builds on the vision of the 25 Year Environment Plan, with the ambition from the government to leave the environment in a better state than it was when inherited.

The Defra Biodiversity Metric is being implemented to work alongside the Environment Act. This tool calculates potential biodiversity impacts as a result of development and identifies mitigation and compensation requirements to ensure no net loss of biodiversity. In addition, it identifies measures that can be implemented in order to meet Biodiversity gain as a result of development. Defra released a beta version of the biodiversity metric in July 2019 with the latest update being released in March 2023. This metric is likely to be the default metric used by councils.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021 has been published to provide further planning guidance. Wildlife, biodiversity and ecological networks are referred to in Section 15 '*Conserving and enhancing the natural environment*'. The NPPF states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services, minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures. Further guidance is provided within Government Circular 06/05: *Biodiversity and Geological Conservation - Statutory Obligations and Their Impact Within the Planning System*.

Species and Habitats of Principal Importance

Species and Habitats of Principal Importance are listed under section 41 of the NERC Act and are a material consideration in planning decisions. Planners require relevant, up to date information from ecological surveys in order to assess the effects of a proposed development on biodiversity as Councils have a statutory obligation under section 40 of the NERC Act to consider biodiversity conservation in the determination of planning applications.

Background information about the lists of priority habitats and species (Species and Habitats of Principal Importance) can be found within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). Although this has been succeeded by the 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework', many of UK BAP tools are still relevant. BAPs identify habitats and species of nature conservation priority on a UK (UK BAP) and Local (LBAP) scale. Most BAP priority habitats and species have Habitat Action Plans (HAP) and Species Action Plans (SAP) and there are also "grouped action plans" for groups of related species with similar conservation requirements. The LBAP relating to this Site is the Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan.

Bats

In England, all bats and their roosts are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Several species of bat are also highlighted as Priority Species under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and within the Local BAP.

Under the current legislation as summarised on pages 8 and 9 of the Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists Good Practice Guidelines – 3rd Edition (2016) it is a criminal offence to:

“To kill, capture, injure or take a wild bat;

- To damage or destroy a place used by a bat for breeding or resting. All offences of this nature are identified within the Habitats Regulations. This offence is unique in that it can be committed accidentally. No element of intentional, reckless or deliberate action needs to be evidenced;*
- To disturb bats anywhere (roosts, flight lines or foraging areas) if levels of disturbance can be shown to impair their ability to survive, to breed or reproduce, to rear or nurture their young, to hibernate or migrate or to affect significantly local distribution or abundance;*
- To intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat, whilst it is occupying a place of shelter or protection;*
- To intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any place used by a bat for shelter or protection; and*
- To be in possession or control of a bat alive or dead (or any part of a bat or anything derived from a bat, although bat droppings are generally considered to be acceptable), or to transport a bat, to sell or exchange a bat or to offer to sell or exchange a bat taken from the wild.”*

Breeding Birds

Breeding Birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act which make it an offence to:

- intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built;*
- intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird;*
- have in one's possession or control any wild bird, dead or alive, or any part of a wild bird (including eggs), which has been taken in contravention of the Act or the Protection of Birds Act 1954;*
- intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.*

Local Policy

The site lies within Bury Council and is covered by the Bury Council Unitary Development Plan (UDP) (adopted August 1997). Policy EN6 deals with Conservation and the Natural Environment and is the policy of relevance here. This policy has been taken into account when preparing this report.