

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report

Royle Barn Road, Rochdale
Reference: 81-973-R1-1
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Site Address	Land off Royle Barn Road, Castleton, Rochdale OL11 3DT
Coordinates	E 388252, N 411096
Site Area	Approximately 0.24 ha
Current Site Use and Adjacent Site Use	The site was currently undergoing active construction works under a previous planning application. An area of bare ground was located directly adjacent to the north-west of the site, associated with works under a previous planning application. Adjacent areas comprised industrial units and associated hardstanding on remaining aspects.
Designated Sites	The site lies within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) of Rochdale Canal Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), located approximately 280 m south-east of the site boundary. Due to small scale of the proposed works and the urban built-up nature of the land between the site and the Rochdale Canal, no detrimental impacts on the SSSI are anticipated as a result of the development. Furthermore, as per the criteria listed on MAGIC (accessed August 2024), the proposed site will not require further consultation with Natural England to proceed. An increase in visitor numbers to the Rochdale Canal is not anticipated as a result of the development, which comprises the construction of an industrial unit. Additionally, an increase in air pollution is not anticipated as a result of the development, which could have a detrimental impact on the assemblage of aquatic flora present at Rochdale Canal. It is therefore determined that the proposed development will not have a detrimental impact on the SAC. As such, a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening assessment will not be required to assess any potential impacts on the Rochdale Canal. Rochdale Canal (Scowcroft to Warland) Site of Biological Interest (SBI) is located approximately 280 m south-east of the site boundary. Due to the distance and the urban built-up nature of the land between the site and the SBI, no detrimental impacts on the SBI are anticipated as a result of the development. As such, no further consideration will be required.
Survey Results	The site was found to comprise modified grassland, ruderal/ephemeral, bare ground, artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface, developed land; sealed surface and three shipping containers. The site was found to have the following potential ecological constraints: 📍 Potential presence of common amphibians within the ruderal/ephemeral. 📍 Potential presence of badger on-site and within the local area. 📍 Field horsetail, a species known to cause damage to hardstanding, was identified in the south-east of the site.
Conclusions	No further surveys are recommended for the works to proceed. The following mitigation is recommended: 📍 Common amphibians are to be removed by hand away from construction activities. 📍 Precautionary Working Methods for badger. 📍 Field horsetail should be removed prior to works commencing on-site.



A 10% gain in biodiversity will be required on-site. If this cannot be achieved on-site, a conservation offset payment, or off-site compensation may be required.



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

E3P were commissioned by Hallmark Developments (NW) Ltd to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal at Royle Barn Road, Rochdale, hereafter referred to as “the site”.

This report has been prepared by Conor Evans BSc (Hons) MRes, Consultant Ecologist at E3P. Conor holds a Qualifying membership of CIEEM and has over three years of professional experience as an ecologist. Conor has experience undertaking Preliminary Ecological Appraisals and ecological mitigation for a variety of projects across the UK. Conor also holds a Level 3 Field Identification Skills Certificate (FISC) and a Natural England Class Level 1 Survey Licence for great crested newts.

1.2. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Development proposals include the construction of an industrial unit with associated hardstanding and landscaping.

1.3. SITE LOCATION

The site is located in Castleton, south-west Rochdale within a predominantly industrial area. The site is accessed via Royle Barn Road, which defines the south-east site boundary. An industrial unit is located directly adjacent to the north-east of the site. An area of deciduous broadleaved woodland is located approximately 90 m north-west of the site. An active railway line and Rochdale Canal are located approximately 200 m and 280 m south-east of the site boundary, respectively. The A627(M) is located approximately 760 m north-east of the site at its closest point, while Castle Hawk Golf Course is located approximately 830 m south-west of the site boundary.

Please refer to Figure 1 for the approximate site location.

Figure 1 **Approximate Site Location**





1.4. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal are as follows:

- ✦ Identify the major habitats present.
- ✦ Ascertain the presence or potential presence of any legally protected species and habitats.
- ✦ Recommend any further surveys or mitigation that may be required.

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal comprises a desk study and site walkover. This survey has been completed as a baseline assessment of the site, and as such please see the end of the report for further surveys and mitigation proposed.



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. DESKTOP STUDY

The following sources of information and ecological records were consulted:

- ✳ MAGIC – A web-based interactive mapping system, on which geographic information regarding key environmental schemes and designations are collated, including details of statutory conservation sites, accessed August 2024.
- ✳ Aerial mapping and ordnance survey maps.
- ✳ Local data records provided by Greater Manchester Local Record Centre (GMLRC) on 18th August 2024.

A 1 km search area was utilised for the data search, with this being deemed an appropriate distance for the Zone of Influence of the site due to the small size of the site and the urban nature of the on-site and adjacent habitats. Unless of particular importance and relevance to the site, then records pre-dating 2014 were classified as historic and therefore excluded from the desk study.

The data search included the request for details of protected and notable species of flora and fauna within 1 km of the central grid reference of the site. In addition, a request was made for any non-statutory designated sites within 1 km of the site boundary.

Please note that a lack of up-to-date records does not confirm the absence of a species from the area. The lack of records may simply be a result of a lack of protected species surveys being undertaken within the local area.

2.2. VEGETATION AND HABITATS

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the proposed development site was undertaken by Conor Evans on 01st August 2024. The weather was dry, warm and clear.

The walkover survey was undertaken to the standard methodology as per the “Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal” (CIEEM, 2017). A vegetation and habitat plan has been produced for the proposed development site and the immediate surrounding area (please refer to Appendix I). The mapping is based on the UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 (UKHab, 2023).

Searches were made for uncommon, rare and statutorily protected plant species, those species listed as protected in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and species which are indicators of important and uncommon plant communities. All plant nomenclature follows Stace (2019).

Searches were carried out for the presence of invasive species, including those listed on the revised (April 2010) Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) including Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) and giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*).

2.3. PRELIMINARY ROOST ASSESSMENT

The Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) was undertaken by Conor Evans on 01st August 2024.

The survey involved undertaking a systematic search of the on-site building, searching for signs of bats, or spaces where bats would be able to access. The methodology followed that described in *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists, 4th Edition* (Collins, 2023).



The on-site buildings were categorised for their bat roosting potential as described in Table 1 in accordance with Collins (2023).

Table 1 Bat Roosting Potential Classification of Buildings

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
None	No habitat features on-site likely to be used by any roosting bats at any time of the year (i.e., a complete absence of crevices/suitable shelter at all ground/underground levels).
Negligible	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains as bats can use small and apparently unsuitable features on occasion.
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically at any time of the year. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by a large number of bats.
Moderate	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions, and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status.
High	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat. These structures have the potential to support high conservation status roosts.

2.4. FAUNA

A thorough search of the site for signs of protected species of fauna was undertaken during the site walkover. These searches considered the following:

- ✚ Suitability of any ponds to support notable amphibians, and the suitability of the site's terrestrial habitats to support amphibians.
- ✚ Suitability of the site to support reptiles by way of habitat structure and refuge piles, as well as links to the wider landscape.
- ✚ Signs of badgers (*Meles meles*), by way of setts, mammal paths, foraging signs or latrines to indicate usage of the site by the species.
- ✚ Search of any watercourses for signs or suitability for water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) and otter (*Lutra lutra*) by way of burrows, resting places, holts, and foraging signs.
- ✚ Suitability of the site to support roosting, foraging, and commuting bats.
- ✚ Suitability of the site to support notable bird species.
- ✚ Suitability of the site to support notable invertebrates.
- ✚ Search of the site for any invasive species.

2.5. SURVEY LIMITATIONS

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal does not constitute a full botanical survey. Instead, key species are identified to give a representative description of each habitat type.



This survey was undertaken in August and as a result of differing flowering times, it is possible that some species of flora may have been missed or misidentified and it is possible that some invasive/non-native species could have been missed during the survey. However, due to the poor quality and urban nature of the on-site habitats, as well as the lack of vegetation diversity, this is not anticipated to be a major constraint.

The modified grassland was mown prior to the site walkover. Some species therefore may have been missed due to a lack of identifying features. This is not anticipated to be a major constraint due to the urban nature of the site.

Access to all areas within 30 m of the site to search for signs of badger was not possible due to private industrial land. As such, some features may have been missed.

These constraints have been taken into consideration during the assessment.



3. SURVEY RESULTS

3.1. SITE CONTEXT

The site is located within a predominantly industrial area in Castleton, south-west Rochdale. The site largely comprises urban habitats which are anticipated to provide limited ecological value for wildlife. However, the bare ground may provide sett-building opportunities for badger and the ruderal/ephemeral may provide a resting resource for common amphibians.

The wider landscape adjacent to site comprises industrial buildings, hardstanding, scattered trees and hedgerows. The scattered trees and hedgerows are anticipated to provide valuable habitat for roosting and foraging bats and nesting birds.

Multiple areas of Priority Habitat Inventory Deciduous Woodland are located within 1 km of the site boundary, the closest of which is located approximately 90 m north-west of the site boundary. These woodland areas are anticipated to form valuable habitat for a range of protected species, including nesting birds, roosting and foraging bats, badgers, hedgehogs (*Eriaceus europaeus*) and common amphibians. These woodland areas lack connectivity to the site due to the urban built-up nature of the land between them. The site is separated from the closest area of woodland by a large area of bare ground which is currently undergoing active works, which is expected to act as a significant barrier to the dispersal of fauna to the site.

An active railway line and the Rochdale Canal are located approximately 200 m and 280 m south-east of the site boundary, respectively. These features may provide valuable foraging and commuting resources for local bat species. Additionally, Rochdale Canal is anticipated to provide foraging, commuting and resting resources for a range of aquatic specialists, including Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*), otter, fish, aquatic invertebrates and a variety of waterfowl. Additionally, the lowland fens associated with the canal may provide nesting resources for aquatic ground nesting birds. The site is separated from these features by a large industrial distribution centre and hardstanding roads. Protected species are not expected to commute to site from these areas due to these dispersal barriers and the low-value habitats on-site.

An area of open water is located approximately 540 m south-east of the site, adjacent to a playing field and surrounded by vegetation. This area of open water may provide valuable nesting resources for a variety of waterfowl, such as mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) and coot (*Fulica atra*).

One area of open mosaic habitat on previously developed land is located approximately 810 m north-east of the site. Such habitat comprises brownfield land that, due to previous disturbance and modification, supports a notable diversity of habitats. As such, this habitat is anticipated to provide valuable resources for a wide range of fauna, including rich assemblages of invertebrates. Due to the urban built up environment and distance between the site and area of open mosaic habitat, there is limited connectivity to site.

There are multiple arable fields located within 1 km of the site boundary, the closest of which is located approximately 830 m south-west of the site boundary. These arable fields may provide foraging and resting resources for brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*) and farmland specialist birds, including skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) and meadow pipit (*Anthus pratensis*).

No waterbodies were identified on-site or within 250 m of the site boundary.



3.2. DESIGNATED SITES

The site lies within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) of Rochdale Canal Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), located approximately 280 m south-east of the site boundary, the canal is designated as an SSSI for its diverse assemblage of aquatic flora, including floating water-plantain (*Luronium natans*), as well as several species of pondweeds (*Potamogeton* sp.). Other notable species include water violet (*Hottonia palustris*), reed-sweet grass (*Glyceria maxima*) and the locally uncommon royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*). The Rochdale Canal has also been designated as an SAC for the presence of floating water-plantain, an Annex II species.

Due to small scale of the proposed works and the urban built-up nature of the land between the site and the Rochdale Canal, no detrimental impacts on the SSSI are anticipated as a result of the development. Furthermore, as per the criteria listed on MAGIC (accessed August 2024), the proposed site will not require further consultation with Natural England to proceed.

An increase in visitor numbers to the Rochdale Canal is not anticipated as a result of the development, which comprises the construction of an industrial unit. An increase in air pollution is also not anticipated as a result of the development, which could have a detrimental impact on the assemblage of aquatic flora present at Rochdale Canal. It is therefore determined that the proposed development will not have a detrimental impact on the SAC. As such, a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening assessment will not be required to assess whether the development will have any 'likely significant effects' on the designated site. It should also be noted that a HRA was not required to facilitate the previous development directly adjacent to the north-west of the site.

Rochdale Canal is also noted as an Site of Biological Interest (SBI), Rochdale Canal (Scowcroft to Warland) SBI is located approximately 280 m south-east of the site boundary. The site is designated for the presence of floating water-plantain and nine species of pondweed. Due to the distance and the urban built-up nature of the land between the site and the SBI, no detrimental impacts on the SBI are anticipated as a result of the development. As such, no further consideration will be required.

3.3. HABITATS

The main habitats encountered during the survey are described in the following subsections. Please refer to Appendix I for the UKHab Habitat Plan.

3.3.1. MODIFIED GRASSLAND

An area of modified grassland was present in the north-east of the site. The grassland had recently been mown prior to the site walkover. Species present comprised perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), rough meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), bird's-foot trefoil sp. (*Lotus* sp.), common ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), greater plantain (*Plantago major*) and red clover (*Trifolium pratense*).



Figure 2 **Showing Modified Grassland**



3.3.2. RUDERAL/EPHEMERAL

Areas of ruderal/ephemeral were present along the western site boundary and in the east of the site, directly adjacent to the area of modified grassland. Species present comprised rosebay willowherb (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*), great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), prickly sow-thistle (*Sonchus asper*), common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), black medick (*Medicago lupulina*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), herb-Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), pineappleweed (*Matricaria discoidea*), redshank (*Persicaria maculosa*), curled dock (*Rumex crispus*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), annual meadow-grass (*Poa annua*), Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), bramble, common ragwort, red clover, rough meadow-grass, perennial rye-grass and Yorkshire fog.

Field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*) was also identified in the south-east of the site within the ruderal/ephemeral. Field horsetail is known to be damaging to hardstanding.



Figure 3 Showing Ruderal/Ephemeral



3.3.3. BARE GROUND

A large area of bare ground was present across the site. The bare ground had been colonised in part by hawk's-beard sp. (*Crepis* sp.), perennial rye-grass, rough meadow-grass, hoary willowherb, rosebay willowherb and bramble.

Figure 4 Showing Bare Ground



3.3.4. ARTIFICIAL UNVEGETAED, UNSEALED SURFACE

A gravel access track was identified on-site. The track allowed egress for plant machinery onto the construction works taking place under a previous application to the north of the site.



Figure 5 Showing Gravel Access Track



3.3.5. DEVELOPED LAND; SEALED SURFACE

Two areas of hardstanding were identified on-site. The hardstanding in the south-east of the site had been colonised in part by dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* agg.), bramble and common ragwort.

Figure 6 Showing Hardstanding



3.3.6. BUILDINGS

A total of three shipping containers, in use as welfare units and storage, were located on-site.



Figure 7 **Showing Welfare Units**



3.4. PROTECTED AND NOTABLE SPECIES

3.4.1. AMPHIBIANS

Consultation with GMEU did not identify any records of great crested newts within the 1 km search area. Consultation with MAGIC did not identify any great crested newt European Protected Species Licences within the 1 km search area. The closest licence was located approximately 2.9 km south-west of the site, active in 2017 for the destruction of a great crested newt breeding site and resting place.

Great crested newts' upper dispersal limit is generally considered to be up to 250 m from a waterbody (though occurrence of greater distances does exist where habitat connectivity is of high quality) (English Nature, 2001). As such, the presence of great crested newts on-site is reasonably discounted as no waterbodies were located on or within 250 m of the site.

No records of other common amphibians were identified within 1 km of the site. Additionally, due to the lack of waterbodies within and adjacent to the site, the site does not offer suitable habitat for breeding common amphibians. The on-site ruderal/ephemeral may provide suitable shelter and protection for the species group within their terrestrial phase. As such, common amphibians are anticipated to be present on-site.

3.4.2. BATS

Consultation with GMEU identified records of common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) within 1 km of the site. Historic records also identified Daubenton's bat within 1 km search area. The closest such records comprised two separate instances of injured common pipistrelle, located approximately 290 m southwest of the site, associated with residential housing.

Consultation with MAGIC did not identify any Natural England Bat Mitigation Licences within 1 km of the site. The closest such licence was located approximately 1.5 km east of the site, active between 2012 and 2013 for the destruction of a common pipistrelle non-breeding roost.



Three buildings (B1 - B3) were located on-site and assessed for their potential to support roosting bats, as per Collins (2023). All three buildings were assessed as having 'None' bat roosting potential. Please refer to Appendix II for the full Preliminary Roost Assessment.

The ruderal/ephemeral is anticipated to attract invertebrate prey. However, due to the poor quality and sparse cover of the ruderal/ephemeral, this is not anticipated to provide significant value. Additionally, the site is not anticipated to act as a wildlife corridor between habitats of higher value for bats. The site was therefore assessed as having Negligible potential to support foraging and commuting bats. A series of scattered trees are located off-site directly adjacent to the east of the site. These trees are anticipated to attract invertebrate prey and be of value to local bat species.

3.4.3. BADGER

Consultation with GMEU identified records of badger within the 1 km search area.

No badger setts or field signs of badger were located on-site, or within 30 m of the site boundary where access was possible. The modified grassland is anticipated to offer limited cover for badger, but may provide foraging habitat for badger. The ruderal/ephemeral, which had colonised a soil bund, is anticipated to offer both foraging and sett-building opportunities for the species. As such, badgers may utilise the site.

3.4.4. OTHER TERRESTRIAL MAMMALS

Consultation with GMEU identified 12 records of European hedgehog within the 1 km search area. The closest such record was located approximately 380 m north-east of the site boundary, within a residential area.

The majority of the site comprised bare ground and artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface; additionally, the ruderal/ephemeral was assessed as being too sparse to support the species. As such, the site was assessed as offering negligible resources for hedgehog due to a lack of suitable on-site habitat which can provide foraging, shelter and hibernation habitat for the species. Hedgehog are therefore discounted from further assessment.

3.4.5. OTTER AND WATER VOLE

Consultation with GMEU identified one record of otter within the search area, located approximately 280 m south-east of the site boundary, associated with the Rochdale Canal. No records of water vole were identified within the search area.

No watercourses are located on-site or directly adjacent to the site boundary. The closest watercourse is the Rochdale Canal, located approximately 280 m south-east of the site at its closest point. Due to a lack of suitable aquatic habitat for otter and water vole within or adjacent to the site boundary, both species have been ruled out of further assessment.

3.4.6. BREEDING BIRDS

Consultation with GMEU identified records of bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*), curlew (*Numenius arquata*), dunnoek (*Prunella modularis*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), lesser redpoll (*Acanthis cabaret*), reed bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*), song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) and starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) within the 1 km search area. Historic records of barn owl (*Tyto alba*), lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), linnet (*Linaria cannabina*) and willow tit (*Poecile montanus*) were also identified within the 1 km search area.



The site was assessed as having negligible value for nesting birds due to a lack of trees or dense vegetation; the ruderal/ephemeral was determined to be too sparse to support nesting birds. The site may provide some suitability for ground nesting birds within the ruderal/ephemeral; however, due to the active nature of the site and the urban context of the surrounding areas, ground nesting birds are not anticipated to utilise the site. As such, breeding birds are discounted from further assessment.

3.4.7. REPTILES

Consultation with GMEU did not identify any records of reptiles within the search area.

The majority of the site comprised bare ground and artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface; the ruderal/ephemeral and modified grassland were determined to be too sparse to provide appropriate cover for the species group. Additionally, reptiles are not anticipated to be present on-site due to the urban location and isolated nature of the site. As such, the site was assessed as offering negligible resources for reptiles due to a lack of suitable on-site habitat which can provide suitable shelter for the species. Reptiles are therefore discounted from further assessment.

3.4.8. INVERTEBRATES

The data search identified one record of cinnabar moth (*Tyria jacobaeae*) within the search area, approximately 830 m south of the site adjacent to a railway line.

Notable invertebrates are unlikely to be present on site due to the lack of floristic diversity.

3.5. INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

Consultation with GMEU did not identify any invasive plant species within the 1 km search area.

Field horsetail was identified in the south-east of the site; please refer to Appendix I for the approximate location.



4. ECOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS AND MITIGATION

4.1. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Development proposals include the construction of an industrial unit with associated hardstanding and landscaping.

4.2. HABITATS

The site comprises habitats that were found to be widespread within the local area. The on-site habitats are anticipated to provide limited ecological value for wildlife. The modified grassland, ruderal/ephemeral and bare ground is anticipated to provide foraging and sett-building opportunities for badger and the ruderal/ephemeral may provide a resting resource for common amphibians.

4.3. PROTECTED AND NOTABLE SPECIES

4.3.1. AMPHIBIANS

The site may support small numbers of common amphibians within the ruderal/ephemeral on-site. It is recommended that during the clearance phase of works, any common amphibians encountered be moved by hand, away from construction activities.

4.3.2. BADGERS

No badger setts were located during the survey, though the bare ground, modified grassland and ruderal/ephemeral was identified as being suitable for the species. Badgers are highly mobile and can create new setts in a short period of time. Due to the active nature of the site on a daily basis, and limited area of suitable habitat, an updated site walkover will not currently be required to facilitate a planning application. However, if works cease for an extended period of time, then an Updated Badger Walkover will be required.

The following precautionary working methods will be adhered to during the construction phase to ensure that no badgers within the local area are impacted by the proposed development:

-  All site operatives will be inducted to the presence of the species and their working limits and legal responsibilities.
-  It is recommended that the ruderal/ephemeral covered bunds are inspected prior to works commencing for evidence of badger on-site.
-  All site operatives will be inducted as to identifying potential badger setts and should be vigilant if they suspect they locate a new sett during works and inform the project ecologist immediately.
-  All excavations will be battered at a 45-degree angle, or ramps will be installed, to allow the escape should animals become trapped. Alternatively, excavations will be covered overnight.
-  All site machinery and materials will be appropriately stored to avoid harm to the species, notably between July and November each year when extra care is needed to avoid potential impacts on pregnant females.

It is not anticipated that the development will have a significant negative impact on badgers within the local area.



4.4. INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

Field horsetail was identified during the survey. It is recommended that this species be eradicated due to the damage that it can cause to hardstanding. Field horsetail is not listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and therefore does not required removal by a qualified contractor.



5. FURTHER SURVEYS

No further surveys are required to inform a planning application.



6. BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

The scheme will be required to achieve a 10% net gain in biodiversity. Full details of this and a calculation of net gain could be finalised after detailed landscape plans have been prepared. It is recommended that an ecologist is consulted during the design stage to ensure, where possible, that biodiversity net gain can be achieved. If this is not feasible on-site, a conservation offset payment or off-site compensation may be required.

The following habitat measures will increase the on-site biodiversity:

-  Native tree planting.
-  Wildflower meadow creation.
-  Native scrub planting.

Habitat measures should be provided within areas of open space or designated wildlife zones. A 30-year management plan should be produced to ensure biodiversity is secured on-site.



7. REFERENCES

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END OF REPORT

APPENDIX I

UKHAB HABITAT PLAN



Key:

-  Red Line Boundary
-  Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
-  Developed land; sealed surface
-  Modified grassland
-  Ruderal/Ephemeral
-  Bare ground
-  Buildings
-  Field horsetail

Notes

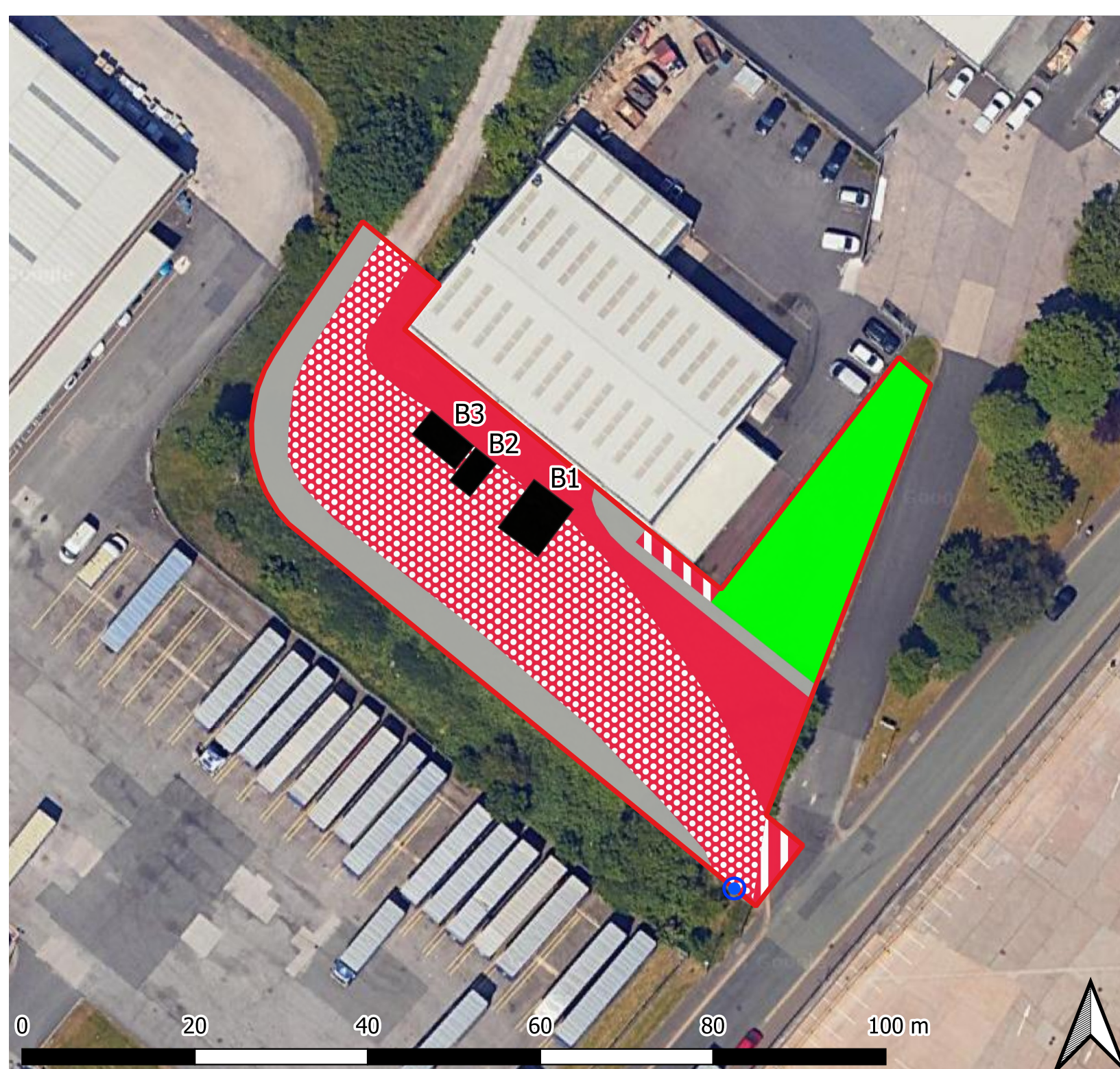
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			Drawing No.	Scale: 1:600 @ A4
Job title: Royle Barn Road, Rochdale			Drawing title: UKHab Habitat Plan	



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APPENDIX II PRELIMINARY ROOST ASSESSMENT





REF.	DESCRIPTION	PHOTOGRAPH
B1	B1 comprised a two-storey welfare unit in use as a site office and canteen, located in the centre of the site. The welfare unit comprised box profile metal walls. Due to the material that the building comprised, and the lack of suitable bat roost features, B1 was assessed as having 'None' bat roost potential.	
B2	B2 comprised a welfare unit located in the north-west of the site. The welfare unit comprised box profile metal walls. Due to the material that the building comprised, and the lack of suitable bat roost features, B2 was assessed as having 'None' bat roost potential.	
B3	B3 comprised a shipping container located in the north-west of the site. The shipping container comprised box profile metal walls. Due to the material that the building comprised, and the lack of suitable bat roost features, B3 was assessed as having 'None' bat roost potential.	