



ABRAHAM MOSS LIBRARY AND LEISURE CENTRE MANCHESTER ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

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Executive Summary

- 1. TEP was commissioned in February 2019, by Laing O'Rourke Northern Ltd, to carry out an ecological assessment of Abraham Moss Community Campus in Manchester to inform a planning application for the redevelopment of the leisure centre and library building.
- 2. The site is not allocated under the Manchester Local Plan. There are a number of biodiversity-related planning policies which are applicable to the site and it is anticipated that if some of the enhancement measures in Chapter 5 are implemented this will satisfy the requirements of these policies.
- 3. There are no internationally designated sites within 10km or nationally designated sites within 2km. The site lies within the impact risk zone for Rochdale Canal Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) but the proposals do not fall within a risk category for the SSSI. Reservoirs of Harpurhey Site of Biological Importance (SBI) is the only locally designated site within 1km but as this SBI is over 700m from the site this is considered to be of sufficient distance that no impacts are anticipated.
- 4. The habitats on the site are limited to a building, hardstanding, amenity grassland, dense scrub scattered trees and introduced shrub. It is not anticipated that the scrub or trees will be impacted by the proposals and any areas of amenity grassland or introduced shrub to be lost will be reinstated or created elsewhere within the scheme.
- 5. No protected or invasive plant species are present on the site.
- 6. The site holds some suitability for protected species including amphibians, birds, reptiles and hedgehogs but this is largely limited to the trees and scrub. These habitats will not be impacted by the proposals. The building and trees were found to have Negligible suitability for bats during both 2019 and 2020 assessments. Foraging opportunities on the site for this species are minimal due to existing high levels of light spill and the nature of the habitats present.
- 7. Given the low significance of the site for biodiversity no mitigation measures or further surveys are recommended.
- 8. To comply with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and local policies a number of opportunities for further habitat enhancements which will benefit biodiversity have been identified within the recommendations section of this report.



1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 TEP was commissioned in February 2019, by Laing O'Rourke Northern Ltd, to carry out an ecological assessment of Abraham Moss Community Campus in Manchester, hereon in referred to as "the site".
- 1.2 This report has the following objectives:
 - To describe the existing vegetation and give an overview of the habitats present on the site;
 - To identify whether there are any features of conservation value such as legally protected species or habitats and species of principal importance listed under Section 41 (S41) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006;
 - To identify any further survey requirements;
 - To identify scheme design options to mitigate ecological impacts;
 - To identify biodiversity enhancement opportunities.

Site Proposals

1.3 The site proposals are for the redevelopment of Abraham Moss Community Campus including the demolition of the existing library and leisure centre building and the construction of a new 4,850m² leisure development that includes pools, gyms, changing areas and library amongst other provisions. Temporary leisure facilities will be provided during the construction phase of the development.

Site Context

- 1.4 Abraham Moss Community Centre consists of Abraham Moss Secondary School, a leisure centre and library which is used both by the school and by the public, Abraham Moss metrolink station and associated car parking and landscaping. It is located in Crumpsall in Greater Manchester.
- 1.5 The site itself is formed of the leisure centre and library building, the car parking areas and several parcels of vegetation.
- 1.6 The central grid reference for the site is SD 84455 01660 and a site location plan is shown in Figure 1 below.



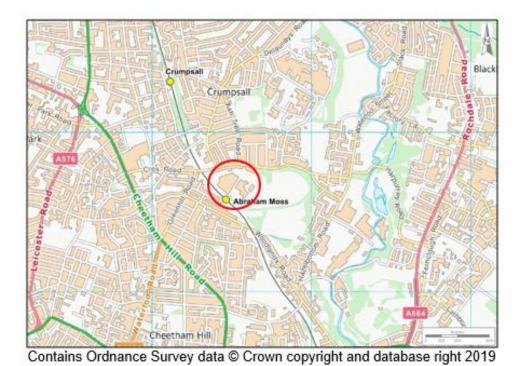


Figure 1: Site location plan



2.0 Methods

Desk Based Assessment

2.1 Information regarding historic species records and protected sites was requested/gathered from the sources listed in Table 1. This collated data gives a useful indication of the distribution and abundance of ecological receptors at a given locale. An absence of records does not indicate the absence of protected species from the search area. Our survey work has sought to identify the potential for any protected species to be present.

Table 1: Sources of ecological information

Source of Information	Nature of Information	
Magic Map	Maps showing internationally designated sites to 10km, nationally designated sites to 2km and habitats of value to biodiversity within and adjacent to the site	
Greater Manchester Local Records Centre	Protected species records and locally designated sites within 1km	
Manchester City Council	Land allocations and relevant policies	
ArcMap10	Ordnance & Aerial survey mapping	

Habitats and Flora

Habitat Survey

2.2 A habitat survey was carried out by Senior Ecologist Lizi Pimlott (ACIEEM, FISC Level 3) on 26th February 2019, assisted by Valerie Jennings. The survey was carried out in accordance with the Phase 1 habitat assessment methods (JNCC 2010¹) and Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM 2017²). The method records the habitat types present within and immediately surrounding the site, based on the JNCC descriptions. Plant species were identified in accordance with Stace (2010) and recorded as target notes using the DAFOR scale. Weather conditions during the survey were sunny and warm.

Limitations

2.3 The survey was undertaken outside of the optimal seasonal window for habitat surveys (April to October) and therefore some plant species may not have been visible. However given the simplistic nature of the habitats on the site this was not considered to be a significant limitation.

² CIEEM 2017. Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.

¹ JNCC 2010. Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: A technique for environmental audit.



Fauna

2.4 The site survey included an extended assessment of the habitats present for their potential to support species of conservation concern, particularly statutorily protected species or species listed under S41. Any signs indicating the presence of these species were recorded.

Bats

Preliminary Roost Assessment for Bats

- 2.5 A daytime inspection of the existing leisure facilities building for roosting bats was completed by Licensed Bat Ecologist Lizi Pimlott (Natural England Class 2 licence registration no. 2016-22843-CLS-CLS) concurrently with the habitat survey on 26th February 2019. No other buildings are present on the site. An updated daytime inspection of the building was undertaken by TEP Ecologist Annabel Walker-Evans on 7th December 2020.
- 2.6 The survey was undertaken in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT): Bat Surveys, Good Practice and Guidelines (Collins, 2016³). A systematic search of the exterior of the buildings was made to identify potential or actual bat access points and roosting places, and to locate any evidence of bats such as live or dead specimens, bat droppings, urine splashes and/or fur-oil staining. The surveyors used binoculars, an endoscope and a 1 million candle power Clulite torch to aid the survey.
- 2.7 The search included (where present) the ground beneath potential access points, windowsills, window panes, walls, behind peeling paintwork and lifted rendering, soffit boxes, fascia's, lead flashing, gaps under felt and under tiles / slates. Gaps in brickwork and tiles were searched. All evidence of use by bats, or features with the potential to be used by bats was recorded and photographed.
- 2.8 A ground level inspection of all trees within the site, including those along the site boundaries, was undertaken to assess their potential to support roosting bats. Binoculars were used to search for any field signs of bats or features with bat roosting potential.
- 2.9 In addition, the habitats within and surrounding the survey area were assessed for their potential to support foraging and commuting bats.
- 2.10 The Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) is used to inform the scope of any nocturnal surveys required. Nocturnal surveys may be needed to determine whether bat roosts are present and, if so, the species and status of each and to identify key foraging and commuting habitats. Following the daytime inspection, buildings, trees and habitats were categorised based on the criteria listed within Table 2 below.

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³ Collins J. 2016. Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines, 3rd Edition. Bat Conservation



Table 2: Evaluation criteria for the potential suitability of buildings, trees and habitats for bats (taken from Table 4.1 of the BCT guidance)

Suitability	Roosting habitats	Commuting/foraging habitats		
Negligible	No potential roost features are present that are likely to be used by bats.	No features present that are likely to be used by commuting or foraging bats. A general lack of linear features and low habitat, structural or floristic diversity.		
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost features that could be used by individual bats opportunistically, but which do not offer sufficient space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats.	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of commuting bats (e.g. a gappy hedgerow or an unvegetated stream) or foraging bats (e.g. a lone tree or small patch of scrub) but which is isolated from the surrounding		
	A tree of sufficient size and age to contain potential roost features but none seen from the ground or features seen with only limited roosting potential.	countryside.		
Moderate	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost features that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat, but which is unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (maternity or hibernation).	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for commuting (e.g. lines of trees or scrub or linked back gardens), or foraging bats (e.g. trees, scrub, water, grassland).		
High	A structure or tree possessing one or more potential roost features that are suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a regular bases and potentially for longer periods of time, due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat.	Continuous high quality habitat that is strongly connected with the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by commuting bats (e.g. river valley, vegetated stream, woodland edge, hedgerow with trees) or foraging bats (e.g. broad-leaved woodland, grazed parkland, treelined watercourses or ponds).		

Limitations

2.11 No limitations were encountered during the survey.



3.0 Results

Desk Based Assessment

Planning Context

3.1 A summary of the results of the desk based assessment (DBA) is set out below. Further details, including maps, are provided in Appendix A (TEP report reference: 7466.001).

Relevant Planning Policies and Guidance

- 3.2 The site, and adjacent land, is not allocated under the Manchester Local Plan.
- 3.3 Planning policies applicable to the site and relevant to biodiversity include:
 - Policy EN15 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (Manchester Local Plan):
 - Policy GM-G 1 Valuing Important Landscapes (Greater Manchester Spatial Framework);
 - Policy GM-G 7 Trees and Woodland (Greater Manchester Spatial Framework); and
 - Policy GM-G 10 A Net Enhancement of Biodiversity and Geodiversity (Greater Manchester Spatial Framework).

Designated Sites

- 3.4 There are no internationally designated wildlife sites within 10km of the site.
- 3.5 There are no nationally designated wildlife sites within 2km of the site.
- 3.6 The site is located within the Impact Risk Zone for Rochdale Canal Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which is located approximately 5km to the east of the site boundary. The site proposals do not fall under a category which would require Local Planning Authorities to consult with Natural England with regard to impacts on this SSSI.
- 3.7 There is one locally designated wildlife site within 1km of the site. This is Reservoirs at Harpurhey Site of Biological Importance (SBI) approximately 730m east of the site.

Notable Habitats

3.8 Deciduous woodland - a S41 habitat of principal importance - lies adjacent to the east of the site. No other notable habitats are present within or adjacent to the site.

Notable Flora and Fauna

- 3.9 A number of species spread over a 1km search radius were identified through the data from Greater Manchester Local Records Centre. Species include those listed under any of the following:
 - European Protected Species (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);
- Species of principal importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (S41); and
- Red and Amber listed Birds of Conservation Concern (BRd/BAm);
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan Species (LBAP).
- 3.10 These records are detailed in the relevant species sections below.

Habitats and Flora

Phase 1 Habitat Survey

- 3.11 Results of the Phase 1 habitat survey are provided below with detailed Target Notes (TN) presented in Appendix B (TEP report reference: 7466.003), and displayed on the Phase 1 Habitat Map within the Drawings Appendix (G7466.001). The habitats present within the site are listed below and brief descriptions of these habitats are also given:
 - · Building;
 - Hardstanding;
 - · Amenity grassland;
 - Scattered broad-leaved trees;
 - Dense/continuous scrub: and
 - Introduced shrub.

Building

3.12 The leisure centre and library building (TN1), which will be demolished as part of the scheme, is located in the northern part of the site. A description of the building is provided in the preliminary bat roost assessment section below.

Hardstanding

- 3.13 There are numerous artificial sports pitches (TN2), which are used by the school, towards the south of the site.
- 3.14 There are large areas of car parking throughout the site (TN5) associated with the leisure centre, school and the metrolink station.

Amenity Grassland

3.15 There are several parcels of mown amenity grassland (TN3) throughout the site which are sown of typical seed mixes. Perennial ryegrass Lolium perenne is dominant with rare herbaceous species including broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, dandelion *Taraxacum officinale agg* and ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*.

Scattered Broad-leaved Trees

3.16 Mature broad-leaved trees (TN3) are scattered throughout the amenity grassland areas on the site. Lime *Tilia* sp. are dominant with rare sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, silver birch *Betula pendula*, holly *Ilex aquifolium* and pine *Pinus* sp.



Dense/Continuous Scrub

3.17 An embankment to the north of the car park in the south east corner of the site is densely vegetated with scrub (TN4). Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. is dominant with frequent hazel *Corylus avellana*.

Introduced Shrub

3.18 There are small areas of introduced shrub (TN3) throughout the amenity grassland on the site, notably at the entrance to the site. A variety of ornamental species are present including occasional spotted laurel *Aucuba japonica*, rare cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* and daffodil *Narcissus* sp.. Native species including frequent ivy *Hedera helix*, occasional pendulous sedge *Carex pendula* and rarely occurring bramble.

Invasive and Protected Plant Species

- 3.19 No protected or invasive plant species records were returned for within 1km of the site.
- 3.20 No protected or non-native invasive plant species were recorded within the site during the survey.

Connectivity with the Wider Landscape

3.21 The metrolink along the west boundary of the site provides connectivity to the north and south of the site. To the south of the site is a band of woodland which connects to green areas further south. Habitat connectivity to the east and west of the site is limited by surrounding urban development.

Fauna

Amphibians

- 3.22 There are no records of amphibians within 1km of the site.
- 3.23 A review of aerial and OS imagery indicates that there are no ponds or standing water which could be used by amphibians within 500m of the site.
- 3.24 The dense scrub in the south east corner of the site could provide opportunities for amphibians to shelter. The remaining vegetated habitats are too heavily managed and exposed to be used by amphibians and the building and hardstanding are unsuitable for these species.

<u>Badger</u>

- 3.25 No records of badger *Meles meles* were returned for the site in the data search.
- 3.26 No evidence of badger was recorded within the site.
- 3.27 The embankments along the eastern boundary of the site could provide limited sett excavation opportunities for badger, particularly within the area of dense scrub. Foraging habitat is minimal within the site as the grassland areas are heavily managed. The woodland and grassland to the east of the site provides higher quality foraging and sett excavation habitat for badgers.



Bats

- 3.28 At least two bat species (EPS, WCA5) have been recorded within 1km of the site (but none for the site itself) including common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii*. Records include two bat roosts over 500m to the east of the site.
- 3.29 The leisure centre and library building is multi-storey and is formed of red brick walls which are clad with slabs of concrete and pebble dash. The roof is flat and covered with a layer of bitumen. The building houses sports facilities including a swimming pool and large sports hall.
- 3.30 The entrance to the building is on the north elevation with a glass frontage and wooden soffit boxes (Figure 2). There are small gaps between the panels of the soffit box but these are considered to be too narrow for bats to access.
- 3.31 The east elevation of the building also has large windows, both PVC and wooden lintels, but the pebble dash slabs are the primary feature. There are small gaps between the slabs but these are shallow and do not form a potential roost feature. A small hole was noted approximately 3m high in one of the slabs where electric cables used to be installed (Figure 3). An inspection with an endoscope found a small cavity present but this was heavily cobwebbed and dusty and no evidence of use by bats was noted. There are two "bridges" on the east elevation of the building which link the leisure centre to the school (Figure 4). These bridges are formed of concrete with large windows. Small gaps were noted in places which are similar in nature to those between the pebble dash slabs and these are considered to be too shallow for bats to use.
- 3.32 The south elevation is also dominated by pebble dash slabs and extractor pipes and chimneys are also installed here (Figure 5). No potential roost features were noted in this area.
- 3.33 The west elevation of the building has some wooden doors and air vents on the southern section which lead into a storage area (Figure 6). No potential roost features are present internally here. The remainder of this elevation is windowless and formed solely of the pebble-dash slabs. A light covering of ivy is growing up the side of the building. Towards the northern part of this elevation a larger gap was noted in a join in the wall between the pebble-dash slabs (Figure 7). Inspection with an endoscope found a small cavity present that was heavily cobwebbed and dusty and no evidence of roosting bats was noted.
- 3.34 Inside the building the roof area is predominantly formed of suspended ceilings with a small void above. There are also two larger voids above the swimming pool (Figure 8). No access points were noted externally which would allow bats to enter these areas.
- 3.35 The roof was accessible through a maintenance area and was found to be flat with skylights (Figure 9). No potential roost features were noted on the roof.
- 3.36 The updated building inspection, undertaken on 7th December 2020, found the condition of the building to be unchanged from the previous survey, conducted on 26th February 2019.



3.37 On the basis of these findings the leisure centre and library building has been classified as having Negligible suitability for roosting bats.



Figure 2: North elevation of building



Figure 3: Hole on east elevation



Figure 4: Bridge on east elevation



Figure 5: South elevation of building



Figure 6: Storage area on west elevation



Figure 7: Hole on west elevation







Figure 8: Void above swimming pool

Figure 9: Roof of building

- 3.38 No trees within the site were found to contain potential roost features and therefore are classified as having Negligible suitability for roosting bats.
- 3.39 The habitats on the site are unlikely to be of significance for foraging bats as the vegetated areas are heavily managed and the site overall is well lit in the evening, and overnight in some parts, by floodlighting from the leisure centre and metrolink station. The woodland adjacent to the east of the site provides higher quality foraging habitat for bats.

Birds

- 3.40 The following bird records have been returned for within 1km of the site including:
 - Bullfinch Pyrrhula pyrrhula (S41, BAm);
 - Dunnock Prunella modularis (S41, BAm);
 - House sparrow Passer domestica (S41, BRd);
 - Kingfisher Alcedo atthis (WCA1, BAm);
 - Lesser redpoll Carduelis cabaret (S41, BRd);
 - Reed bunting Emberiza schoeniclus (S41, BAm);
 - Song thrush Turdus philomelos (S41, BRd); and
 - Starling Sturnus vulgaris (S41, BRd).
- 3.41 The dense scrub and trees within the site could provide nesting opportunities for bats. The leisure and library building is unlikely to support nesting birds. There are no access points into the interior and no potential perches or nesting features externally. The roof is flat and open to the elements and if birds were to nest in this area they could be at risk of predation by raptors.
- 3.42 The habitats on the site are unlikely to be of significance for foraging birds as the vegetated areas are heavily managed with a lack of fruiting trees. The woodland adjacent to the east of the site provides higher quality nesting and foraging habitat for birds. There are no waterbodies on or adjacent to the site which could support species such as kingfisher.

Otter and Water Vole

3.43 There are no records of otter *Lutra lutra* or water vole *Arvicola amphibius* within 1km of the site.



3.44 Otter and water vole are riparian species. There are no waterbodies within or connecting to the site and the site is surrounded by urban development. These species are not expected to occur on the site and therefore are not considered further within this assessment.

Reptiles

- 3.45 No reptile records were returned within 1km of the site.
- 3.46 Reptiles typically favour a mosaic of habitats which provide opportunities for foraging, shelter and basking. The south west facing embankments along the eastern site boundary could provide opportunities for basking and the dense scrub may form habitat for foraging and shelter.

Hedgehogs

- 3.47 No records of hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* have been returned within 1km of the site.
- 3.48 The dense scrub could offer opportunities for hedgehogs to shelter and forage but the remaining vegetated areas are heavily managed. The woodland adjacent to the east of the site provides higher quality sheltering and foraging habitat for hedgehogs.

Other Species

3.49 No other notable species records were returned within the data search. It is considered unlikely that the site would support any other notable species given the simplistic nature of the habitats present and the frequent recreational disturbance on the site.



4.0 Conclusion

4.1 This section concludes the potential impacts on the ecological receptors in and around the application site from the proposed development. The site proposals are for the redevelopment of Abraham Moss Community Campus including the demolition of the existing library and leisure centre building and the construction of a new 4,850m² leisure development that includes pools, gyms, changing areas and library amongst other provisions. Temporary leisure facilities will be provided during the construction phase of the development.

Planning Context

- 4.2 The site, and adjacent land, is not allocated under the Manchester Local Plan. The proposed works are largely restricted to the footprint of the existing leisure centre and library building and the surrounding hardstanding although the loss of some small areas of amenity grassland and introduced shrub may occur during creation of the temporary works compound.
- 4.3 If the biodiversity enhancements outlined in Chapter 5 are incorporated into the scheme it is anticipated that the requirements of the biodiversity-related planning policies will be met.

Designated Sites

- 4.4 There are no internationally designated sites within 10km of the site and no nationally designated sites within 2km of the site.
- 4.5 The site is located within the Impact Risk Zone for Rochdale Canal SSSI which is located approximately 5km to the east of the site boundary. The site proposals do not fall under a category which would require Local Planning Authorities to consult with Natural England with regard to impacts on this SSSI.
- 4.6 There is one locally designated wildlife site within 1km of the site. This is Reservoirs at Harpurhey SBI approximately 730m east of the site.
- 4.7 Reservoirs at Harpurhey SBI and Rochdale Canal SSSI are considered to be of sufficient distance, beyond surrounding urban development, that no impacts are anticipated as a result of the proposals. Therefore there are no implications with regard to designated sites and the scheme.

Habitats & Flora

4.8 The onsite habitats are of low ecological value with higher quality habitats including woodland and grassland being present to the south of the site. The proposed works are largely restricted to the footprint of the existing leisure centre and library building and the surrounding hardstanding although the loss of some small areas of amenity grassland and introduced shrub may occur during creation of the temporary works compound. This is unlikely to have a significant impact on local biodiversity, particularly as these areas will be reinstated or created elsewhere within the site upon completion of construction. No trees are anticipated to be impacted by the proposals. Therefore there are no implications with regard to habitats and the scheme.



Invasive and protected plant species

4.9 No protected or non-native invasive plant species were recorded on the site and therefore there are no implications with regard to plant species and the scheme.

Fauna

Amphibians

4.10 There are no waterbodies within 500m of the site and the terrestrial habitat suitability of the site for amphibians is limited to the dense scrub in the south east of the site which will not be impacted by the proposals. The remainder of the site is considered to be unsuitable for amphibians. Therefore there are no implications with regard to amphibians and the scheme.

Bats

4.11 The buildings and trees on the site have Negligible suitability for roosting bats and the habitats provide limited opportunities for bats to forage. The loss of small areas of amenity grassland and introduced shrub are unlikely to significantly impact foraging bats. The remainder of the site is considered to be unsuitable for bats. The site and surrounding area is already subject to high levels of light spill from adjacent urban development. The work area lies over 50m from the woodland adjacent to the site and therefore no additional light spill to this habitat is anticipated. Therefore there are no implications with regard to bats and the scheme.

Birds

4.12 The trees and dense scrub on the site provide opportunities for nesting birds. These habitats will not be affected by the proposals. The loss of small areas of amenity grassland and introduced shrub are unlikely to significantly impact foraging birds and are too exposed to be used for nesting. Therefore there are no implications with regard to birds and the scheme.

Reptiles

4.13 The embankments and scrub to the south of the site provide opportunities for reptiles but these areas will not be affected by the proposals. The remainder of the site is considered to be unsuitable for reptiles. Therefore there are no implications with regard to reptiles and the scheme.

Hedgehogs

4.14 The scrub to the south of the site provide opportunities for hedgehogs but this area will not be affected by the proposals. The remainder of the site is considered to be unsuitable for hedgehogs. Therefore there are no implications with regard to hedgehogs and the scheme.



5.0 Recommendations

5.1 Given the low quality habitats present on the site and the lack of suitability of this areas for protected species no mitigation measures or further surveys are recommended.

Opportunities for Biodiversity Enhancement

- Under the National Planning Policy Framework 2018 (NPPF), developments should aim to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains, where possible. To comply with the NPPF and local policies, a number of opportunities for further habitat enhancements which will benefit biodiversity are identified below.
- 5.3 Enhancement is recommended in the form of bat and bird boxes (specification to be confirmed in order to incorporate into the new building design). These should be sited at an appropriate height and aspect with no obstruction to the entrances.
- In newly created planting areas locally-appropriate plant species should be used where possible which will provide foraging opportunities for local wildlife.



APPENDIX A: Desk Based Assessment





ABRAHAM MOSS LIBRARY AND LEISURE CENTRE MANCHESTER ECOLOGY DESK STUDY

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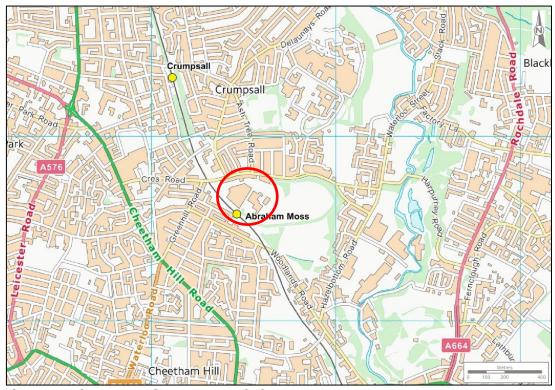
Contents

- Site Location Plan
- Relevant Local Planning Policies
- Site Designations
- Notable Habitats
- Notable Species
- Local BAP Habitats and Species



Site Location Plan

Approximate Central Grid Reference: SD 84455 01660



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Relevant Local Planning Policies

Manchester Local Plan

Manchester's Core Strategy was adopted on the 11 July 2012 and is the key document in the Manchester Local Plan. It sets the out the long term strategic policies for Manchester's future development and will form the framework that planning applications will be assessed against.

Interactive Policies Map: Manchester City Council do not give permission to copy, sublicence, distribute, sell or otherwise make available the Licensed Data to third parties in any form. The interactive Policies Map can be viewed by following the link below: https://mcr-

<u>council.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=565a33eaba904b2dabf4</u> <u>c3dd8685db80</u>

The site and adjacent land is not allocated under the local plan.

The following policies relate to biodiversity and nature conservation and are applicable to the site:

Policy EN 15

Biodiversity and Geological Conservation

The Council will seek to maintain or enhance sites of biodiversity and geological value throughout the City. Particular consideration will be given to:

- sites with international or national designations for their biodiversity value. Manchester contains one Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (Cotteril Clough); there is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and an SSSI just over the border in Oldham (both on the Rochdale Canal within Oldham);
- other sites of biodiversity value, including Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs); Manchester currently has 35 SBIs (including the Rochdale and Ashton Canals) and 7 LNRs; priority habitats found within Manchester, as listed in the Manchester Biodiversity Strategy and included in the Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (GM BAP);
- protected and priority species, as listed in the Manchester Biodiversity Strategy and included in the Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (GM BAP);
- sites that are recognised for their geological importance;
- the Council's objective to protect and conserve the City's existing trees and woodlands and the aim for a net increase in trees across the City.

Developers will be expected to identify and implement reasonable opportunities to enhance, restore or create new biodiversity, either on-site or adjacent to the site, contributing to linkages between valuable or potentially valuable habitat areas where appropriate, with reference to:

- the Manchester Biodiversity Strategy, which provides further details of priority habitats within Manchester and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement including corridors such as the Mersey, Medlock and Irk river valleys, the canals and disused railway lines and areas of managed greenspace particularly in parks;
- the Green Infrastructure Framework for Greater Manchester, which encompasses an
 ecological framework that seeks to guide and inform habitat creation and repair,
 - including identifying large 'biodiversity opportunity areas' including the Moston Brook Corridor and Nutsford Vale;
- the Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study, which identifies areas where there is a deficit of natural and semi-natural greenspace, opportunities for green corridors and other linkages;
- Manchester's Climate Change Action Plan;
- the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for Manchester;
- the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for Manchester, which gives detailed consideration to Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), including the Rochdale Canal SAC just outside the district boundary;
- the River Basin Management Plan for the North West;
- the Manchester Tree Strategy.

Any adverse impacts on biodiversity will need to be justified against the wider benefits of the proposal, assessed against other LDF policies. Where adverse impacts are unavoidable, developers will be required to provide appropriate mitigation and/or compensation.

Development should wherever possible seek to maintain, enhance or restore existing geology.



Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

Manchester City Council is working in partnership with the nine other Greater Manchester councils to develop the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF), a new strategic plan for the city region which will run through to 2037.

The revised draft of the GMSF is currently out for consultation until 23:59 on Monday 18th March 2019.

Policy GM-G 1

Valuing Important Landscapes

Development should reflect and respond to the special qualities and sensitivities of the key landscape characteristics of its location, including having regard to:

- Topography, geology and drainage;
- Land use and field patterns;
- Semi-natural habitats and woodland cover;
- Archaeology and cultural heritage;
- Settlement, road pattern and rights of way; and
- Views and perceptual qualities.

Transitional areas around new development and the interface of new development with the surrounding countryside/landscape are also of particular importance, requiring well-considered and sensitive treatment. In particular, opportunities to improve the intactness and condition of the landscape should be taken, especially in conjunction with seeking a net enhancement of biodiversity/geodiversity resources under 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity'.

In implementing this strategic policy regard will be had to the Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment (GMLCSA), in particular its guidance on future development and landscape management/enhancement within areas covered by each landscape character type.



Policy GM-G7

Trees and Woodland

In making planning decisions and carrying out other associated activities, Greater Manchester's authorities will work to deliver the aims and objectives of the Greater Manchester Tree and Woodland Strategy, aiming to significantly increase tree cover, protect and enhance woodland, and connect people to the trees and woodland around them, including by:

- Protecting and expanding the mosaic of woodland habitats, linking fragmented areas of woodland, in particular wooded cloughs and pockets of ancient and riverside (riparian) woodland;
- Encourage habitat diversity through conserving and managing existing woodland and trees that are of heritage, cultural and/or aesthetic value, including ancient woodland and veteran trees;
- Aiming to plant a tree for every resident in Greater Manchester over the next 25 years as part of the City of Trees initiative;
- Targeting tree-planting at the areas of greatest need where the green infrastructure benefits
 can be maximised, whilst avoiding the loss of, or harm to, other priority habitats, including
 encouraging woodland planting schemes on areas of low grade agricultural land;
- Establishing a new City Forest Park in Salford, Bolton and Bury, which will provide a vast urban forest close to the City Centre;
- Considerably increasing the provision of street trees within urban areas;
- Promoting the provision of community orchards to increase fruit consumption;
- Securing a diversification of broadleaved species, in order to increase biodiversity and disease resilience;
- Improving public access to woodland and trees whilst managing the associated pressures;
- Encouraging the positive management of woodland to bring it into a more productive state, improve habitat diversity, and more effectively contribute to important green infrastructure functions such as flood risk management and carbon storage/sequestration;
- Where development would result in the loss of existing trees, requiring replacement on the basis of two new trees for each tree lost, with a preference for on-site provision; and
- Protecting trees and woodland during the construction phase of development.



Policy GM-G 10

A Net Enhancement of Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Across the plan as a whole, a net enhancement of biodiversity resources will be sought, including by:

- Increasing the quality, quantity, extent and diversity of habitats, particularly priority habitats identified in national or local biodiversity action plans and those that support priority species;
- Improving connections between habitats, to protect and enhance the provision of corridors, ecological networks (including Nature Recovery Networks) and stepping stones that enable the movement of species, especially as the climate changes;
- Enhancing the management of existing habitats, including through habitat restoration, avoiding habitat fragmentation and combating invasive species;
- Protecting sites designated for their nature conservation and/or geological importance, with the highest level of protection given to international and then national designations in accordance with legislation and national policy;
- Facilitating greater access to nature, particularly within urban areas;
- Encouraging the use of native species in habitat creation and landscaping schemes;
- Supporting the implementation of the Greater Manchester Wetlands Nature Improvement
 Area as an essential network of wildlife corridors linking biodiversity across the landscape
 and allowing wetland habitats to thrive and survive, and promoting the establishment of
 additional nature improvement areas; and
- Safeguarding, restoring and sustainably managing Greater Manchester's most valuable soil resources, tackling soil degradation/erosion and recovering soil fertility, particularly to ensure protection of peat-based soils and safeguard 'best and most versatile' agricultural land.

Development will be expected to:

- Follow the mitigation hierarchy of:
 - Avoiding harm to biodiversity, particularly where it is irreplaceable, and including consideration of alternative sites where appropriate, then
 - Mitigating (within the local area) any harm to biodiversity, then
 - iii. Compensating (within the local area) for any remaining harm to biodiversity



- Avoid fragmenting or severing connectivity between habitats;
- Make appropriate provision for long-term management of habitats and geological features connected to the development; and
- d. Provide robust evidence in accordance with relevant government and other guidance, including field surveys wherever development of 'best and most versatile' agricultural land is proposed or to establish the status of the land within the Agricultural Land Classification system.

Whilst off-site habitat enhancement and creation required as part of the mitigation hierarchy (or to achieve a net gain in biodiversity) should be local to the site regard should be had to supporting strategic biodiversity priorities and initiatives including the improvement of the green infrastructure opportunity areas under 'Greater Manchester's Green Infrastructure Network'.



Site Designations

Internationally Designated Wildlife Sites within 10km of the Site

Source: MAGIC Maps

There are no internationally designated wildlife sites within 10km of the site.

Nationally Designated Wildlife Sites within 2km of the Site

Source: MAGIC Maps

There are no nationally designated wildlife sites within 2km of the site.

SSSI Impact Risk Zones for Site Only

Source: MAGIC Maps

The site is located within the Impact Risk Zone for Rochdale Canal SSSI which is located approximately 5km to the east of the site boundary.

SSSI Impact Risk Zones - to assess planning applications for likely impacts on SSSIs/SACs/SPAs & Ramsar sites (England)

1. DOES PLANNING PROPOSAL FALL INTO ONE OR MORE OF THE CATEGORIES BELOW?
2. IF YES, CHECK THE CORRESPONDING DESCRIPTION(S) BELOW. LPA SHOULD CONSULT NATURAL ENGLAND ON LIKELY RISKS FROM THE FOLLOWING:

All Planning Applications

Infrastructure

Airports, helipads and other aviation proposals.

Wind & Solar Energy Minerals, Oil & Gas Rural Non Residential Residential

Rural Residential Air Pollution

Any industrial/agricultural development that could cause AIR POLLUTION (incl: industrial processes, livestock & poultry units with floorspace > 500m², slurry lagoons > 750m² & manure stores > 3500t).

Combustion

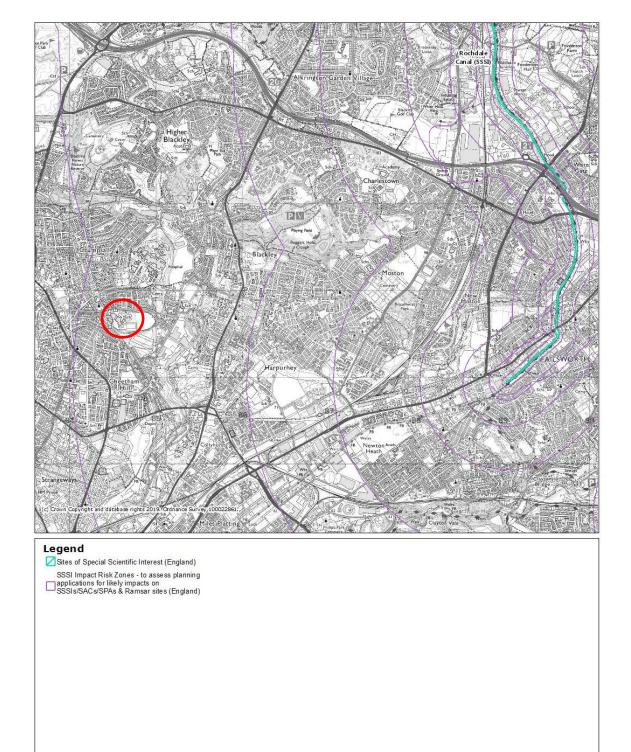
General combustion processes >50MW energy input. Incl: energy from waste incineration, other incineration, landfill gas generation plant, pyrolysis/gasification, anaerobic digestion, sewage treatment works, other incineration/ combustion.

Waste

Composting Discharges Water Supply

GUIDANCE - How to use the Impact Risk Zones

/Metadata for magic/SSSI IRZ User Guidance MAGIC.pdf



Map produced by MAGIC on 14 February, 2019.
Opyright resides with the data suppliers and the map must not be reproduced without their permission. Some information in MAGIC is a snapshot of the information that is being maintained or continually updated by the originating organisation. Hease refer to the metadata for details as information may be illustrative or representative rather than definitive at this stope.



Watercourses within or Adjacent to the Site

Main rivers are statutory watercourses designated by the Environment Agency (in England). 'Main rivers' are usually larger streams and rivers, but some of them are small watercourses of significance. Works within 8m of main rivers are generally prohibited or require permission as there could be flood risk implications.

There are no watercourses within or adjacent to the site.

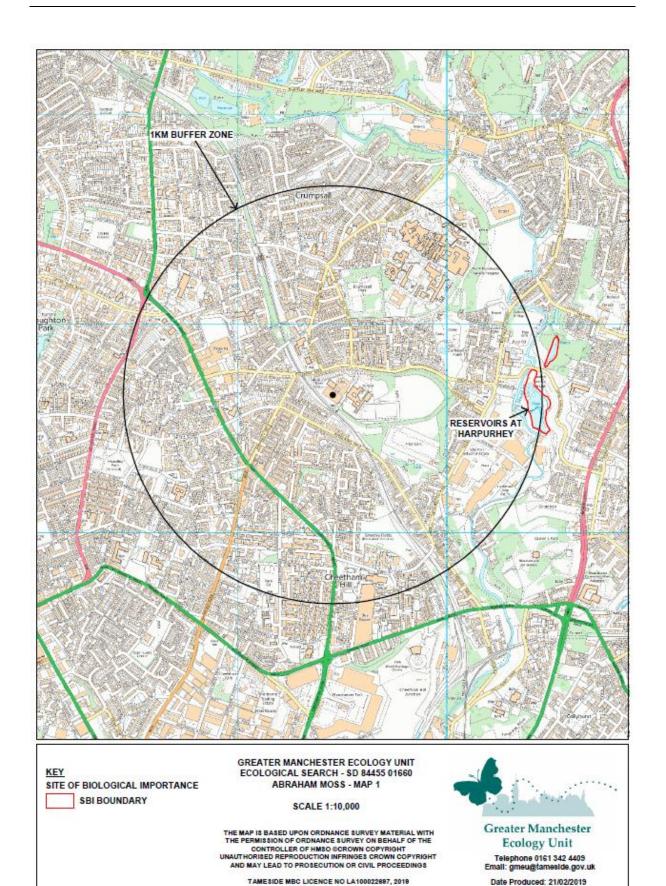
Local Site Designations within 1km of the Site

Source: Magic Maps and GMLRC

Note: The terms and conditions attached to the GMLRC search state that data is valid for one year, after which time a review of the data may be required.

Name of Site	Designation	Distance from Site
Reservoirs at Harpurhey	SBI	730m east



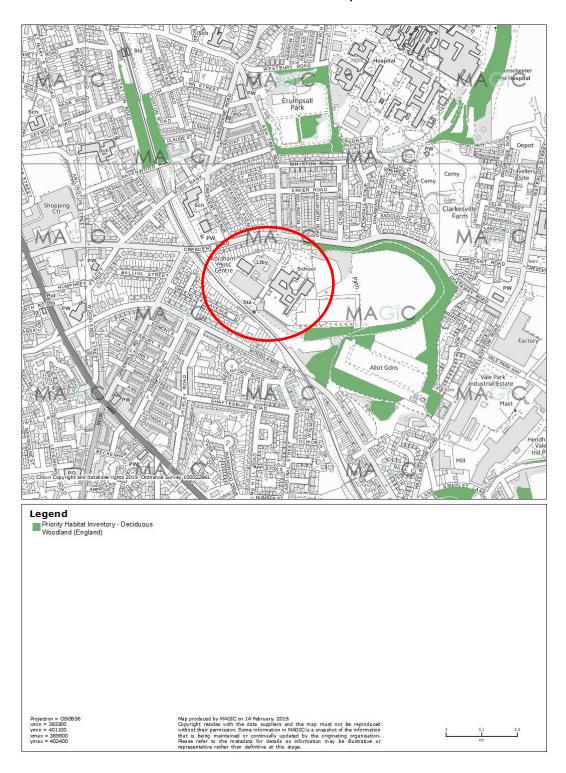




Notable Habitats

Habitat Inventory Data within or Adjacent to the Site

Source: MAGIC Maps





Notable Species

Extract of Species Data within 1km of the Site

Source: GMLRC

Note: The terms and conditions attached to the GMLRC search state that data is valid for one year, after which time the search may require updating.

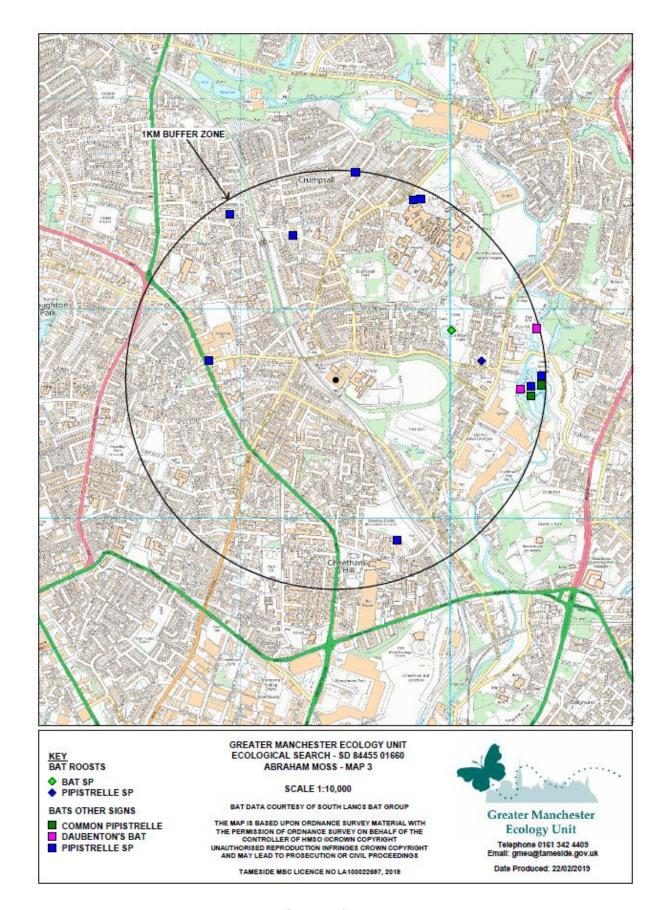
Species records which are listed under the following have been included:

- European Protected Species (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 species under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA9);
- Species of principal importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (S41); and
- Red and Amber listed Birds of Conservation Concern (BRd/BAm).

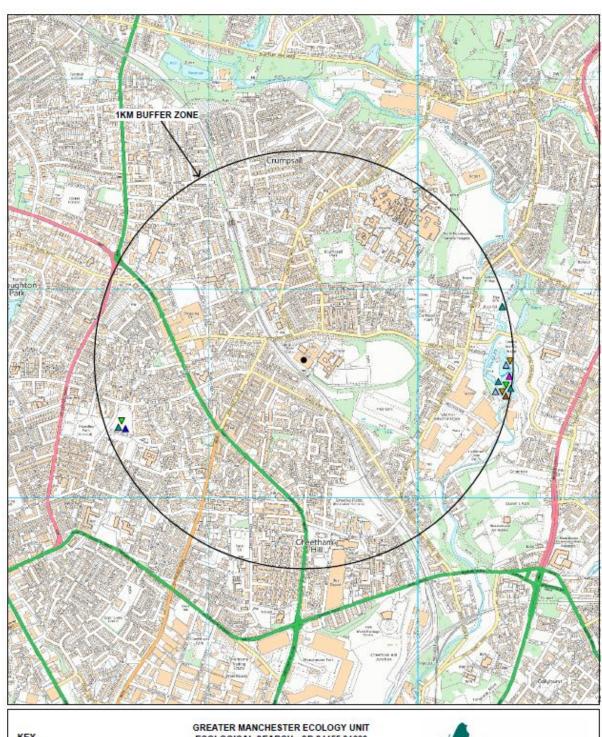
The map for certain UK protected species has not been included in this document as it contains confidential records which must not be shared in the public domain. These records are detailed in the table below with exact locations removed.

Species	Grid Reference	Date	Legislation
Kingfisher	Confidential	2009	WCA1, S41











GREATER MANCHESTER ECOLOGY UNIT ECOLOGICAL SEARCH - SD 84455 01660 ABRAHAM MOSS - MAP 4

SCALE 1:10,000

THE MAP IS BASED UPON ORDNANCE SURVEY MATERIAL WITH THE PERMISSION OF ORDNANCE SURVEY ON BEHALF OF THE CONTROLLER OF MISSO GCROWN COPYRIGHT UNAUTHORISED REPRODUCTION INFRINGES CROWN COPYRIGHT AND MAY LEAD TO PROSECUTION OR CIVIL PROCEEDINGS

TAMESIDE MBC LICENCE NO LA100022897, 2019



Date Produced: 22/02/2019





Species	Grid_Ref	Site	Date	Abundance	Comment
GREAT CRESTED I	NEWT ABSENCE				
Great Crested	SD8544301534	Harpurhey Res &	23/05/2011	Absent	
Newt		Ponds, Sth reservoir			
		(waterbody E)			
BAT ROOSTS					
Bat sp	SD8500501896	Clarkesville Farm	01/09/2011	Mixed; Droppings Roost	Droppings recorded during internal inspection.
					App 097489/OO/2011
Pipistrelle sp	SD851017	M8 5YB	24/08/2012	1 Roost	BCT Ref: C&L_M85YB_240812
BAT OTHER SIGNS	S				
Common	SD85380158	Harpurhey Resrs &	16/07/2011		
Pipistrelle		Ponds			
Common	SD85380158	Ponds and Reservoirs	15/07/2011		1 feeding
Pipistrelle		at Harpurhey -			
		Compartment 10			
Common	SD85430163	Reservoirs at	15/07/2011		3 foraging north east of waterbody 5a
Pipistrelle		Harpurhey SBI -			
		Compartment 5			
Daubenton's Bat	SD85330161	Ponds and Reservoirs	15/07/2011		1
		at Harpurhey -			
		Compartment 9			
Daubenton's Bat	SD85410190	River Irk Harpurhey	16/07/2011		3 3 seen. Location estimated (cmpt 9).







Species	Grid_Ref	Site	Date	Abundance	Comment
Pipistrelle sp	SD838017	Cheetham Hill	30/07/2007	1 Adult Male Casualty (not	Cheetham Hill Road Cheetham Hill,
				road); Died	Manchester. Grounded, found in sink Died 48.
					Injured bat ref FP07/42
Pipistrelle sp	SD839024	Manchester	10/02/2008	1 Adult Male Casualty (not	Problem: None apparent. Any Other comments;
				road); Released	Bat Reference SP08/02
Pipistrelle sp	SD842023	Manchester	10/02/2008	1 Adult Casualty (not	Crumpsall Lane, Manchester M8 5SR
				road); Released	
Pipistrelle sp	SD845026	Crumpsall, Manchester	30/12/1998	1 Female	taken off a cat in garden Kearsley Rd no
					serious injuries - died 20.1.99
Pipistrelle sp	SD847008	Cheetham Hill, M/C	12/06/1995	1 Male Caught	adult (weight 5gm, forearm 31mm) stranded.
					No obvious injuries. Fed, flown and released
					14.6.1995
Pipistrelle sp	SD8482602517	Road Survey	24/09/2008	Aural bat detector	Road Survey Bat Contact. Start Temp 12 C
					dropping to 11 C. Patchy Cloud, calm and dry.
Pipistrelle sp	SD8485902525	Road Survey	24/09/2008	Aural bat detector	Road Survey Bat Contact. Start Temp 12 C
					dropping to 11 C. Patchy Cloud, calm and dry.
Pipistrelle sp	SD85380158	Harpurhey	15/07/2011	1 Foraging	1 Feeding
Pipistrelle sp	SD85430163	Harpurhey	15/07/2011	3 Foraging	foraging north east of waterbody 5a
	•				
OTHER PROTECT	TED SPECIES				
Kingfisher	SD854015	Lanky Lodges	25/01/2012	1	
		Harpurhey			







Species	Grid_Ref	Site	Date	Abundance	Comment
SECTION 41 SPEC	CIES				
Bullfinch	SD854015	Harpurhey Ponds	19/07/2012	3 Juvenile - Field Record	A group of 3 independent juveniles.
Bullfinch	SD854015	Lanky Lodges	25/01/2012	6 - Field Record	
		Harpurhey			
Bullfinch	SD854015	Harpurhey Ponds	14/11/2009	2 - Field Record	
Bullfinch	SD854015	Harpurhey Ponds	13/06/2009	2 FL - recently Fledged	M & F with at least 1 dependant fledged juv.
				young	
Dunnock	SD835013	Broughton, Salford,	30/11/2014	2 Adult - Field Record	10am 10 deg sunny
		Highfield Road			
Dunnock	SD85360150	Reservoirs and Ponds	09/05/2015	1 S - Singing male - Field	
		at Harpurhey		Record	
Dunnock	SD85400191	Reservoirs and Ponds	09/05/2015	1 S - Singing male - Field	
		at Harpurhey		Record	
Dunnock	SD854015	Harpurhey Ponds	13/06/2009	2 FL - recently Fledged	At least 1 fledged young.
				young	
House Sparrow	SD835013	Broughton, Salford,	30/11/2014	3 Adult - Field Record	10am 10 deg sunny. More in hedge not visible
		Highfield Road			
Lesser Redpoll	SD854015	Lanky Lodges	25/01/2012	1 F - Flying over - Field	
		Harpurhey		Record	
Lesser Redpoll	SD854015	Harpurhey Ponds	05/04/2009	1 H - observed in suitable	
				nesting Habitat	
Reed Bunting	SD854015	Harpurhey Ponds	13/06/2009	2 FF - carrying Faecal sac or	Female collecting and carrying food, male
				Food	watching!
Reed Bunting	SD854015	Harpurhey Ponds	19/04/2009	1 T - permanent Territory	
			<u> </u>		







Species	Grid_Ref	Site	Date	Abundance	Comment
Reed Bunting	SD854015	Harpurhey Ponds	05/04/2009	1 S - Singing male - Field	
				Record	
Reed Bunting	SD85430166	Reservoirs at	04/07/2011	1 S - Singing male - Field	
		Harpurhey SBI -		Record	
		Reservoir 5A			
Song Thrush	SD854015	Harpurhey Ponds	19/07/2012	5 Adult; Present FL -	At least 3 singing and fledged young heard.
				recently Fledged young	
Song Thrush	SD854015	Lanky Lodges	25/01/2012	3 S - Singing male - Field	3 singing
		Harpurhey		Record	
Song Thrush	SD854015	Harpurhey Ponds	17/04/2010	2 T - permanent Territory	
Song Thrush	SD854015	Harpurhey Ponds	09/05/2009	1 FL - recently Fledged	1 ad plus 2 fledglings
				young	
Song Thrush	SD854015	Harpurhey Ponds	12/04/2009	1 T - permanent Territory	
Song Thrush	SD854015	Harpurhey Ponds	05/04/2009	1 S - Singing male - Field	
				Record	
Song Thrush	SD854016	Harpurhey	04/07/2011	1 - Field Record	
Starling	SD835013	Broughton, Salford,	30/11/2014	1 Adult - Field Record	10am 10 deg sunny
		Highfield Road			
Starling	SD854015	Harpurhey Ponds	09/05/2009	12 FF - carrying Faecal sac	
				or Food	

EPS Licences within 1km of the Site

Source: Magic Maps

There are no EPS licences shown on Magic Maps within 1km of the site.

Local BAP Habitats and Species

Greater Manchester Biodiversity Project

<u>Habitats</u>

Grassland
Native woodland
Hedgerows
Ponds and lodges
Lowland mosslands
Reedbeds

Species

Brown hare
Great crested newt
Water voles
Willow tit
Bittern
Black redstart
Native black poplar
Twite



APPENDIX B: Target Notes

Target Notes Report

Target Note 001

Leisure centre and library building to be demolished.



Target Note 002

Artificial sports pitches used by Abraham Moss Secondary School.



Target Note 003

Amenity grassland lawn areas mown to a short sward. Some ornamental planting present as well as scattered mature broad-leaved trees.

Lolium perenne Hedera helix Tilia sp. Acer pseudoplatanus Carex pendula Rubus fruticosus agg. Aucuba japonica Betula pendula Ilex aquifolium Narcissus cvr. Pinus sp.	Perennial Ryegrass Ivy Lime species Sycamore Pendulous Sedge Bramble Spotted Laurel Silver Birch Holly Narcissus cultivar Pine species	D F F O O O R R R R R R
Prunus sp. Prunus laurocerasus	Cherry Laurel	R R



Target Note 004

Dense scrub along embankment.

Rubus fruticosus agg. Corylus avellana

Bramble Hazel D F



Target Note 005

Car park formed of concrete and tarmac.

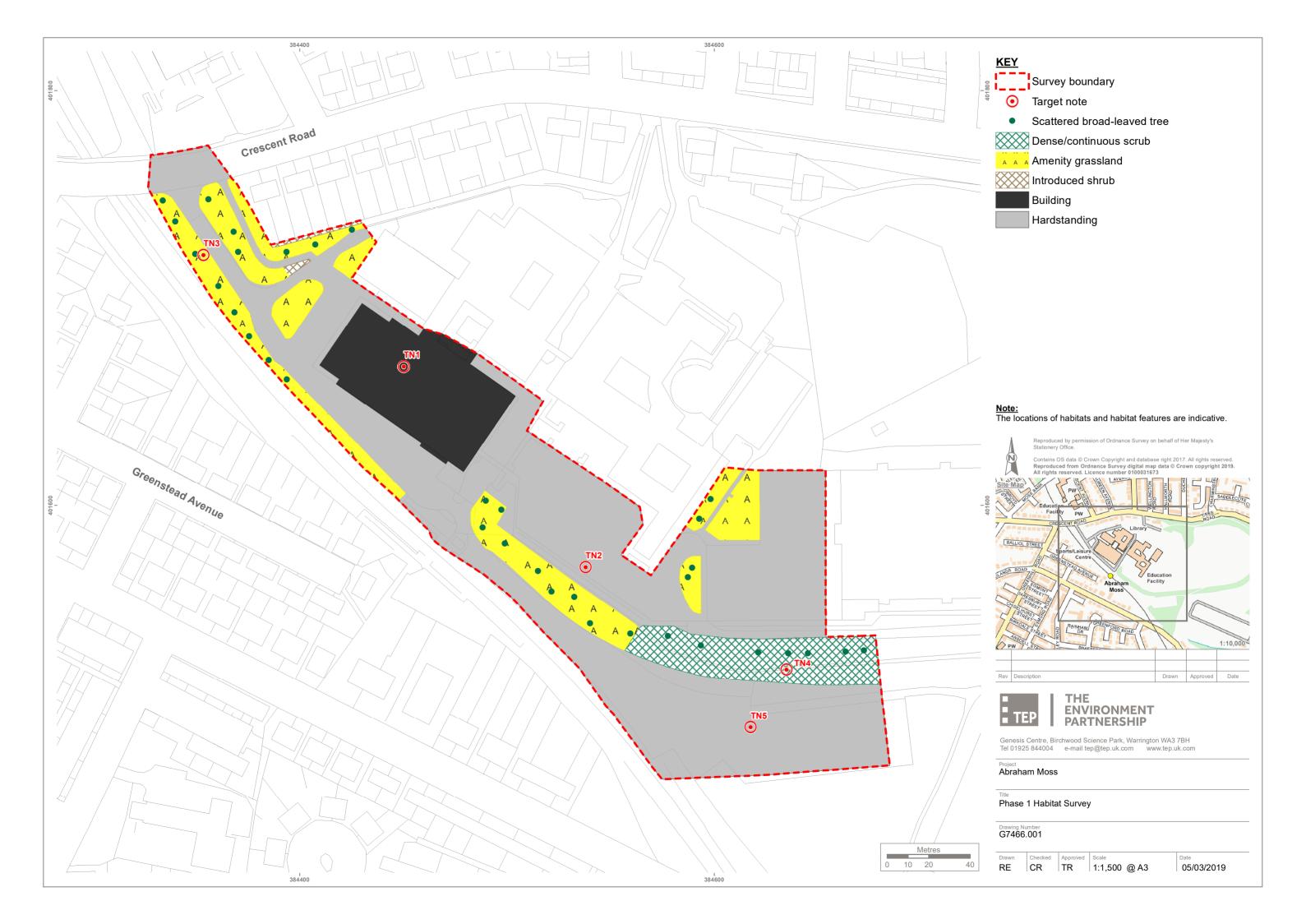


KEY - D = Dominant, A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare



DRAWINGS

Phase 1 Habitat Survey (G7466.001)





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