



ASCERTA
LANDSCAPE | TREES | ECOLOGY

Royle Road, Rochdale

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

BMC Rochdale Ltd.

P.2306.25
September 2025

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Reference	Site	Client	Date
P.2306.25	Royle Road, Rochdale, OL11 2PD	BMC Rochdale Ltd	09 September 2025

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Revision	Date	Details	Name
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This document contains sensitive information regarding the location of a badger sett. The report is issued in confidence and on the basis that the material will not enter the public domain.

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Executive Summary

Ascerta has been instructed by **BMC Rochdale Ltd.** to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Daytime Building Inspection for bats at Royle Road, Rochdale, OL11 2PD (hereafter referred to as **the site**).

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal comprised of a desk study and biological records search, as well as a site walkover survey in order to map habitat types. The survey was extended to assess the potential for protected species to use the site. The assessment provides baseline data regarding the current site conditions and, where appropriate, allows recommendations to be made in respect of further potential work in order to satisfy current UK wildlife legislation.

Assessed against the *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland 2nd Edition* (2018), the site's habitats range in ecological value from negligible to within the zone of influence.

The site provides a habitat for nesting birds, badgers, hedgehogs, amphibians and bats. All habitats assessed are likely to be lost to the proposals. However, as the habitats to be lost to the proposals are small in area and not of high ecological value, it is considered that their loss can be mitigated for, and the proposals will not adversely affect the ecological value of the wider area, provided the recommendations detailed below are followed.

Bat surveys are conducted in accordance with the *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines*, published 2024 (the Guidelines). Strict adherence to these is not necessary, but where practice deviates from them, clear reasons and rationale are required.

The site was subject to an extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey. During the survey and following a review of historical species records, it is considered that an impact on birds and hedgehogs are likely to occur in relation to the proposals for the site. The following recommendations have been made to avoid an impact on these species:

- If works have not begun by September 2027, an updated site visit will be required to assess the habitats within the site
- Production and implementation of a Hedgehog RAMS to avoid any harm to this species during the proposed works
- Production of an Invasive Species Method Statement to avoid the spread of invasive species into the wider landscape during the proposed works
- Precautionary check for invasive prior to works commencing
- Enhancing the site for species through appropriate landscape planting that includes native, species-rich hedgerows, trees and areas of wildflowers plus provision of integrated bat and bird features within newly constructed buildings
- Produce and implement a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) to ensure impacts to local statutory and non-statutory sites are limited
- Production of a management plan to ensure the long-term commitments to manage the planting, protection and enhancement of biodiversity in and around a new development site
- Vegetation clearance or pruning should be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (1 March to 31 August inclusive) to avoid any impact on breeding birds, or a nesting bird check by a suitably experienced ecologist should be undertaken immediately prior to works commencing

1. Introduction

Ascerta has been instructed by **BMC Rochdale Ltd.** to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Daytime Building Inspection for bats at the site. The site OS grid reference is SD 88791 11698 and the What3Words reference is parent.foam.wounds. The extent of the site is displayed in photograph 1.1 below.



Photograph 1.1: Extent of the site

This report presents the results of the survey including evaluation of habitats on-site and potential for protected species to be using the site. The report includes recommendations for further actions where applicable, in order to satisfy current UK wildlife legislation and to achieve our client's objectives. Relevant legislation is detailed within Appendix 4.

2. Objectives

Our client's objectives are to assess the potential ecological constraints of the proposed development site.

Our objectives are as follows:

- Identify and evaluate any features of ecological value and the potential of the site to support protected species based on the walkover survey and biological records search
- Identify designated sites within 2km of the site
- Review protected species records within 2km of the site
- Map the habitats within the site using Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) (2010) methods
- Provide recommendations for further species-specific surveys and mitigation measures where current legislation requires
- Provide recommendations that seek to enhance the ecological value of the site
- Provide recommendations to assist our clients in achieving their objectives whilst satisfying current UK wildlife legislation

3. Survey Methods

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal involved the collection and review of data from a desk study and field survey, along with an assessment of the value of the habitats following the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidelines.

3.1 Desk Study

A desk study was undertaken in August and September 2025 to identify protected and notable habitats and species, and nature conservation designations potentially relevant to the proposed development. The desk study was carried out using the sources detailed in Table 3.1 below. For the purposes of this report, protected and notable species records have been restricted to the last 15 years.

Table 3.1: Desk study data information

Source	Date obtained	Data obtained
Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)	22 August 2025	- Statutory designated sites within 2km of the site - Protected and notable habitats within 2km of the site - Ancient woodlands within 2km of the site - European Protected Species Licenses (EPSLs) within 2km of the site
Greater Manchester Local Record Centre	2 September 2025	- Non-statutory designated sites within 2km of the site - Protected and notable species records within 2km of the site - Priority habitats if obtained etc.
Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan	22 August 2025	Additional protections afforded to species/habitat

3.2 Field Survey

A walkover survey of the site was conducted on 2 September 2025 by Jack Kay MSc. The habitat types and features of ecological interest were identified and mapped in compliance with *the Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: A Technique for Environmental Audit* (JNCC, 2010). During the survey, weather conditions were recorded to ensure optimal surveying conditions according to guidelines. Any sub-optimal conditions will be discussed in the limitations.

This includes the identification of the main species present and examination of the potential for any protected species. Habitats were mapped (Appendix 1) and target notes (Appendix 2) made for any interesting features.

The surveys particularly focused on the following species and habitat features:

- Mammals (badgers and bats)
- Birds (including species potentially associated with 'European Sites')
- Amphibians and reptiles
- Invertebrates
- Hedgerows and boundaries
- Invasive plant species
- Plant communities and trees

3.3 Bat Survey Methods

The survey methods followed the guidelines set out by the Bat Conservation Trust's *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines – 4th Edition* (2024). Habitats, buildings and trees were assessed for suitability for use by bats and categorised independently using Table 4.1 page 44 within the Bat Conservation Trust Guidelines (Collins, 2024).

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal for bats

Habitats on site were assessed for their suitability for bats to use them for roosting, commuting and foraging, both on the site and surrounding area. Commuting and foraging habitat suitability was categorised **low to high**. Any commuting and foraging habitat valued as **moderate** or above may need further survey effort if lost to the proposals.

3.4 Badger Survey Methods

The site was searched for setts and badger field signs including foraging areas, latrines and tracks. Attention was paid to the presence of the following field signs:

- Setts: Single holes or a series of holes likely to be interconnected underground
- Latrines: Badgers usually deposit faeces in excavated pits
- Paths and footprints
- Scratching posts: At the base of trees
- Snuffle holes: Areas where badgers have searched for insects
- Day nest: Bundles of vegetation where badgers may sleep above ground
- Traces of hair

3.5 Evaluation

Habitats and species on the site were evaluated following the *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland* (2018). A geographical frame of reference is assigned to each habitat and species, with **International Value** being most important, then **National, Regional, County, District, Local** and lastly, within the immediate **Zone of Influence (Zoi)** of the proposals only. Value judgements are based on characteristics that can be used to identify ecological resources or features likely to be important in terms of biodiversity. These include site designations such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). For undesignated features, the size, conservation status (locally, nationally or internationally), and the quality of the ecological resource are considered. Ecological resource quality can refer to habitats (for instance if they are particularly diverse, or a good example of a specific habitat type), other features (such as wildlife corridors or mosaics of habitats) or species populations or assemblages. The recommendations detailed within this report aim to meet requirements of the Environment Act and Statutory Biodiversity Metric as far as possible at this stage.

3.6 Limitations

The absence of biological records does not necessarily mean the absence of species. This has been considered within the report conclusions. No ponds or ornamental water features were identified within any residential gardens located adjacent to the site. However, it should be noted that unidentified ponds / water features may exist in nearby gardens (within 250m of the site). In general, such water features are usually relatively small in size and are more likely to be used by common amphibians i.e. smooth newt, and/or palmate newt and/or common frog (albeit great crested newt and common toad may use them in certain circumstances; for example if there is a larger waterbody close by that supports either of these species). The site was visited on only one occasion. This produces a snapshot of habitats and species on the site and others may be present at different times of the day or year. This limitation has been considered within this report.

4. Survey Results

4.1 Desk Study

Statutory sites

Two statutory designated sites were identified within a 2km radius of the proposed development site. These are listed in Table 4.1 below.

Table 4.1: Statutory designated sites

Statutory designated site	Reason for designation	Distance to proposed development
Rochdale Canal Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	Designated for: - Important habitat for submerged aquatic plants, including nationally scarce SAC species floating water-plantain - Diverse assemblage of aquatic flora, notably pondweeds	430m south
Rochdale Canal Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Designated for: - Important habitat for submerged aquatic plants - Diverse assemblage of aquatic flora, notably pondweeds	430m south

Non-statutory sites

Five non-statutory designated sites were identified within a 2km radius of the proposed development site. These are listed in Table 4.2 below.

Table 4.2: Non-statutory designated sites

Non-statutory designated site	Distance to proposed development
Rochdale Canal site of biological importance (SBI)	330m south
Tandle Hill (SBI)	1.3km south
Meadowcroft Woods (SBI)	1.5km northwest
Springfield Wood (SBI)	1.7km northwest
Meadow By Heywood Cemetery (SBI)	1.8km west

The full designations for each site are listed within Appendix 5.

The site does not lie within a relevant Natural England SSSI Impact Risk Zone.

Priority Habitats

Woodland

Numerous areas of Priority Habitat Deciduous Woodland were returned within 2km of the site within the closest area located adjacent to the south face of the site within a residential area.

Four areas of Ancient Woodland were returned within 2km of the site, with the closest located approximately 1.4km northwest of the site within Marland Wood.

One area of Wood Pasture and Parkland Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitat was also returned, approximately 1.2km north of the site within Broadfield Park.

The site lies within a Conservation Target Area for the following Priority Species:

- Curlew
- Lapwing
- Redshank
- Snipe

The site also falls within a breeding area for the following Grassland Assemblage Farmland Birds:

- Curlew
- Grey partridge
- Lapwing
- Redshank
- Snipe
- Tree sparrow

Priority Species

Following a review of records held by the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU), several Priority Species that have the potential to occur within the vicinity of the proposed development have been identified. These include birds, bats, badgers, hedgehogs and amphibians. The species records are summarised below, and the detailed records held by GMEU within 2km of the site are displayed within Appendix 5. Protected species legislation can be found within Appendix 4.

No species records were returned by GMEU within the site boundary.

Birds

One thousand four hundred and sixty-six records were returned for bird species within 2km of the site. Species returned include swift, house sparrow, starling, swallow and dunnock. All species recorded within 2km are displayed within Appendix 5. The closest of which was a 2024 record of dunnock located 700m north of the site within Mandale Park. The most recent of which was a 2024 record of starling located 1.7km east of the site within a residential area.

Bats

Greater Manchester Local Record Centre returned 146 records for bats within the search area. Bat species include common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, noctule, whiskered bat and Daubenton's bat. The closest of which was a 2024 record of common pipistrelle located 20m south of the site within a small band of trees adjacent to the southeastern face of the boundary. This was also the most recent record.

Amphibians

One record for great crested newt was returned within 2km of the site. This was a 2014 record located 1.4km north of the site within the cellar of a residential building.

A further one amphibian was returned within 2km of the site. This was a 2020 record of common toad located 1.8km south of the site within Rochdale Canal.

Otters

One record for otters was returned within 2km of the site. This was a 2014 record located 1km south of the site within the Rochdale Canal.

Badgers

Eleven records for badgers were returned within 2km of the site. The closest of which was a 2019 record of a sett located 40m southwest of the site within a woodland attached to the southwestern face of the site. The most recent of which was a 2022 record of an outlier sett located 1.8km south of the site within a small woodland along the M62.

Other mammals

Fifty-eight records for other mammals were returned within 2km of the site. Species include hedgehog and brown hare, the closest of which was a 2022 record of hedgehog located 220m east of the site within a residential area. The most recent of which was a 2024 record of hedgehog located 1.7km east of the site within a residential garden.

European Protected Species Licences

There were no EPSL applications within 2km of the site since 2020.

4.2 Habitat Survey

Weather

The weather conditions during the survey were warm (15°C), dry and partially cloudy (3/8 cloud cover) with a F1 (Beaufort Scale) light breeze, therefore appropriate for this type of survey.

The site is bound on all sides by a mixture of residential estates and commercial units. The Rochdale Bypass runs along the northern boundary of the site as well as a railway line approximately 20m east of the site.

Table 4.3: Habitats present on site including habitat alphanumeric code references from JNCC (2010)

Habitat description and JNCC codes	Site description
Hardstanding (J4)	An area of tarmac hardstanding is located along the western site boundary (drawing P.2306.25.E01, Appendix 1). This acts as an entrance to the site for workers. This habitat is displayed in photograph 1 within Appendix 3.
Dense/continuous scrub (A2.1)	Areas of dense scrub are located along the northern boundary as well as in the eastern section of the site (drawing P.2306.25.E01, Appendix 1). Species present include bramble, elm and cherry. This habitat is displayed in photograph 2 within Appendix 3.
Improved grassland (B6)	Areas of improved grassland are located along the northern site boundary (drawing P.2306.25.E01, Appendix 1). Species present include perennial ryegrass, cock's foot, ribbon grass and fescue species. This habitat is displayed in photograph 3 within Appendix 3.
Scattered trees (A3.1)	A row of young, scattered trees is located along the northern site boundary (see drawing P.2306.25.E01, Appendix 1). All trees are alder. This habitat is displayed in photograph 4 within Appendix 3.
Scattered scrub (A2.1)	Scattered scrub was observed in the northwestern corner of the site and along the northern site boundary (see drawing P.2306.25.E01, Appendix 1). Species present include cherry, willow and bramble. This habitat is displayed in photograph 5 within Appendix 3.
Tall ruderal vegetation (C3.1)	A large area of tall ruderal vegetation is located along the eastern and southern site boundaries with another pocket located along the northern boundary (drawing P.2306.25.E01, Appendix 1). Species present include greater willowherb, common nettle, ragwort and mugwort. This habitat is displayed in photograph 6 within Appendix 3.
Ephemeral/short perennial (J1.3)	A large area of ephemeral/short perennial is located at the centre of the site, with a smaller area located in the northwest corner of the site (drawing P.2306.25.E01, Appendix 1). Species present include white clover, vetch, ribwort plantain and creeping thistle. This habitat is displayed in photograph 7 within Appendix 3.
Bare ground (J4)	The site is dominated by a large area of bare ground currently in use by the on-site construction team (see drawing P.2306.25.E01, Appendix 1). This habitat has been encroached by pioneer species in areas such as common nettle and creeping thistle. This habitat is displayed in photographs 8–9 within Appendix 3.

4.3 Protected and Notable Species

Table 4.4: Habitat suitability for protected and notable species

Birds

Habitat suitability

The scrub, improved grassland, scattered trees and tall ruderal vegetation within the site provide suitable foraging and nesting opportunities for bird species.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

During the survey, wood pigeon and passerine species were identified within the site.

Further survey required

For any vegetation removal or building works, a nesting bird survey will be required (Section 5.2).

Bats

Habitat suitability

The scrub, improved grassland, tall ruderal vegetation and scattered trees within the site provide limited suitability for commuting and foraging bats, with poor connectivity to the surrounding land use. The scattered trees are young and possess no bat roost features.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

Evidence of bats was not identified within the site during the survey.

Further survey required

Bats will not require further survey effort and will not be discussed further within this report.

Badgers

Habitat suitability

The scrub, tall ruderal vegetation and improved grassland habitats within the site provide limited foraging and shelter habitat for badger with poor connectivity to the wider environment. A high amount of disturbance throughout the site is also present due to the ongoing construction project reducing the potential for badgers further.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

No evidence of badger was identified within the site during the survey.

Further survey required

Badger will not be impacted by the proposals within the site; therefore, badger do not require further consideration within this planning application and will not be discussed further within this report.

Water voles

Habitat suitability

The site provides no suitable habitat for water vole. Within the wider landscape the Rochdale canal is located approximately 220m south; however, it is buffered from the site by the railway line and residential dwellings.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

No evidence of water vole was identified during the site visit.

Further survey required

Water vole will not be impacted by the proposals within the site; therefore, water vole do not require further consideration within this planning application and will not be discussed further within this report.

Otters

Habitat suitability

The site provides no habitat for otters, with limited connectivity as it is bound by the Rochdale Bypass, residential dwellings and commercial units. Within the wider landscape lies the Rochdale Canal located 220m south, however, it is buffered from the site by a railway line and residential dwellings.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

No evidence of otters was identified during the site visit.

Further survey required

Otters will not be impacted by the proposals within the site; therefore, otters do not require further consideration within this planning application and will not be discussed further within this report.

Amphibians

Habitat suitability

No waterbodies are present within the site, with two waterbodies present within 500m of the site as mapped on MAGIC Maps. However, these are buffered by residential estates, commercial units and the Rochdale Bypass. The improved grassland, scrub and tall ruderal vegetation provide terrestrial habitats for amphibians. The high amount of human disturbance throughout the site due to the ongoing construction also limits the potential for amphibians to use the site.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

No evidence of amphibians was identified within the site during the survey.

Further survey required

Amphibians will not be impacted by the proposals within the site; therefore, amphibians do not require further consideration within this planning application and will not be discussed further within this report.

Reptiles

Habitat suitability

The habitats within the site do not offer suitability to support reptiles. Ecotones are not present within the site and the habitats are scattered across the site with no suitable connectivity. The habitats within the site are prone to high human disturbance.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

No evidence of reptiles was identified within the site during the survey.

Further survey required

No further survey for reptiles will be required. Reptiles do not require consideration within this planning application and will not be discussed further.

Invertebrates

Habitat suitability

The grassland provides some limited habitat for invertebrates; however, the area is prone to human disturbance.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

No evidence of invertebrates was identified within the site during the survey.

Further survey required

No further survey for invertebrates will be required. Invertebrates do not require consideration within this planning application and will not be discussed further.

Small mammals

Habitat suitability

The scrub, improved grassland and tall ruderal vegetation habitats within the site provide limited foraging and shelter habitat for small mammal species such as hedgehog.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

No evidence of small mammals was identified within the site during the survey.

Further survey required

No further survey effort of other small mammals will be required; however Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) should be implemented (see Section 5.2).

Invasive species

Himalayan balsam (TN1) was identified within the landscaping throughout the site. The locations of this species are displayed on plan P.2306.25.E01 within Appendix 1.

5. Evaluation and Recommendations

5.1 Designated Sites and Habitats

Rochdale Canal SSSI/SPA lies approximately 430m south of the site. Although this SSSI is buffered from the proposed site by residential estates it is likely to be impacted from an increase in footfall from the proposed development. Due to the proximity, it is also likely the site may be impacted by construction, and a CEMP should be implemented to mitigate these impacts. A homeowner's leaflet is also recommended to provide any new residents information on this local site and how they can reduce their impacts upon it.

The closest non-statutory site lies approximately 330m south of the site (Rochdale Canal SBI). This site will likely be impacted by the construction phase and post construction due to an increase in footfall and should be covered within the previously mentioned CEMP and homeowner's leaflet. All other non-statutory sites lie over 1.3km away from the site and are unlikely to be impacted.

Mitigation

The habitats on site comprise of hardstanding, bare ground, improved grassland, scattered scrub, dense/continuous scrub, tall ruderal vegetation and scattered trees. These habitats are considered to have an ecological value of **within the zone of influence** of the site or lower. The site contains no designated or priority habitats. Overall, the proposals are unlikely to adversely affect the ecological value of the area.

5.2 Protected and Notable Species Recommendations

Birds

The improved grassland, scattered trees, scrub and tall ruderal vegetation provide suitable habitat for nesting and foraging bird species. It is recommended that vegetation clearance should be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (**1 March to 31 August inclusive**) to avoid any impact on breeding birds. If vegetation clearance cannot be undertaken outside of the breeding bird season, a nesting bird check by a suitably experienced ecologist should be undertaken immediately prior to works commencing. If an active birds' nest is identified, a suitable buffer zone should be implemented where no works are to occur within until the young have fledged the nest.

Invasive species

Himalayan balsam (TN1) has been identified within the site. To avoid the spread (complying with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, see Appendix 4) of these species within the site during site clearance, it is recommended that an **Invasive Species Management Plan** is produced and adhered to during the works. It is recommended that the management plan details suitable management of these species, biosecurity measures and avoidance measures where possible.

Small mammals

The site provides limited habitat for small mammals within the scrub, improved grassland and tall ruderal vegetation.

These habitats are likely to be impacted by the proposals, and therefore it is recommended that a **Hedgehog RAMS Method Statement** is implemented during the works to avoid harm to this species.

To enable hedgehogs to continue the use of the site, it is advised that gaps of at least 13cm by 13cm are left under any new garden fences to enable hedgehogs to roam freely within the area following development.

5.3 Enhancements

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

- Provision of bird boxes (25mm, 28mm or 32mm entrance hole box, house sparrow terrace, swift box), attached to or integrated within new buildings on site
- Provision of bat features (e.g. Vivara Pro WoodStone Bat box or similar) attached to a retained or new tree on site or provision of a bat box (e.g. Vivara bat bricks or '*bird brick houses*' bat boxes) integrated within new buildings
- Suitable landscaping incorporating species that provide a food or shelter resource to wildlife to include hawthorn, hazel, holly, blackthorn, field maple, dog rose and honeysuckle as hedgerow species and oak, alder, field maple, silver birch, crab apple, rowan and bird cherry as tree species together with implementing a relaxed mowing regime and establishing wildflowers in these areas

6. Conclusions

The site was subject to an extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey. During the survey and following a review of historical species records, it is considered that an impact on birds and hedgehogs are likely to occur in relation to the proposals for the site. The following recommendations have been made to avoid an impact on these species:

- If works have not begun by September 2027, an updated site visit will be required to assess the habitats within the site
- Production and implementation of a Hedgehog RAMS to avoid any harm to this species during the proposed works
- Production of an Invasive Species Method Statement to avoid the spread of invasive species into the wider landscape during the proposed works
- Precautionary check for invasive prior to works commencing
- Enhancing the site for species through appropriate landscape planting that includes native, species-rich hedgerows, trees and areas of wildflowers plus provision of integrated bat and bird features within newly constructed buildings
- Produce and implement a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) to ensure impacts to local statutory and non-statutory sites are limited
- Production of a management plan to ensure the long-term commitments to manage the planting, protection and enhancement of biodiversity in and around a new development site
- Vegetation clearance or pruning should be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (1 March to 31 August inclusive) to avoid any impact on breeding birds, or a nesting bird check by a suitably experienced ecologist should be undertaken immediately prior to works commencing

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

7. References

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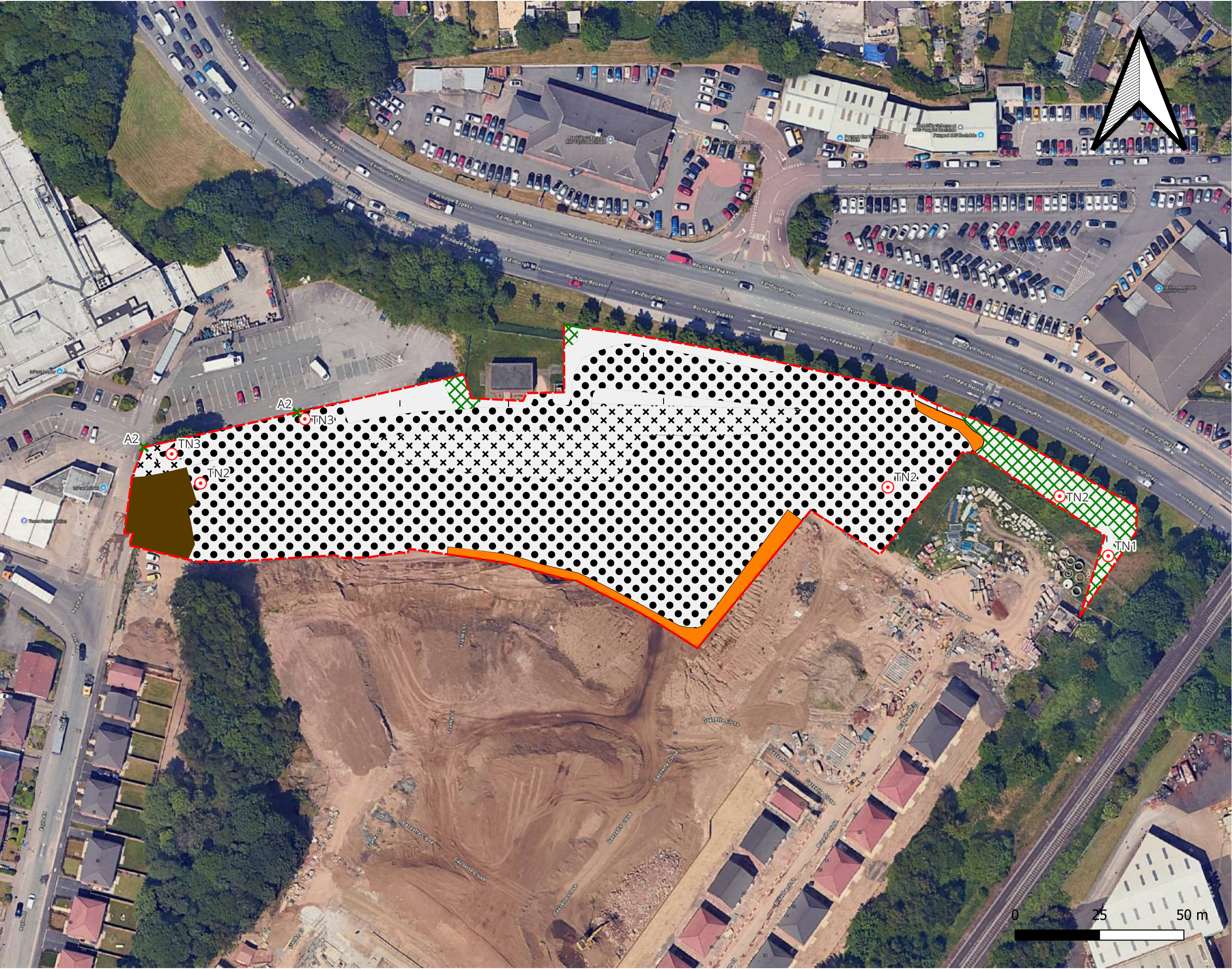
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Appendix 1



ASCERTA
LANDSCAPE | TREES | ECOLOGY



- Survey Area
- Broadleaved scattered trees
- Scattered scrub
- Scrub
- Improved grassland
- Tall ruderal vegetation
- Ephemeral/short perennial
- Bare ground
- Hardstanding
- Target Notes

TN1 - Himalayan balsam
TN2 - Construction materials
TN3 - Shipping containers

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

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CLIENT:
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PROJECT:
Royle Road, Rochdale, OL11 2PD

DRAWING TITLE:
Phase One Habitat Survey

SCALE: 1:1000	DRAWN BY: JK	DRAWING No: P.2306.25.E01
DATE: 02/09/2025	CHKD BY: LK	REV: -

Appendix 2

Appendix 2: Species Lists and Target Notes

Table 1: Flora species

English name	Scientific name
Annual meadow grass	<i>Poa annua</i>
Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus sp.</i>
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>
Broadleaved dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
Broadleaved plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
Buddleja	<i>Buddleja</i>
Cherry	<i>Prunus sp.</i>
Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Coltsfoot	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum agg.</i>
English elm	<i>Ulmus procera</i>
Field mustard	<i>Brassica rapa</i>
Greater willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>
Vetch	<i>Vicia sp.</i>
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Himalayan balsam*	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>
Perennial ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
Reed canary grass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>
Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Red fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Weld	<i>Reseda luteola</i>
Zigzag clover	<i>Trifolium medium</i>

* invasive species

Table 2: Target notes

Target note number	Description
TN1	Himalayan balsam
TN2	Construction materials
TN3	Shipping containers

Appendix 3



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Appendix 3: Photographs

Table 3: Photographs of the site



Photograph 1: Tarmac hardstanding



Photograph 2: Dense scrub along northern boundary



Photograph 3: Improved grassland along northern boundary



Photograph 4: Scattered trees along northern boundary



Photograph 5: Scattered scrub



Photograph 6: Tall ruderal vegetation along southern boundary



Photograph 7: Ephemeral/short perennial at the centre of the site



Photograph 8: Bare ground at centre of the site



Photograph 9: Bare ground in the western section of the site

Appendix 4



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Appendix 4: Relevant Legislation

European Legislation

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

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

UK Legislation

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

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

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

The DEFRA Statutory Biodiversity Metric has been implemented to work alongside the Environment Act. This tool calculates potential biodiversity impacts as a result of development and identifies mitigation and compensation requirements to ensure no net loss of biodiversity. In addition, it identifies measures that can be implemented in order to meet biodiversity gain as a result of development.

The NPPF 2025 has been published to provide further planning guidance. Wildlife, biodiversity and ecological networks are referred to in Section 15 *Conserving and enhancing the natural environment*. The NPPF states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: protecting and enhancing valued landscapes and sites of biodiversity value, recognise the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services and minimising impacts on and provide net gains for biodiversity. Further guidance is provided within Government Circular 06/05: *Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and Their Impact Within the Planning System*.

Species and Habitats of Principal Importance

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

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

Breeding birds

Breeding birds are protected under the W&C Act 1981, which makes it an offence to:

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

Invasive species

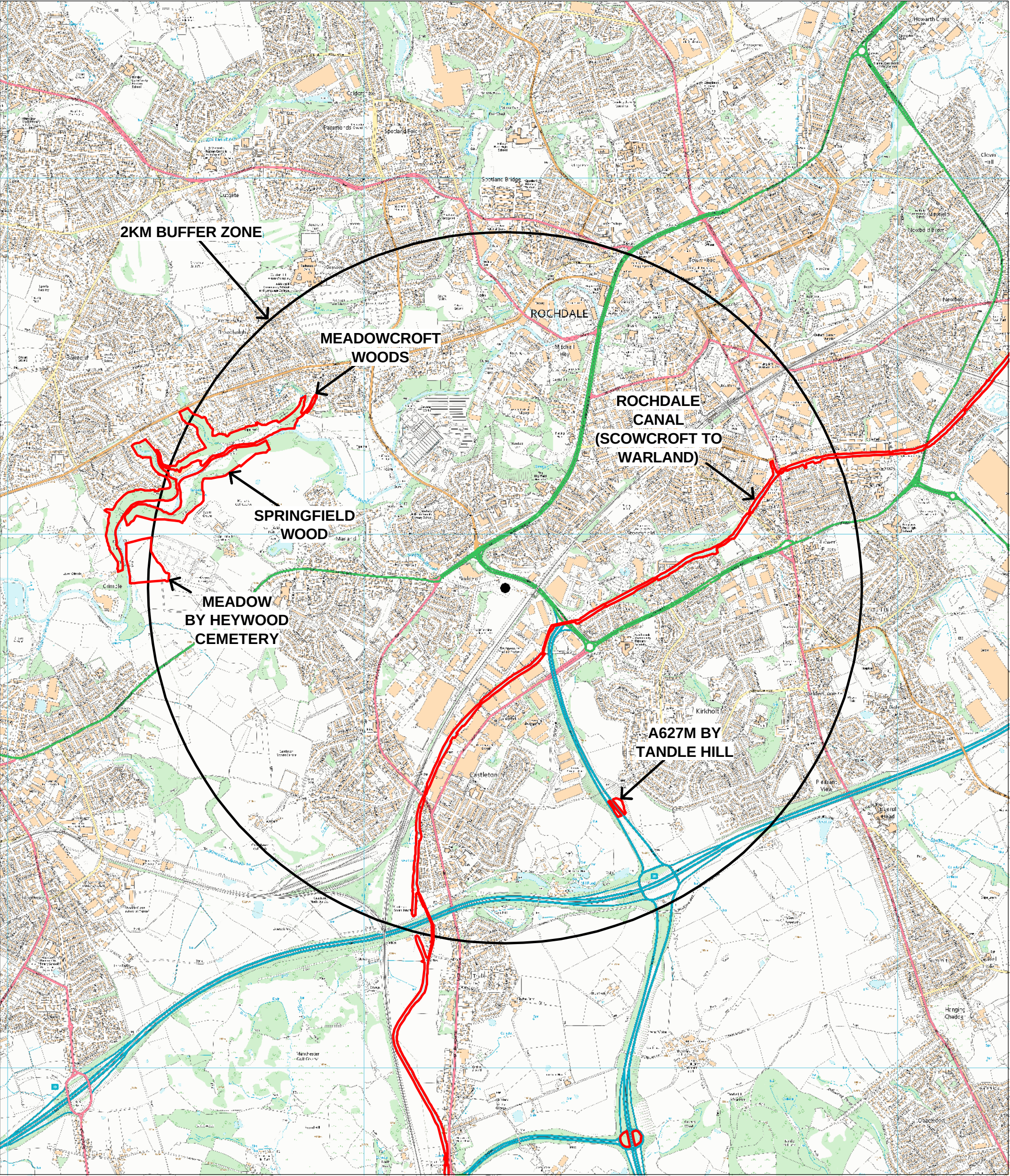
It is an offence under Section 14(2) of the W&C Act 1981 to '*plant or otherwise cause to grow*' in the wild any plant in Schedule 9 Part II.

It is a criminal offence to intentionally, wilfully kill, injure or take any of the aforementioned protected species or to destroy or disturb its habitat.

Local policy

The site lies within the administrative boundary of Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council and is subject to the Rochdale Core Strategy (adopted October 2016). Relevant policies include Policy G4 (Protecting Green Belt land) and Policy G7 (Increasing the value of biodiversity and geodiversity), both of which aim to safeguard environmental assets and ensure development does not result in unacceptable harm to these designated interests.

Appendix 5



**GREATER MANCHESTER ECOLOGY UNIT
ECOLOGICAL SEARCH - SD 88791 11698
ROYLE ROAD - MAP 1**

KEY
SITE OF BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE
 **SBI BOUNDARY**

SCALE 1:20,000

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