

Extended Phase One Habitat Survey (Preliminary Ecological Appraisal)

Version 2. 06.03.2024

Prepared for: Davos Property Developments Ltd
Sovereign

Prepared by Simon Brain. Chartered arboriculturist. PGCE (Bio. Rec.)

1.	Introduction	3
1.1	Background to the Project	3
1.2	Site Location and Context	3
1.3	Purpose of this Report	3
1.3.1	Surveyor Information	3
2.	Desk Study	4-5
2.1	Methodology	4
2.2	Designated sites, species and habitats - Results Overview	4-5
3.	Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey	6-9
3.1	Methodology and Survey results	6
3.1.2	Vascular plants and Habitat	6
3.1.3	Protected and Notable Species Mammals	7-8
3.1.4	Protected and Notable Species Amphibians	8
3.1.5	Protected and Notable Species Avian	8
3.1.6	Protected and Notable Species Vascular Plants	8
3.1.7	Protected and Notable Species Reptiles	9
3.2.	Constraints to the Surveys	9
4.	Summary and Impact. Recommendations for Further Work	9-11
4.1.	Summary and Impact. Protected Sites, habitat and species	9-10
4.2.	Recommendations for protected species. Further work	10-11
5.	Recommendations, mitigation, enhancement measures	12
5.1	Recommendations, mitigation, enhancement measures	12
Appendix		
Appendix 1 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Map		
Appendix 2 Site Vascular plant list		

1. Introduction

1.1 Background to the project

The client is proposing the partial demolition, reconfiguration and refurbishment of the existing floorspace of site in Wilson Road, Tarbock Green, Huyton requiring refurbishment of the existing buildings.

1.2 Site location, context and main habitats

The site is located within Huyton in an urban environment and enclosed by existing residential and commercial land uses. The habitat on site comprises of scattered trees, semi natural woodland, amenity grassland, scrub, introduced shrub and building including areas of hard standing access.

1.3 Report purpose

To prepare a Preliminary Ecological Assessment or Extended Phase One Habitat Survey for the development site following CIEEM guidelines (*Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, April 2013*). The purpose of the report is to provide information relating to the location, extent and distribution and impact on the conservation of wild plants and animals and natural and semi natural habitats affected by development. This report sets out the methods, results and recommendations arising from the above work.

1.3.1 Surveyor information

Simon Brain has attained a Post Graduate Certificate in Biological Recording and has attended residential FSC Field Courses for Land mammal, Songbird Barn Owls (CIEEM) and Advanced Bird Survey Techniques. He holds a NE Class 2 bat license (17334-CLS). He has over ten years experience as a practice ecologist and 30 years experience as an arborist.

2. Desk Study

2.1 Methodology

The desk study collated information on designated statutory and non-statutory wildlife sites within 1km search radii around the proposed development site.

Information on statutory and non-statutory designated sites and legally protected/notable species records were obtained from <http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx> and contained in section 2.2 below.

2.2 Designated sites, species and habitats - Results Overview

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website (<http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx>) has confirmed no statutory designations apply to the site and the site boundaries.

The site is located within SSSI Impact Zone for Mersey Estuary SSSI which is located 6675m from site. The development proposal does not appear to conform to those development types that require the LPA to consult Natural England on the likely risks.

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside website data has confirmed the following habitats and species apply to the site and its immediate locality:

- There are no section 41 habitats listed on the inventory on the site
- There are numerous areas of listed woodland within the 1km
- The site is outside the National Habitat Network All Habitats Combined (England)

- There are no important Bird Areas, Seabird considerations, or water and wetland considerations in respect of avian species.
- The closest granted European Protected Species (EPS) license application by Natural England was for bat species C-PIP;S-PIP;BLE;NATT approximately 750m from site.

3. Extended Phase One Habitat Survey

3.1 Methodology and survey results

The site was visited on the 10/08/23 and a survey of the site was conducted using the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey 2010. Distinct habitats were identified and any features of nature conservation interest or habitat areas that were too small to map were subject to a more detailed description in a Target Note (T1 etc) and contained in Appendix 1 – Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Mapping and Appendix 2 – Vascular Plant Site List.

3.1.2. Vascular Plants and Habitat

Table 1: Site habitats

Habitat Code	Dominant species	Less frequent species
A.1.1.1 semi natural woodland	Acer pseudoplatanoidies Alnus glutinosa Fagus sylvatica	Populus sp
A.2. Scrub	Crataegus monogyna	Prunus spinosa
A.3.1 Broadleaf scattered trees	Pinus sylvestris Acer pseudoplatanoidies Alnus glutinosa	Betula pendula Prunus kanzan
J.2 Amenity grassland	Lolium perenne Poa annua Ranunculus repens	Bellis perennis
J.4 Introduced shrub	Hebe sp Berberis darwinii	

Target Notes - None taken

3.1.3 Protected and Notable Species (Mammals)

Water Voles

The habitat on the site does not contain running water habitat suitable for the species.

Bat species

Bats are comprehensively protected under UK and European legislation. Bats are largely ubiquitous there is green infrastructure linking the site to the wider landscape. The site contains foraging habitat. Trees and buildings are affected. A BRA (Version 1 dated 10.08.23) which categorised the building on site as low potential for roosting bats, subsequent bat surveys were carried out (Version 1 dated 10.10.23) which found bats to be absent.

Badgers and Hedgehog

Badgers are protected under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which prohibits deliberate interference with the animal or its sett. A standard badger survey was undertaken making checks on site and in the immediate site margins. For example, up to 20m+ from site was checked for signs for field signs of Badger (hair, tracks, prints, dropping or latrines) and no field signs of badger were found. Equally no field signs were found for hedgehog, however suitable foraging habitat does exist due to the presence of trees and grassland and the semi urban nature of the site.

3.1.4 Amphibians

The desktop and field survey exercises indicate no field ponds are located within 400m of the site. A single field pond is located at 410m from site which is separated from site by the M62. There is no aquatic breeding habitat

associated with the site itself and sub optimal foraging, dispersal or hibernating habitat for amphibians to be present. In addition the site is heavily landlocked.

3.1.5 Birds

All birds with only minor exceptions are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), as amended. It is also an offence to disturb birds whilst nesting or displaying breeding behaviour, during the breeding season.

Urban birds may use the site such as house sparrow and starling which are birds of conservation concern.

3.1.6 Vascular Plants

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 section 13 1(b) affords some wild flowers protection from uprooting. No other non-native invasive, IUCN listed, BAP or other notable plants were identified.

3.1.7 Reptiles

All native reptile species in the UK are protected under law from killing or sale. No habitat exists on the site for these species to be present.

3.2. Constraints to the Surveys

The timing of the site visit was optimal for all species and habitats to be identified within the framework of a Phase 1 survey.

4. Summary and Impact

4.1 Summary – Protected habitats

The surveys have confirmed that the site does not support a habitat protected under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (*NERC*) Act 2006 - Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England. There are no priority hedgerows on the site.

Summary - Protected species

No evidence of protected species was recorded on site. No other evidence of protected species was found during the site walkover.

Summary – Protected sites

There are no statutory or non-statutory designated sites within the boundaries of the development site or within the site margins.

Impact – General

The development proposal seeks to refurbish the building.

Impact - Species

The full extent of protected species that may reside on this site will require confirmation following further surveys as recommended in section 4.2. The following general impacts are considered to apply:

Bat species. No loss of commuting and foraging. The existing building to be refurbished and trees to be removed may contain bat roosts.

Badger / hedgehog. Currently no evidence of badger, hedgehog has potential to be present on site.

Water vole. No impact considered likely.

Amphibians. No loss of sub optimal commuting and foraging habitat.

Birds. Loss of foraging habitat and disturbance during the breeding season.

Vascular Plants. No impact

Reptiles. Low-level impact due to site being landlocked and largely inaccessible to reptiles.

4.2 Recommendations for protected species

4.2.1 Mammals

Bat species

A Bat Roost Assessment of the building to be refurbished has been completed alongwith the subsequent bat surevys which identified bat absence. The site is not likely to hold great significance for commuting and foraging bat species. A Bat Roost Assessment report for trees to be removed is due to be undertaken and submitted to support the applcation in accordance with MEAS comments dated 22nd December 2023.

Badgers / hedgehog

No evidence of these species was found but a pre start check shall be made to ensure no badger activity has developed since this walkover survey. Measures are required to incorporate hedgehog into the development plans.

4.2.2 Amphibians

No other further surveys are required for these species.

4.2.3 Avian

A breeding bird appraisal / survey will be required prior to any tree to removal ascertain the importance of the site to breeding birds at that time. This may require hand searching and dawn observations depending upon the time of year.

4.2.4 Vascular Plants

No other further surveys are required for vascular plants.

4.2.5 Reptiles

No further surveys are required for these species.

5. Recommendations, mitigation, enhancement measures

5.1 Recommendations, mitigation, enhancement measures

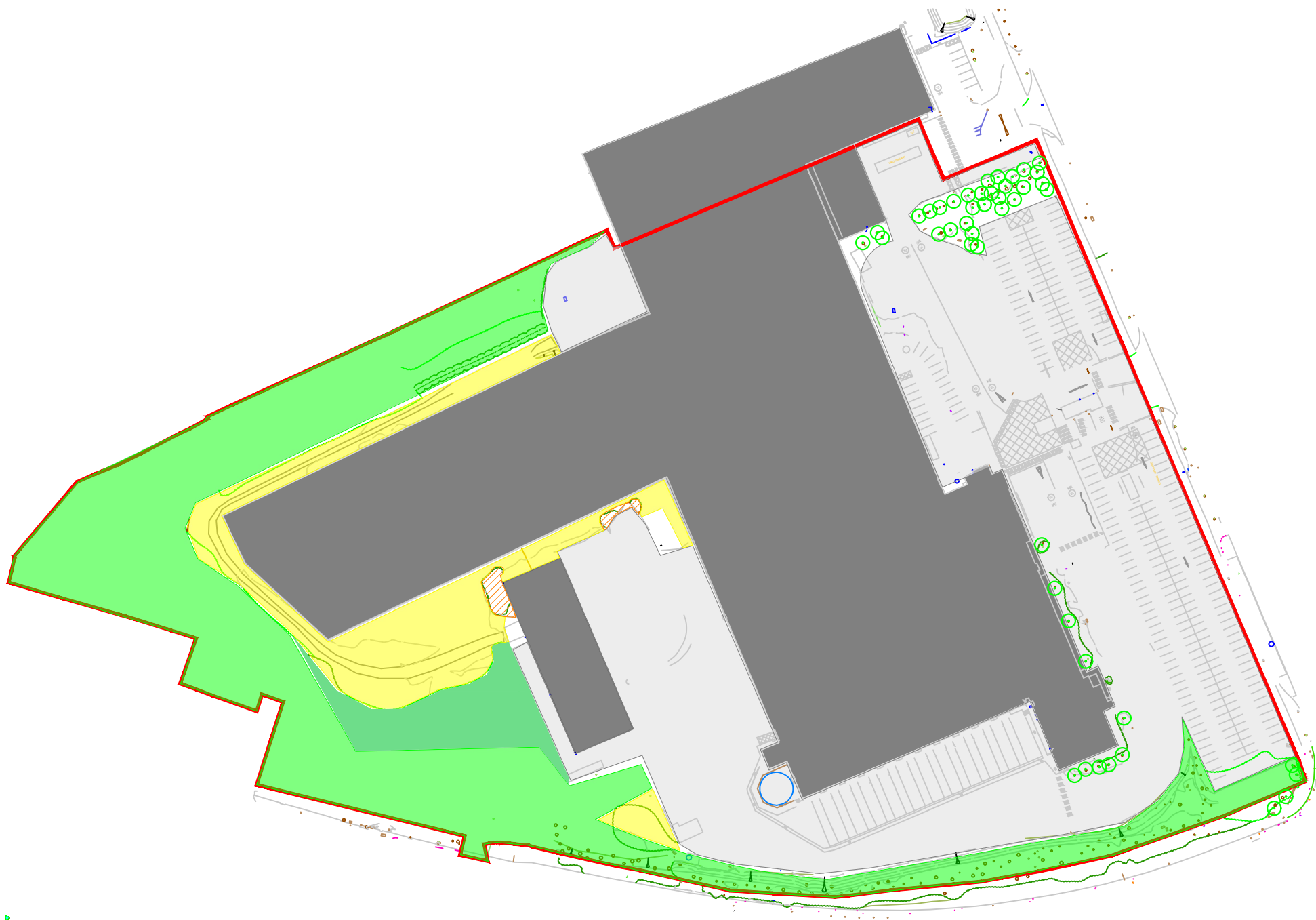
Mitigation applies to works required to comply with legislation when developing land where protected species reside, or protected habitats are being lost. Enhancement relates to biodiversity improvements often made under the National Planning Policy Framework.

At present the reports have demonstrated there is no evidence of protected species on the site, which could be affected by development and therefore no protected species mitigation is needed. Other protected species that may be present on site include roosting bats within the affected trees.

The extent of protected species requires the bat roost assessment for trees referred to in section 4 to be complete before mitigation can be confirmed to support this development.

The provision of a Biodiversity enhancement report and a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment is considered to apply to the site.

Appendix 1 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Map



PHASE ONE HABITAT MAP

KEY

-  A.1.1.1 Semi Natural woodland
-  A.2. Scrub
-  A.3.1 Broadleaf scattered trees
-  J2 Amenity grassland
-  J4 Introduced shrub
-  J5 Building
-  J5 Hard standing urban sealed surface

① Target Notes. Refer to Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Client:
QUOD

Project:
Sovereign Phs 2

Detail:
Phase One Habitat Map

Drawn By: SB Date: 10.10.2023 Scale: NTS

Drg No: TR-01 Revision: V1

Appendix 2 Site Vascular plant list

Acer pseudoplatanus
Acer platanoides
Acer campestre
Alnus glutinosa
Arrhenatherum elatius
Berberis darwinii
Bellis perennis
Betula pendula
Buddleja sp.
Chamerion angustifolium
Convolvulus arvensis
Corylus avellana
Cupressus leylandii
Crataegus monogyna
Dactylis glomerata
Epilobium parviflorum
Fagus sylvatica
Fraxinus excelsior
Festuca rubra
Galium aparine
Geranium robertianum
Hebe sp
Hordeum glaucum
Lolium perenne
Plantago lanceolata
Pinus sylvestris
Populus nigra italica
Poa annua
Prunus kanzan
Prunus spinosa
Salix caprea
Sorbus aucuparia
Quercus robur
Ranunculus repens
Ribes sp.
Rubus agg.
Taraxacum officinale
Trifolium repens
Urtica dioica