

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Survey site:

Land at Ellis Ashton Street, Huyton, Liverpool L36 6BN

Client:

Phil Clay

Survey date:

12th August 2025

Project:

This report is prepared to inform a planning application with Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council. The proposal is described as:

The construction of two large buildings

[Unsubmitted]

Survey methodology and legislation can be found in the Arbtech Supplement: [PEA Methodology and Legislation - 2024.](#)

The site survey was undertaken by Katie Crawford BSc MRes ACIEEM (Natural England Protected Species Licence Numbers: [Bats] (2023-11335-CL18-BAT) [Great Crested Newts] (2023-11555-CL08-GCN)					
Date of survey	Temperature (°C)	Humidity (%)	Cloud Cover (%)	Wind (km/h)	Rain
12/08/2025	25	43	30	100	None

Ecological Survey Factor	Detailed using desk study and site survey (carried out under good weather conditions). Any specific limitations noted within relevant section. This table may include further work you will need to commission (if any) to obtain planning permission or comply with legislation for other consent. All clients are expected to read and understand this section, or to contact the lead surveyor for advice.
Conclusion, Impact or Recommendations	
Habitats and plants (see habitat map in appendix 1, location plan in appendix 2, proposal plans in appendix 3 and photos in appendix 4).	
Botanical species are described with reference to the DAFOR scale (D = Dominant; A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare).	
Summary of Survey Findings	The survey site is centred on National Grid Reference SJ 45784 90347 and has an area of approximately 1.6ha.
(UKHab codes used)	The site consists of a commercial premises currently in use as a wood processing and sales unit. The site predominantly comprises hardstanding and buildings with two small stands of ornamental trees and small amounts of scattered buddleia. The site is surrounded to the south and west by industrial park units and urban land, the east of the site contains the M57, and the north and northeast is Stadt Moers Parkland. Habitats onsite comprise the following: <u>U1b5 buildings</u> The site is dominated by industrial buildings currently in use commercially. These habitats are of negligible ecological value and are not subject to condition assessment.

	<u>U1b6 other developed land (32 scattered trees, 847 introduced shrub, 510 bare ground)</u> The remainder of the site is comprised primarily of hardstanding currently in use for materials storage. This habitat is of negligible ecological importance and is not subject to condition assessment. The site contains a small number of scattered stands of shrub and trees. A group of five small trees are present to the southwest of the site, comprising cherry <i>Prunus sp.</i> and cedar <i>Thuja sp.</i>. The base of these trees contains bare ground, along with a small amount of bare ground behind one of the buildings, with no vegetative growth and recently cleared. There are also scattered small stands of buddleia, privet and willow. These habitats are of low ecological value given their urban nature and the presence of other high-quality habitat nearby. Local habitats A large portion of Stadt Moers Park is classified as deciduous woodland, and this is present directly adjacent to the site. A small area of Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland is present approximately 1.2km southeast of the site, along with a small area of good quality semi-improved grassland approximately 1.2km northwest.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	The habitats on site are widespread and not notable. A negligible amount of vegetation (two stands of buddleia and a stand of pussy willow) are proposed for removal to facilitate development, which includes erection of two large buildings to the east of the site on current areas of hardstanding. These were too small to be mapped as a habitat type, at <25m². Given the proximity of works to deciduous woodland, it is possible that indirect impacts to this habitat may occur in the absence of mitigation.

<i>Recommendations</i>	Best practice measures to minimise the possibility of pollution affecting the nearby deciduous woodland must be implemented during construction. The project is unlikely to trigger the requirement for a biodiversity net gain assessment as it falls under one of the exemptions (less than 25m² of habitat being impacted by the development).
Locality and Designated Sites	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	The site is not subject to any designation, and there are no known statutory sites nearby. No national network sites (SAC, SPA, Ramsar) are located within 2.5km. The site is within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) of the Mersey Estuary SSSI/SAC; however, the proposed development does not fall under any of the possible risks for this designation.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	No impacts foreseen.
<i>Recommendations</i>	None required
Invasive / Non-native species	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	No problematic invasive and non-native species recorded on site.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	None foreseen.
<i>Recommendations</i>	No further surveys but remain vigilant.
Invertebrates	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	No habitat for protected or notable invertebrates is found on site.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	None foreseen.
<i>Recommendations</i>	No further surveys.
Bats	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	There are no bat roosting habitats with proposed impacts.

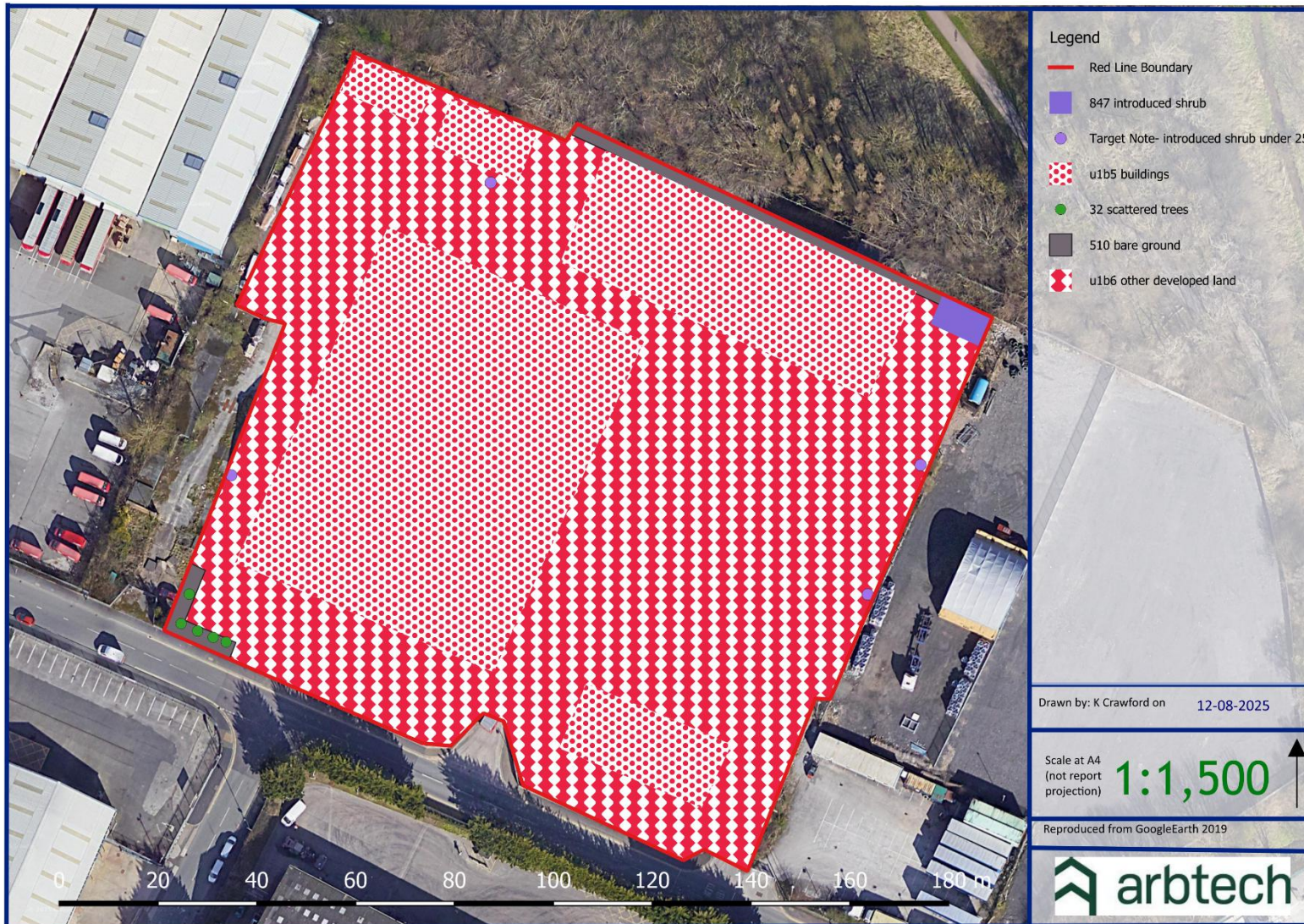
	Bats could use the edges of the surrounding wooded areas for foraging and commuting. These could also be used by bats dispersing from nearby roosts outside of the site and commuting around the area. One bat European Protected Species License (EPSL) is present within 2km of the site, this was granted to destroy the resting place of common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, brown long-eared and Natterers bats. This was granted approximately 1.3km southeast of the site.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	The proposed development may lead to an increase in the amount of current lighting of surrounding habitats without mitigation. This may disturb commuting bats.
<i>Recommendations</i>	No further surveys are required. A low impact lighting strategy will be adopted for the site during post-development which outlines the areas of the site that will be retained as dark corridors. Parameters can be found on the Bat Conservation Trust website: https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/lighting-2
Birds	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	No evidence of nesting birds was found on site during the surveys; however, birds could use the scattered trees and buddleia for nesting. No habitat for schedule 1 birds was observed.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	The proposed development could result in the destruction or the disturbance and subsequent abandonment of active bird nests.
<i>Recommendations</i>	Any vegetation removal should be undertaken outside the period 1st March to 31st August. If this timeframe cannot be avoided, a close inspection of the vegetation should be undertaken immediately, by a qualified ecologist, prior to the commencement of work. All active nests will need to be retained until the young have fledged. Precautions should be taken with machinery and noise levels when working close to any retained nests so as not to disturb any nearby nesting birds during construction works. At least a 3-5m buffer should be created between any machinery and active nests until the young have fledged.

Reptiles	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	There is no suitable habitat present on site for reptiles due to a lack of habitats such as scrub and rank grassland which would offer refuge for these species. Further, the site is primarily surrounded by urban development (i.e. roads and buildings) which is considered sub-optimal for reptile migration. Stadt Moers Park is present to the north, however, as there is no suitable habitat onsite and the site is dominated by hardstanding, reptiles are considered unlikely to migrate from any nearby suitable habitats to the development site. As such it is likely that reptiles are absent from the development site.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	No impacts are anticipated on reptiles as a result of the proposed development.
<i>Recommendations</i>	No further surveys are required.
Amphibians	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	There is no suitable habitat for great crested newts onsite given the lack of vegetated land onsite. Amphibians also require suitable aquatic habitat in which to breed. A large lake is present within Stadt Moers Park, approximately 230m southeast of the site. This lake is separated from the site by the M57, this is considered a significant barrier to movement therefore amphibians are not considered likely to commute from this waterbody. There are no other known ponds 500m when consulting OS maps. Therefore, protected amphibians are likely be absent around the survey site year-round. There are no great crested newt European Protected Species License (EPSL) within 2km.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	None foreseen.
<i>Recommendations</i>	No further surveys are required.
Badger	

<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	No evidence of badgers was found on site. Stadt Moers Park is present adjacent to the north of the site with wooded areas that may provide suitable habitat for badger, the site itself is unlikely to support foraging and commuting badger given the lack of suitable habitats and presence of fencing around the site.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	None foreseen.
<i>Recommendations</i>	None required.
Riparian animals	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	There are no watercourses on or connected to the site.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	No impacts are anticipated on riparian animals as a result of the proposed development.
<i>Recommendations</i>	No further surveys are required.
Hazel dormouse	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	There is no suitable dormouse habitat onsite, and the site is outside of the widely accepted range of hazel dormouse. There are no dormouse European Protected Species License (EPSL) within 4km.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	No impacts are anticipated on hazel dormice as a result of the proposed development.
<i>Recommendations</i>	No further surveys are required.
Other e.g. hedgehog	
<i>Summary of Survey Findings</i>	The small areas of buddleia and shrub are not considered to provide suitable habitat for hedgehogs given the size and scattered nature of these habitats. Suitable habitat is present to the north and east in the form of wooded and vegetated areas, therefore there is a possibility that hedgehogs would commute through the site.
<i>Foreseen Impacts</i>	There are no habitats onsite that would be of value to hedgehogs, however, they could commute through the site. Therefore, construction activities could result in the death or injury of hedgehogs, if present.
<i>Recommendations</i>	A precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures:

	• Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape. • The use of night-time lighting will be avoided, or sensitive lighting design will be implemented to avoid light spill on to retained habitats which hedgehogs could use. • Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations. If any hedgehogs are found in the working area these should be allowed to disperse of their own accord or, if at immediate risk, should be moved by hand to a sheltered, vegetated area away from disturbance.
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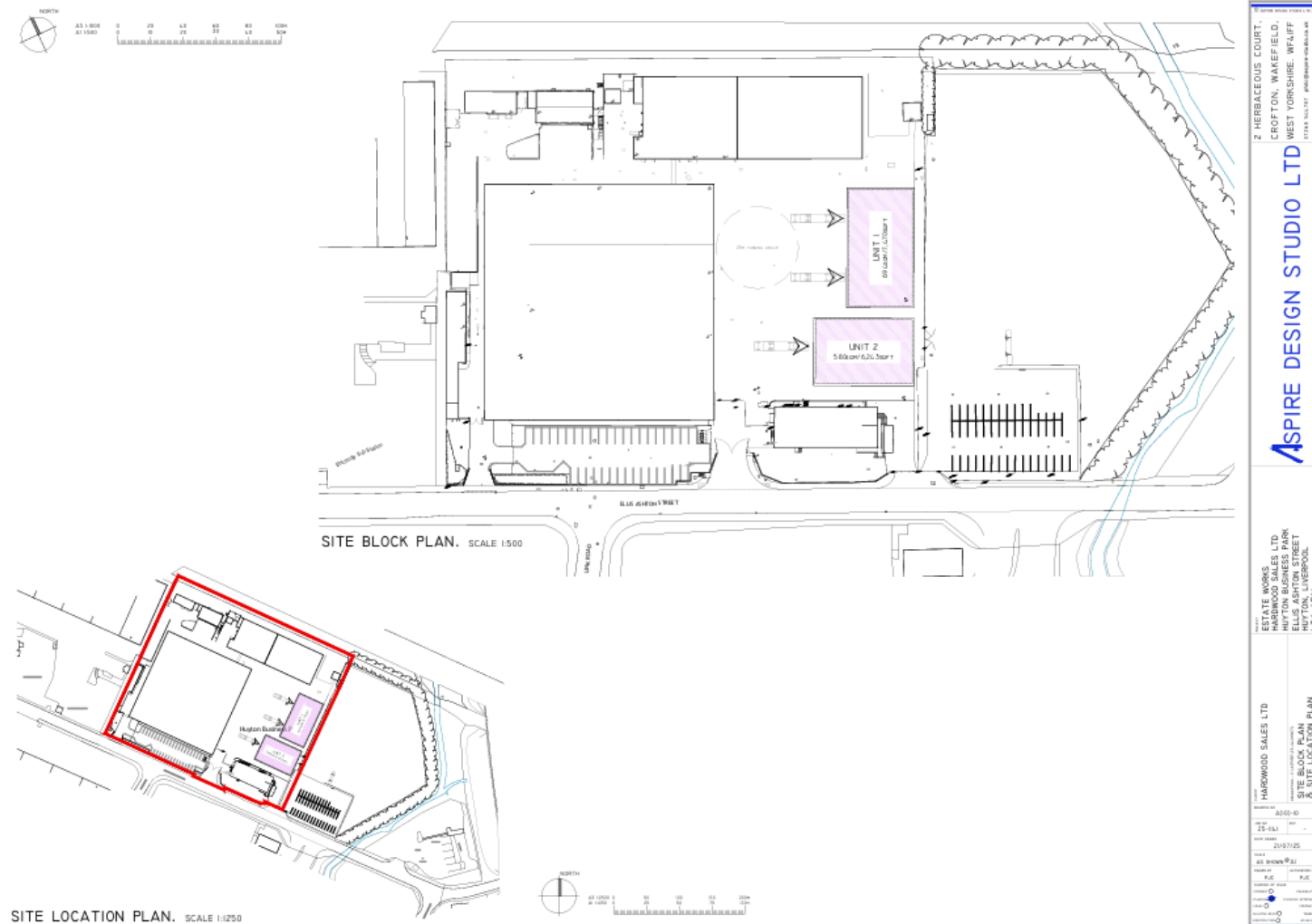
Appendix 1: Survey/Habitat map



Appendix 2: Location map



Appendix 3: Proposed plan



Appendix 4: Photos



Photograph 1- Buildings and hardstanding onsite



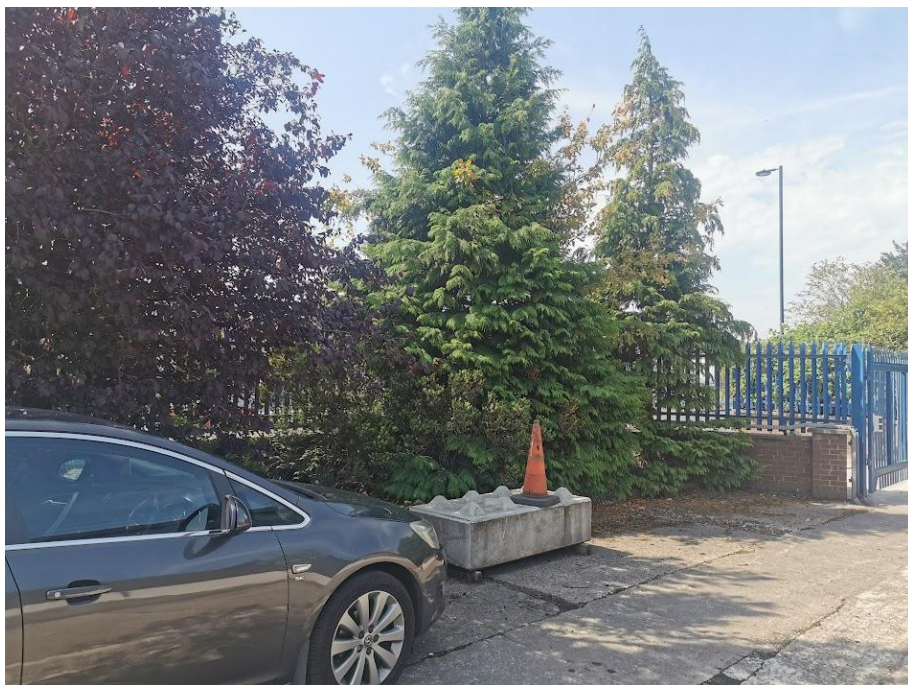
Photograph 2- Pussy willow stand onsite



Photograph 3- Buddleia stand onsite



Photograph 4- Bare ground and trees/shrub onsite



Photograph 5- Scattered trees onsite

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Version control			
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