

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal



Allens Centre, Willenhall

Principal Author:

Shannan Poyner BSc (Hons)

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Address:

RSK ADAS Ltd
Unit 14 Newton Court
Pendeford Business Park
Wolverhampton
WV9 5HB

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Quality Assurance

Author	Checked	Approved
Shannan Poyner BSc (Hons)	Sarah Thornton-Mills BSc (Hons) MSc MCIEEM	James Towers BSc (Hons) MCIEEM
		

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Revision History

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Summary

ADAS was commissioned by Walsall Council to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the Allens Centre, Hilton Road, Willenhall, WV12 5XB (OS Grid Ref. SJ 97361 02181). The proposed plans involve a new residential development with the potential to provide up to 59 units in the form of terraced houses and apartment blocks. ADAS Ecological Consultant Shannan Poyner, BSc (Hons) conducted the survey on 09 August 2022.

The proposed works are not anticipated to impact any of the statutory or non-statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance within 5 km of the development.

The site was comprised of a small area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland, numerous semi-mature and immature scattered trees, a mosaic of scrub and hardstanding as well as an area of poor semi-improved grassland. The main ecological features on site were the woodland, scattered trees and scrub which provided opportunity for nesting birds, bats, Badger, widespread reptiles and common invertebrates.

Due to the proposed plans being of significant size and removing available habitat in an otherwise heavily urban area, the development should seek to enhance the site for wildlife post-development and achieve a biodiversity net gain.

Summary of Further Survey or Actions

The table below provides information on further surveys, mitigation measures and enhancement measures to be undertaken on site.

Survey/Action	Rationale	When
Biodiversity Impact Calculations	To comply with the NPPF, evidence will need to be provided to show that the development will achieve a net gain in biodiversity on site. Therefore, it is recommended that Biodiversity Impact Calculations are carried out to demonstrate this.	Design phase
Avoid root protection zones (RPZ) of woodland and scattered broadleaved trees where possible.	The trees are at a semi-mature to mature stage and provide aesthetic value.	Construction phase
Follow British Standard guidelines when working within proximity to root zones.	To minimise impacts to the root zones of the semi-mature broadleaved trees across the site.	Construction phase

Survey/Action	Rationale	When
Planting new trees to replace any lost and increase native wildflower planting where possible to increase available invertebrate habitat.	Improve ecological value of the site in line with national and local plans.	Design and post-construction phase
Nesting bird checks	If any clearance of woody vegetation takes place within the breeding bird season (March-September inclusive) then a nesting bird check should take place immediately prior to the vegetation clearance.	Pre-works
Install species specific bird boxes on retained trees and incorporate into building design	Improve ecological value of the site in line with national and local plans.	Design phase and post-construction.
Install bat boxes on retained trees and incorporate into building design	Improve ecological value of the site in line with national and local plans.	Design phase and post-construction.
Reptile presence checks and precautionary working method statement	To prevent harming reptiles during vegetation clearance a precautionary working method statement and two-stage cut is recommended. If brash piles on site are disturbed, then they should be searched by an ecologist before removal. If any reptiles are discovered during the works, they should be encouraged to leave site without harming them.	Pre works and construction phase.
Installing hibernacula for reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates.	Improve ecological value of the site in line with national and local plans.	Post-construction.
Badger check	The habitats present on site provide suitable habitat for badgers.	Pre-construction.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background and Survey Objectives

ADAS was commissioned by Walsall Council to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the Allens Centre, Hilton Road, Willenhall, WV12 5XB (OS Grid Ref. SJ 97361 02181) which is to be used for an outline planning application for a residential development.

The aim of the PEA is to identify ecological constraints to the proposed works and make recommendations for mitigation or opportunities for biodiversity enhancement that can be incorporated into the design. The PEA also makes recommendations for further surveys, as required.

The report has been prepared in accordance with guidance produced by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM 2017) and the British Standard 42020:2013.

The objectives of this report are:

- *To identify designated nature conservation sites within the vicinity of the site;*
- *To identify any records and/or populations of protected, notable or scarce species in the vicinity of the site;*
- *To record habitats or features of ecological interest within or in immediate proximity to the site;*
- *To record the presence of, or potential for, protected or notable species;*
- *To make an ecological assessment and highlight potential ecological constraints;*
- *To outline any further survey work and potential protected species requirements if relevant; and*
- *To make suggestions for avoidance, mitigation compensation and enhancements in line with planning policies where appropriate.*

1.2 Site Description

The site was located northeast of Walsall city centre (central grid reference: SJ 97361 02181) and the survey area, shown in Figure 1, was approximately 1.32 ha. The wider area was dominated by residential roads on the edge of the conurbation with agricultural land approximately 350 m to the north and Rough Wood Chase Local Nature Reserve (LNR) 650 m to the east, separated from the site by the M6.

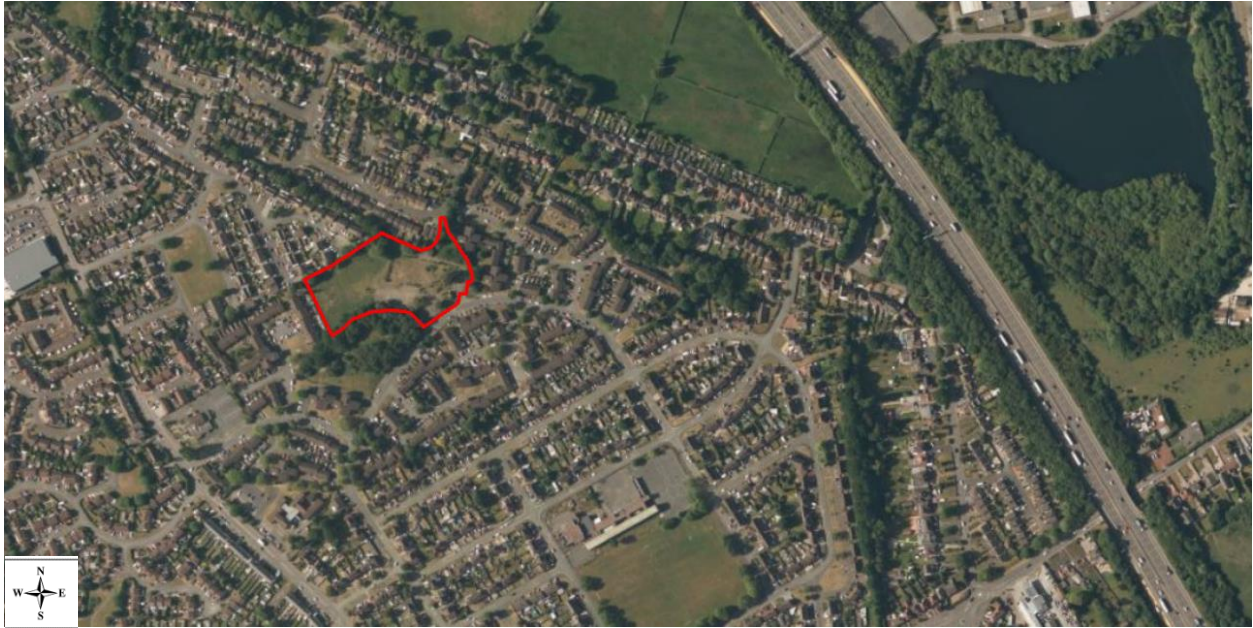


Figure 1. Site location and wider landscape (site indicated by red line boundary)

Imagery taken from ADAS Mapping Tool. January 2023.

1.3 Description of the Proposed Development

The plans outlined in Appendix 1, show the proposed development area for a new residential development. The current illustrative master plan allows for up to 59 units which will comprise a mixture of one, two, and three bed properties spread across terraced houses and two apartment blocks. The design also incorporates 113 parking spaces spread across the site. The proposed development will cover most of the site with a small area in the northeast corner proposed to remain as open space, however, detailed landscape plans are not available at this stage. The immediately adjacent Allens Rough woodland, which forms part of the land ownership, is not proposed for development, and has scope to be enhanced through the landscape plans.

2 Methods

2.1 Desk Study

A desk study was carried out in August 2022 to identify statutory designated sites within a 5 km radius, including a 10 km search for Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in relation to bats, and non-statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance, together with known records of protected and other notable species, within a 2 km radius of the proposed development.

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) was used to derive information relating to the location of statutory designated sites and priority habitats.

Staffordshire Ecological Record Centre and EcoRecord (Environmental Record Centre for Birmingham and the Black Country) provided details of non-statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance and records of protected and other notable species.

It is important to note that most species are greatly under-recorded and therefore a lack of records for a location should not be taken as an absence of the species concerned. Furthermore, a record for a particular habitat or species does not necessarily confirm its current presence.

2.2 Field Survey

2.2.1 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

A Phase 1 Habitat Survey was conducted on 9 August 2022 by ADAS Ecological Consultant Shannan Poyner BSc (Hons) QCIEEM, based on the techniques and methodologies described in the Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey (JNCC 2010) and using standard nomenclature (Stace 2019). The habitats present were recorded on to a field map with written target notes providing supplementary information on, for example, species composition structure and management where relevant.

This was extended to include notes on fauna and habitats which could potentially support protected species, an approach commonly referred to as an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey. The presence of, or potential for, protected species was noted on the field map during the survey.

2.3 Assessment and Evaluation

The importance of the features on site were assessed and defined in a geographical context (see Appendix 2). The frame of reference for the habitat features in terms of their geographical importance is in line with guidance set out in CIEEM, 2018.

Species are assessed, where appropriate, against best practice guidelines.

As part of the evaluation further surveys may be recommended based on the suitability of habitats to support protected species, the habitats themselves and potential impacts posed by the proposed development and the legal protection afforded to both habitats and species.

2.4 Zone of Influence

The assessment conducted for this report has considered the area in which ecological features could be subject to significant effects from the proposed development. The area of the potential effects is often wider than the actual perimeter of the development site and is known as the Zone of Influence.

The Zone of Influence varies for different ecological features and each designated site, habitat and species has been considered in relation to their sensitivity to the proposed development. The Zone of Influences are as follows:

- *Protected species identified as likely present on site are limited to the footprint of the site (other than those listed below).*
- *Badger is up to 50 m from the site boundary.*
- *Great Crested Newt is up to 250 m from the site boundary.*
- *Non-statutory sites are up to 2 km from the site boundary.*
- *Statutory designated sites are up to 5 km from the site boundary.*
- *Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) in relation to bats are up to 10 km from the site boundary.*

2.5 Mitigation Hierarchy

The main aim of the PEA is to inform the client of the potential impacts on ecological features and what next steps are needed to manage these. In order to achieve this aim, the mitigation hierarchy should be adopted so that the following applies:

- **Avoidance** - *Ecological features of importance should be avoided in the first instance through the design process by either designing around them, alternative design or even an alternative location.*
- **Mitigation** – *Adverse impacts that cannot be avoided should be adequately mitigated for to minimise negative impacts on the ecological features. Mitigation measures can either be implemented during the design process or construction phase.*
- **Compensation** – *This should only be used in exceptional circumstances or as a last resort, after all options for avoidance and mitigation have been fully considered. Compensation therefore can be applied to any residual impacts that cannot be avoided or mitigated.*
- **Enhancements** - *Seek to provide net benefits for biodiversity over and above requirements for avoidance, mitigation or compensation.*

2.6 Limitations

There were no access restrictions, and it was the optimal time of the year to carry out the PEA, therefore, the results of this survey are considered an accurate representation of the site. However, due to grassland scorching some floristic species may not have been recorded.

The protected species assessment provides a preliminary view of the likelihood of such species occurring on the site. It should not be taken as providing a full and definitive survey of any protected species group.

Even where data for a particular species group are provided in the desk study, a lack of records of a defined geographical area does not necessarily mean that there is a lack of ecological interest; the area may simply be under recorded.

3 Baseline Ecological Conditions

3.1 Desk Study

The desk study noted five statutory designated sites within 5 km but no SAC in relation to bats within 10 km. Eight non-statutory designated sites were noted within 2 km of the site. A further twenty-two sites designated as Potential Sites of Importance were outlined within the desk study, as these are not formally designated details have not been included other than the immediately adjacent Allen's Rough School Wood. See Table 1 below for further details.

Table 1: Statutory and non-statutory designated sites within 5km and 2km of the survey site

Site Name	Description	Designations	Distance and direction from site
Statutory Designated Sites			
Rough Wood Chase	An extensive site with multiple habitats including ancient semi-natural woodland and wet woodland, acidic grassland, heath, marsh and a series of pools which supports a significant Great Crested Newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>) population.	Local Nature Reserve	0.6 km east
Rough Wood	A series of pools within the oldest and largest area of oak woodland in the west midlands. Meadows, marsh and grassland are also present across the site.	Local Nature Reserve	1.4 km southeast
Waddens Brook, Noose Lane	Unimproved grassland and wildflower wetland which supports approximately 200 floristic species. Areas of marsh and pools support several amphibian and invertebrate species. The site also supports over 20 bird species.	Local Nature Reserve	3.0 km southwest
Pelsall North Common	An area of wet lowland heath, acidic grassland, canals and base-rich grassland. One of only 2 sites in the conurbation known to support lizards.	Local Nature Reserve	4.3 km northeast
Mill Lane	Habitats include lowland neutral grassland, lowland calcareous grassland, lowland heathland, wet grassland and a pond.	Local Nature Reserve	4.7 km southeast
Non-statutory Designated Sites			
Allen's Rough School Wood	Wooded embankments surrounding central grassland glade.	Potential Site of Importance	Immediately adjacent

Site Name	Description	Designations	Distance and direction from site
Sneyd Reservoir	Larger open body of water within the Borough with good water quality to support macro-invertebrates.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	0.7 km east
Kitchen Lane Open Space	An area of created lowland meadow grassland with areas of plantation woodland.	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation	1 km northwest
Essington Pools	As well as the open water there are two areas of woodland, an area of tall planting and amenity grassland.	Retained Biodiversity Alert Site	1.4 km northwest
Perry Hall Bridge	A matrix of grassland, scrub and tall herb with two pools supporting significant amphibian populations.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	1.5 km southwest
Ashmore Lodge	An old dismantled mineral line now covered by neutral grassland with some wooded areas.	Retained Biodiversity Alert Site	1.6 km northwest
Perry Hall Bridge	An area of scrub and ponds adjacent to the canal which support Great Crested, Smooth (<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>) and Palmate Newts (<i>Lissotriton helveticus</i>).	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation	1.6 km southwest
Wyrley and Essington Canal	An important wildlife corridor supporting several habitat types and a diverse range of species. The emergent aquatic flora in certain sections is particularly rich, including several plant species otherwise not commonly found.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	1.8 km northeast
Bentley Haye	Extensive area of open space forming part of Rough Wood Chase LNR. Of interest is the diverse neutral grassland and blocks of planted woodland.	Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation	2 km south

Table 2 presents the results of the biological records search for protected and selected other notable species.

Table 2: Records of selected protected or notable species within 2km of the site

Species	Designation	Date	Distance from site	Approx. location
Barn Owl (<i>Tyto alba</i>)	WCA1	2016	1.6 km	Essington
Bullfinch (<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>)	BOCC Amber	2020	2 km	Wyrley and Essington Canal
Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)	BOCC Amber	2013	1 km	Sneyd Reservoir
Dunnock (<i>Prunella modularis</i>)	BOCC Amber	2021	1.7 km	Essington
Fieldfare (<i>Turdus pilaris</i>)	BOCC Red	2021	1.7 km	Essington
Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>)	BOCC Amber	2017	1.6 km	Essington Lakes
Hobby (<i>Falco subbuteo</i>)	WCA1	2018	1.6 km	Pig Farm, Essington
House Sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>)	BOCC Red, NercS41, UKBAP	2021	1.2 km	Essington Parish
Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>)	BOCC Red	2021	1.7 km	Essington
Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>)	BOCC Amber	2016	1.5 km	Wyrley and Essington Canal
Little Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius dubius</i>)	WCA1	2019	1.6 km	New Landywood Lane
Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)	BOCC Amber	2016	1.2 km	Wyrley and Essington Canal
Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)	WCA1, BOCC Red	2016	1.6 km	Essington
Mute Swan (<i>Cygnus olor</i>)	BOCC Amber	2016	1.2 km	Wyrley and Essington Canal
Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	WCA1	2015	0.3 km	New Invention
Red Kite (<i>Milvus milvus</i>)	WCA1	2019	1.6 km	Essington
Redwing (<i>Turdus iliacus</i>)	WCA1, BOCC Amber	2021	1.7 km	Essington

Species	Designation	Date	Distance from site	Approx. location
Reed Bunting (<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>)	BOCC Amber	2021	1.7 km	Essington
Skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>)	BOCC Red	2021	1.7 km	Essington
Song Thrush (<i>Turdus philomelos</i>)	BOCC Red	2021	1.7 km	Essington
Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)	BOCC Red	2021	1.7 km	Essington
Swift (<i>Apus apus</i>)	BOCC Amber	2012	0.9 km	Snape Road
Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>)	WCA1, BOCC Amber	2016	0.3 km	Stretton Road
Willow Tit (<i>Poecile montana</i>)	BOCC Red	2017	1.2 km	Wyrley and Essington Canal
Yellowhammer (<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>)	BOCC Red	2015	1.3 km	Wood Farm Golf Course
Brown Long-eared Bat (<i>Plecotus auritus</i>)	EPS, NercS41, UKBAP, LBAP, WCA5	2019	0.5 km	Coppice Farm
Common Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	EPS, NercS41, LBAP, WCA5	2019	0.5 km	Coppice Farm
Daubenton's Bat (<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>)	EPS, NercS41, LBAP, WCA5	2015	1.3 km	Essington
Natterer's Bat (<i>Myotis nattereri</i>)	EPS, NercS41, LBAP, WCA5	2019	0.5 km	Coppice Farm
Noctule (<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>)	EPS, NercS41, UKBAP, LBAP, WCA5	2018	0.5 km	Vernon Way
Soprano Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>)	EPS, NercS41, UKBAP, LBAP, WCA5	2019	0.5 km	Coppice Farm
European Badger (<i>Meles meles</i>)	PBA	2015	1.3 km	Essington
European Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	EPS, NercS41, UKBAP, WCA5	2018	1.7 km	Wyrley and Essington Canal
West European Hedgehog (<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>)	NercS41, UKBAP	2017	0.6 km	Coppice Farm Way

Species	Designation	Date	Distance from site	Approx. location
Great Crested Newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>)	EPS, NercS41, UKBAP, LBAP, WCA5	2015	1 km	Wood Farm Golf Course
Smooth Newt (<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>)	LBAP, WCA5	2013	1.7 km	Rough Wood
Common Toad (<i>Bufo bufo</i>)	NercS41, UKBAP, LBAP, WCA5	2019	0.6 km	New Invention
Cinnabar (<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>)	NercS41, UKBAP	2016	1.2 km	Brick Kiln Bridge
Small Heath (<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>)	UKBAP	2015	1.3 km	Wood Farm Golf Course

EPS=European Protected Species (Habitats Directive/Birds Directive)

WCA1 = Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 1

WCA5 = Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5

NercS41 = Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act Section 41 species

PBA = Protection of Badger Act 1992

BOCC red/amber = Birds of Conservation Concern Red/Amber

UKBAP = UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species (2007)

LBAP = Birmingham and the Black Country Biodiversity Action Plan (2010)

3.2 Field Survey

The habitats identified within the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey are listed and described below. All habitats are marked on the Phase 1 Habitat map in Appendix 3, marked out Target Notes in Appendix 4 and each habitat type is illustrated with a photograph in Appendix 5.

On site:

- *Semi-natural broadleaved woodland*
- *Dense scrub*
- *Scattered scrub*
- *Scattered trees*
- *Poor semi-improved grassland*
- *Tall ruderal*
- *Introduced shrub*
- *Bare ground*

3.2.1 Habitats

3.2.1.1 Semi-natural broadleaved woodland

A small area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland was present on the southern boundary and appeared to have encroached from the immediately adjacent Allen's Rough woodland (Photograph 1). The canopy included occasional semi-mature Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and willow (*Salix* sp.) with an understory of occasional Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and rare Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). The ground flora was sparse and included frequent Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and occasional Herb-Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Cleavers (*Galium aparine*).

3.2.1.2 Dense scrub

Dense scrub was present both centrally within a mosaic as well as on the boundaries to the north and west of the site.

Immediately west of the Hilton Road entrance was an area of dense scrub with dominant immature Silver Birch and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) with an understory of Common Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*), Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*) and rare Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) (Photograph 2). Two further areas of dense Alder, Silver Birch and Buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*) scrub with occasional willow were present within a central mosaic of scrub, scattered trees and grassland (Photograph 3).

Patches of dense scrub within a small carpark on the northern boundary were dominated by Buddleia and Rose (*Rosa* sp.) with occasional Bramble, Sycamore and Silver Birch and rare Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) saplings (Photograph 4).

An area of dense scrub dominated by Bramble with abundant bindweed (*Convolvulus* sp.), frequent Common Nettle and occasional Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*) was present on the northern boundary next to an area of introduced shrub (Photograph 5). Semi-mature Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) trees were also present within the scrub. Bramble dominated scrub with occasional Field Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*) and Great Willowherb was also present on the eastern boundary.

3.2.1.3 Scattered scrub

A large area of scattered scrub was present centrally within the site. Immature Buddleia, Alder and Silver Birch dominated the area which was atop rubble ground colonised by Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Black Medick (*Medicago lupulina*), Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*) as well as grassland species, described below, found across the site (Photograph 6).

Scattered scrub dominated by self-seeded Silver Birch saplings lined a hardstanding path with occasional Buddleia and rare rose (Photograph 7).

A further area of scattered scrub dominated by self-seeded Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) saplings with occasional Holly and Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) and rare Field Maple was present in the northeast corner of the site close to Sherringham Drive (Photograph 8). The ground flora here was dominated by Common Ivy, Bramble and Wood Avens.

3.2.1.4 Scattered trees

Scattered trees were present frequently across the site and included both immature and semi-mature trees.

To the east of the site semi-mature scattered trees were present above an area of neutral grassland; three Pedunculate Oak trees and one Swedish Whitebeam (*Sorbus intermedia*), Wild Cherry and Field Maple (Photograph 9). All trees were in good condition with additional features present in the form of Common Ivy cover (Target Note 1). Three semi-mature Lombardy-poplar (*Populus nigra 'Italica'*) trees were present in the northeast of the site close to Sherringham Drive (Photograph 10). Further immature scattered Hawthorn trees were present on the eastern boundary.

Immature trees were present around the central mosaic of grassland, scrub and hardstanding. A line of willow trees was present along an internal fence line atop semi-improved grassland (Photograph 11). Scattered Buddleia and Alder trees approximately 4 m tall lined the edge of the southern carpark (Photograph 12). A further two mature Silver Birch trees were present to the east of the central scattered scrub (Photograph 13).

Four Silver Birch and two Field Maple trees were present atop isolated areas of semi-improved grassland southeast of the large carpark (Photograph 14).

Scattered trees were also present atop the largest area of semi-improved grassland to the northwest of the site. These included two mature willows and one Sycamore, Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) and Silver Birch (Photograph 15). Ash and Field maple trees also lined the northern boundary above introduced and dense scrub.

3.2.1.5 Poor semi-improved grassland

Poor semi-improved grassland was present as a dominating habitat across the site.

The largest area was approximately 0.5 ha and infrequently managed with a varying sward height, between 30 and 60 cm. The composition was dominated by Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Perennial Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) with occasional Ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Broadleaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*) and Ribwort Plantain with rare Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*) and Wood Avens (Photograph 16).

Separated from the main field by internal palisade fencing was further poor semi-improved grassland with a sward height ranging from 5 cm to 60 cm interspersed with small areas of rubble. The grassland composition is similar with additional species including occasional Red Clover, Yarrow and Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*). This area is likely to hold water at times due to the presence of locally abundant reed (*Phragmites* sp.) and Soft Rush (Target Note 3).

An area approximately 0.1 ha was present to the northeast of the site underneath an area of scattered trees. The sward was infrequently managed reaching a height of 60 cm in parts. The dominating species were Common Bent, Yorkshire Fog, meadow-grass (*Poa* sp.) and Timothy (*Phleum pratense*) with occasional Pedunculate Oak saplings, Ribwort Plantain, vetch (*Vicia* sp.), Ragwort and Broadleaved Dock. With one heavily shaded area (Target Note 4) locally abundant with Common Nettle, Wood Avens and Common Ivy.

3.2.1.6 *Tall ruderal*

Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*) dominated an area along the southern boundary shaded by the offsite Allen's Rough wood.

One area along the northern boundary was locally dominated by Common Nettle with frequent Cleavers and occasional Great Willowherb (Target Note 2).

3.2.1.7 *Introduced shrub*

Two mature Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) shrubs were present on the eastern boundary (Photograph 17). Two further areas were present within a carpark and within the semi-improved grassland field on the northern boundary.

3.2.1.8 *Bare ground*

Bare ground covered approximately 0.3 ha in the form of hardstanding. At the entrance to the site off Hilton Road is a slabbed pavement surrounding four carparking bays. This area had become colonised with areas of occasional Silver Birch and Sycamore saplings, Great Willowherb, Ragwort, Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), Annual Meadow-grass and Yorkshire Fog. A hardstanding path ran west to a second carparking area on the northern boundary.

The largest area of bare ground was present to the south of the site in the form of a carpark which has undergone colonisation by surrounding grassland and moss species (Photograph 18).

3.2.2 Species

3.2.2.1 Birds

Common bird species were noted during the survey including Blackbird (*Turdus merula*), Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*), Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*), Woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*) and red listed species House Sparrow and Starling. Although no nests were noted during the survey, scattered trees, scrub and woodland on site all provided nesting opportunity for both common species and red listed species identified in the field and in the desk study, such as House Sparrow and Song Thrush.

3.2.2.2 Bats

No evidence of bats was seen on site and no potential roost features were noted on the scattered trees across the site or within the woodland, other than dense Common Ivy cover on a Pedunculate Oak. However, a PEA survey does not involve an exhaustive search for evidence of bats or potential roost features (PRFs). The habitats onsite also provided a foraging resource for bats.

3.2.2.3 Badgers

The woodland, scrub and grassland provided habitat to support Badger for both foraging and sett construction. However, no setts or field signs such as hairs, latrines or feeding remains associated with Badgers were identified during the field survey despite being identified within the desk study.

3.2.2.4 Hazel Dormice

There were no records of Hazel Dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) within 2 km of the site. Suitable habitat was present in the form of woodland, scrub and hedgerows. Suitable habitat in the wider landscape is poorly connected due to the site being enclosed within a residential area.

3.2.2.5 Otter

There was no aquatic habitat on site suitable for Otter. Although identified within the desk study suitable habitat, in the form of Wyrley and Essington Canal, is separated from the site by the M6 and residential properties, therefore this species is considered likely absent from site.

3.2.2.6 Water Vole

There was no aquatic habitat present on or in close proximity to the site that was suitable for Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) and they were not identified within the desk study, therefore this species is considered likely absent from the site.

3.2.2.7 Reptiles

There was no evidence of the site being used by reptiles, although the site offered suitable habitat for widespread reptile species, such as Slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*) due to the mosaic of hard standing, scrub and grassland onsite. As they were not identified in the desk study and the site is isolated from the wider landscape this species is considered likely absent from site.

3.2.2.8 Amphibians

No amphibians were recorded during the survey and there were no waterbodies within the proposed development area. The grassland, hedgerows and scrub offered suitable terrestrial habitat for common amphibians and Great Crested Newts. The desk study identified one pond approximately 450 m north of the site but due to a lack of connectivity this species is considered likely absent from site.

3.2.2.9 Invertebrates

Common butterflies such as Large White (*Pieris brassicae*), Speckled Wood (*Pararge aegeria*) and Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*) were identified during the survey. The semi-improved grassland, introduced shrub, dense scrub, scattered trees and tall ruderal areas provide potential to support common assemblages of invertebrates.

3.2.2.10 White-clawed Crayfish

There was no habitat present on or in close proximity to the site that was suitable to support White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*), therefore this species is considered likely absent from the site.

3.2.2.11 Non-native invasive plants

No non-native invasive plants listed as Schedule 9 on The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) were identified during the survey.

4 Planning Policy and Legislation

4.1 Local Planning Policy

Table 3 details the policies within the Black Country Core Strategy (adopted February 2011) which are relevant to the ecological features on site.

Table 3: Summary of relevant local planning policy – Black Country Core Strategy

Policy	Description
Policy ENV1	<p>Development within the Black Country will safeguard nature conservation, inside and outside its boundaries by ensuring that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Development is not permitted where it would harm internationally (Special Areas of Conservation), nationally (Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves) or regionally (Local Nature Reserve and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation) designated nature conservation sites;▪ Locally designated nature conservation sites (Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation), important habitats and geological features are protected from development proposals which could negatively impact upon them;▪ The movement of wildlife within the Black Country and its adjoining areas, through both linear habitats (e.g. wildlife corridors) and the wider urban matrix (e.g. stepping stone sites) is not impeded by development;▪ Species which are legally protected, in decline, are rare within the Black Country or which are covered by national, regional or local Biodiversity Action Plans will not be harmed by development. <p>All appropriate development should positively contribute to the natural environment of the Black Country by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Extending nature conservation sites;▪ Improving wildlife movement; and/or▪ Restoring or creating habitats / geological features which actively contribute to the implementation of Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) and/or Geodiversity Action Plans (GAPs) at a national, regional or local level.

4.2 National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) July 2021, is an update to the previous version issued in February 2019, and is a policy framework document which provide a range of important principles. Paragraph 174 of the NPPF states that decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural local environment by:

‘Minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.’

Paragraph 175 goes on to state:

‘... take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.’

When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by applying the following principles (paragraph 180):

‘opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.’

4.3 Relevant Legislation

4.3.1 National Legislation

4.3.1.1 *The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981*

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) consolidates and amends existing national legislation to implement the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive) in Great Britain.

4.3.1.2 *Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006*

Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 places a duty upon all local authorities in England to promote and enhance biodiversity in all of their functions. Section 41 lists habitats and species of principal importance to the conservation of biodiversity. Fifty-six habitats and 943 species of Principal Importance for Conservation are included on the Section 41 list and draws upon the UK BAP List of Priority Species and Habitats.

4.3.1.3 *The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019*

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019 transpose Council Directive 92/43/EEC, on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EC Habitats Directive), into national law and transpose elements of the EU Wild Birds Directive in England and Wales. The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of a national site network including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), the protection of 'European protected species', and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of other sites, such as Ramsars.

4.3.1.4 *The Environment Act 2021*

Para 2 (3) of Schedule 14 of The Environment Act 2021 makes it mandatory for all new developments (with some limited exceptions) to achieve a biodiversity net gain (BNG) of at least 10% by the time the development is completed compared to the pre-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat.

This percentage may be amended in the future by the Secretary of State. Please note that some Local Policies stipulate a higher target than this.

The Bill allows three methods for securing biodiversity net gains:

1. enhancement of the biodiversity of land to which the planning permission relates;
2. the allocation of registered offsite biodiversity gain to any development for which the planning permission is granted; and
3. the purchase of biodiversity credits for any such development.

A biodiversity gain statement must set out whether, and if so how, the biodiversity gain objective applies in relation to development where the onsite habitat is irreplaceable, how the development will minimise any adverse effects to the onsite habitat, and what the evidence must be produced to show how the biodiversity net gain has been met upon completion of the development.

Biodiversity gains will need to be maintained for at least 30 years after the development is completed.

4.3.2 Species Specific Legislation

4.3.2.1 Badgers

The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (as amended) affords protection to badgers and their setts. This legislation, as well as outlawing the persecution of badgers, also makes it an offence, amongst others, to disturb badgers whilst they are using a sett or to damage or block a sett.

4.3.2.2 Bats

Bats are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is illegal to:

- *Kill or injure bats;*
- *Cause disturbance at their resting places; or*
- *To block access to, damage or destroy their roost sites.*

Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 it is an offence to:

- *Deliberately capture or kill a bat;*
- *To damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of any bat. (This is an absolute offence and intent or recklessness does not have to be proved); and*
- *Deliberately disturb a bat (this applies anywhere, not just at its roost).*

4.3.2.3 Birds

Breeding wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, a wild bird is defined as any bird of a species that is resident in or is a visitor to the European Territory of any member state in a wild state. Game birds however are not included in this definition (except for limited parts of the Act). They are covered by the Game Acts, which fully protect them during the close season.

All birds, their nests and eggs are protected and it is thus an offence, with certain exceptions to:

- *intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird;*
- *intentionally 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, which has been taken in contravention of the Act or the Protection of Birds Act 1954;*
- *have in one's possession or control any egg or part of an egg which has been taken in contravention of the Act or the Protection of Birds Act 1954;*
- *use traps or similar items to kill, injure or take wild birds; and*
- *have in one's possession or control any bird of a species occurring on Schedule 4 of the Act unless registered, and in most cases ringed, in accordance with the Secretary of State's regulations.*

Additionally for some species listed in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb the adults while they are in and around their nest or intentionally or recklessly disturb their dependent young.

4.3.2.4 Reptiles

Adder (*Vipera berus*), Slow-Worm, Grass Snake and Common Lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is illegal to kill or injure them.

Smooth Snake (*Coronella austriaca*) and Sand Lizard (*Lacerta agilis*) also receive legal protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). The following is prohibited:

- *deliberate capturing, injuring or killing*
- *deliberate disturbance; Disturbance of animals includes in particular any disturbance which is likely- (i) to impair their ability to survive, to breed or reproduce or to rear or nurture their young; or (ii) to impair the ability of hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or (iii) to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong;*
- *deliberate taking or destroying the eggs of such an animal; or*

- *damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of such an animal and/or (ii) intentionally or recklessly - (a) disturbing any such animal while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection; or (b) obstructing access to any structure or place which any such animal uses for shelter or protection.*

5 Evaluation of Ecological Features/Further Survey

Table 4 below provides an evaluation of the ecological features, identifying which are of sufficient importance to be taken forward. Any ecological feature that is identified as negligible importance will not be considered further. Where there is insufficient evidence, further surveys will be recommended to be able to assess the ecological importance of that feature in relation to the site and the proposed development. In some instances, a level of site importance has been identified for features which have a very localised scale.

Table 4: Evaluation of ecological Feature

Ecological Feature	Justification	Level of Importance
Designated sites	Although the site lies within 0.6 km of Rough Wood Chase Local Nature Reserve and in proximity to thirteen other designated sites, the potential increase in public use is not anticipated to negatively impact these sites due to their already urbanised location.	Negligible importance.
Semi-natural broadleaved woodland	An area of woodland with semi-mature and immature trees.	Local importance.
Dense scrub	A common and widespread habitat. No notable ground flora or marginal/edge vegetation was associated with this habitat. The scrub was often dominated by few species.	Negligible importance.
Scattered scrub	A common and widespread habitat. No notable ground flora or marginal/edge vegetation was associated with this habitat. The scrub was often dominated by few species.	Negligible importance.
Scattered trees	Majority of trees on site and immediately adjacent were semi-mature or immature.	Site importance.
Poor semi-improved grassland	A common and widespread habitat of little ecological importance.	Negligible importance.
Tall ruderal	A common and widespread habitat of little ecological importance.	Negligible importance.
Introduced shrub	A common and widespread habitat of little ecological importance.	Negligible importance.
Bare ground	Disturbed ground offering limited ecological value as a habitat.	Negligible importance.
Birds	Woodland, scattered trees and scrub provided nesting and foraging habitat for common and notable bird species, including Starling, Song Thrush and House Sparrow, in an urban area.	Site importance.

Ecological Feature	Justification	Level of Importance
Bats	One Pedunculate Oak tree had dense Ivy cover but negligible potential to support bat. Adjacent Allen's Rough, scattered trees and grassland provided suitable foraging habitat and the desk study returned records within 2 km.	Further surveys required.
Badgers	Suitable habitat is present on site to support Badger. They were identified in the desk study, but no evidence of presence recorded.	Site importance.
Hazel Dormice	Although woodland and scrub provided suitable habitat the site is isolated from the wider landscape.	Negligible importance.
Otter	There was no suitable habitat present on site to support Otter.	Negligible importance.
Water Vole	There was no suitable habitat present on site to support Water Vole.	Negligible importance.
Reptiles	Habitat on site including scrub, grassland and hardstanding provided sheltering and foraging opportunities for use by widespread reptile species. However, the site is isolated from the wider landscape and no records were returned in the desk study.	Site importance.
Amphibians	Suitable terrestrial habitat in the form of grassland, scrub and woodland was present. Nearest aquatic habitat is 450 m from site and separated by housing.	Negligible importance.
Invertebrates	The site has suitability to support common species of invertebrate in the form of flowering plants.	Site importance.
White-clawed Crayfish	There was no suitable habitat present on site to support White-clawed Crayfish.	Negligible importance.
Non-native invasive plants	No Schedule 9 species were recorded during the site visit.	Negligible importance.

6 Ecological Constraints, Opportunities and Recommendations

6.1.1 Habitats

6.1.1.1 *Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland*

The development is proposed immediately adjacent to Allen's Rough woodland, of which some has encroached onto the proposed development site. Therefore, it is assumed some removal of the woodland edge is required. Furthermore, as development works come within close proximity to the woodland, activities are likely to impact on the root zones of the trees present.

It is therefore recommended that any mature or semi-mature trees of local value are retained within the development and root protection zones (PRZs) are implemented to ensure the root area of trees are avoided where possible, and if not possible that the British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction' guidelines are adhered to when working in the vicinity of tree roots. These guidelines provide a range of methods and recommendations about how to minimise damage to tree roots during development. These methods should result in likely compliance with local plans.

6.1.1.2 *Scattered trees*

The proposed development plans assume the loss of a number of scattered immature and semi-mature trees on site. As above, where possible those of greater age and local value are recommended to be retained and incorporated into the development and where RPZs cannot be adhered to, works within hedgerow root zones should follow British Standard guidelines.

Landscape plans should seek to incorporate new native tree planting across the site to compensate for any loss of woodland or scattered trees.

6.2 Species and Species Groups

6.2.1 Birds

Proposed plans will result in the loss of a number of scattered trees and significant areas of scrub and grassland. To prevent causing an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) any vegetation clearance works should take place outside of the breeding bird season (March to August). This will ensure minimal disturbance to birds nesting within proximity to the development. If this is not possible, a nesting bird check by a suitably trained ecologist should be undertaken a maximum of 48 hours prior to the vegetation clearance commencing.

6.2.2 Bats

One Pedunculate Oak tree was assessed as having negligible potential to support roosting bats. No other potential roost features were noted during the survey; however, as a PEA does not include an exhaustive search for potential roost features, it is recommended any semi-mature trees proposed for removal undergo a Ground Level Tree Assessment.

Furthermore, the onsite scrub and grassland as well as immediately adjacent Allen's Rough provide suitable commuting and foraging habitat. It is therefore recommended that, to reduce any impacts to foraging and commuting bats, proposed lighting for both the design and construction phases is installed in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust – Bats and artificial lighting in the UK (2018) which includes:

- *Use of low-pressure sodium lamps, LEDs or high-pressure sodium instead of mercury or metal halide lamps;*
- *Lighting should be directed to where it is needed, and light spillage avoided; and*
- *The height of lighting columns in general should be as short as is possible.*

6.2.3 Badger

The proposed works are within close proximity to habitat suitable for foraging and commuting Badger. It is therefore recommended that any excavations are either backfilled or covered up at the end of each working day, or that ramps/mammal are installed within the excavations to allow any Badgers to escape if they were to fall in. Due to the site's suitability, if the works do not commence within 12 months, then an updated Badger check should be carried out by an ecologist.

6.2.4 Reptiles

Suitable habitat for sheltering and commuting reptiles was present on site, although no records of reptiles were identified in the desk study. Suitable reptile habitats in the form poor semi-improved grassland and dense scrub are proposed for removal; to ensure works do not result in the killing or injuring of reptiles that may be present within these habitats, development should be carried out following a precautionary working method statement that should include appropriate recommendations to ensure no reptiles are harmed as a result of construction of the proposed development.

6.2.5 Invertebrates

Dense scrub and poor semi-improved grassland with the potential to support common invertebrate assemblages is assumed to be lost to development. It is recommended, therefore, that landscaping plans include wildflower planting to compensate for the loss of available habitat and to increase the plant diversity currently dominated by ubiquitous species.

6.3 Other Enhancement Opportunities

To ensure likely compliance with NPPF and Policy ENV1 of the Black Country Core Strategy, it is recommended that Biodiversity Impact Calculations be carried out for the site using a suitable metric (such as The Biodiversity Metric 3.2 issued by Natural England) and submitted alongside the planning application. This will assess the impacts of the development and ensure that there is no net loss in biodiversity, and ideally achieve a net gain in biodiversity, in line with The Environment Act 2021.

Bird boxes should be installed in appropriate locations on trees, to be retained after completion of the works, to increase nesting opportunities. Species specific nest boxes for birds of concern highlighted in the records search are recommended to be incorporated into the building design, such as House Sparrow and Starling. Bat boxes could also be incorporated into the building design as well as added to retained trees or trees within Allen's Rough. Artificial hibernacula such as log piles, should be installed in the retained open space or Allen's Rough, using felled trees from site; this will also increase opportunity for invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals such as Hedgehogs. Retained areas of grassland can also be enhanced through wildflower seeding to increase the species composition on site.

7 Conclusions

The site had potential to support a range of wildlife with the most notable features on site being: semi-natural broadleaved woodland and scattered trees with the potential to support roosting bats and nesting birds, as well as providing foraging and commuting opportunities for Badger, reptiles and invertebrates. Additionally, poor semi-improved grassland and scrub had potential to support sheltering and foraging bats, birds, Badger, reptiles and invertebrates.

Further surveys are recommended for any semi-mature trees proposed for removal to establish their potential to support roosting bats. As presence is unlikely, further surveys are not required for reptiles, but precautionary working methods for vegetation clearance are recommended to minimise disturbance and prevent a breach of legislation by unintentional killing and injury. Recommendations for Badger involve covering all excavations at the end of each workday and an updated check to be undertaken if works do not commence within 12 months of the date of this survey. All works around scattered trees and woodlands should implement root protection zones (RPZs) and, if not possible, then the British Standard guidelines should be adhered to.

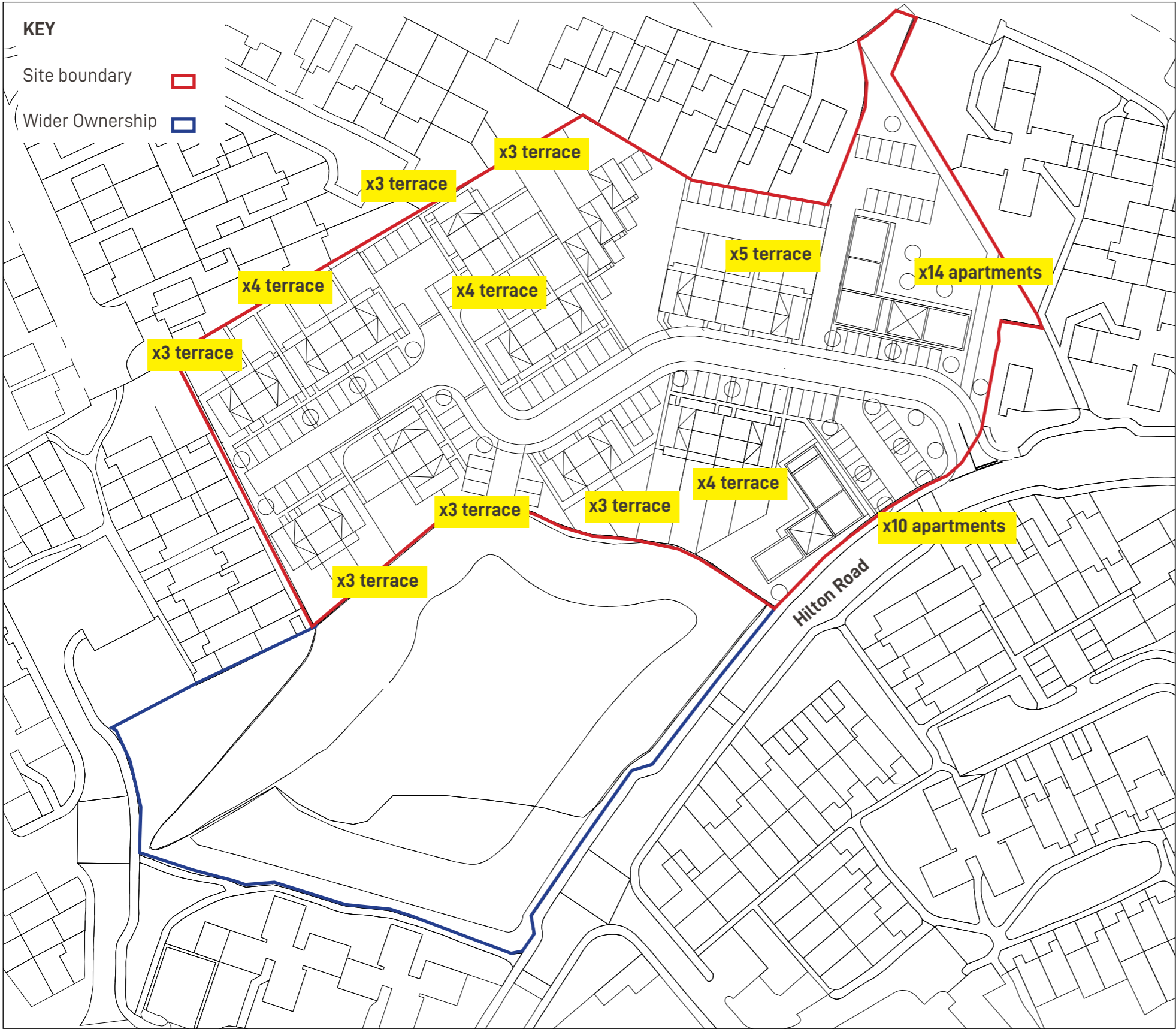
In accordance with the NPPF, The Environment Act 2021 and Black Country Core Strategy, the proposed development should aim to achieve a net gain in biodiversity. A Biodiversity Net Gain assessment is recommended to assess the likelihood of this development achieving a 10% net gain. Recommendations included within this report, such as installing species specific bird boxes for House Sparrow, installing bat boxes, both protecting retained trees and reinstating native trees after works completion, creating hibernacula for reptiles and amphibians from felled material and including native wildflower planting in the landscaping design to improve local foraging availability for birds, bats and invertebrates, will help achieve an overall gain in biodiversity.

8 References

- Bat Conservation Trust (2014).** *Interim Guidance: Recommendations to help minimise the impact artificial lighting*. London, UK.
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- Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Walsall Council, Wolverhampton Council (2001).** *Black Country Core Strategy: Adopted February 2011.*
- JNCC (2010).** *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey. A technique for environmental audit (reprint).* Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.
- NJUG (2007)** *NJUG Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees*, Vol 4 (Issue 2), The National Joint Utilities Group.
- Stace. C. (2019).** *New British Flora of the British Isles.* 4th Edition. Cambridge University Press.

Appendix 1: Proposed Plans

See following page.



Notes

Numbers and mix

59 dwellings in total

17x 2 bed houses
18x 3 bed houses

15x 1 bed apartments
9x 2 bed apartments

Total:

15x 1 bed (22%)
30x 2 bed (47%)
18x 3 bed (31%)

Parking

1x space per 1 bed
2x space per 2+ bed
7 visitor spaces

113 parking spaces in total



**Lambert
Smith
Hampton**

Illustrative masterplan

Project Allen's Centre
Client Walsall Council
Date 19.01.23
No. SK04
Author RCJ
Rev. -
Scale 1:1000 @ A3

Based upon Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright reserved. License number 100022432

Appendix 2: Frame of Reference for Geographical Context

Geographical context	Examples
International and European	<p>Ramsar Sites, Special Protection Areas, Biosphere Reserves, Special Areas of Conservation. Sites supporting populations of internationally important species.</p> <p>Any regularly occurring population of an internationally important species, which is threatened or rare in the UK. i.e. it is a UK Red Data Book species or listed as occurring in 15 or fewer 10km squares in the UK (categories 1 and 2 in the UK BAP) or of uncertain conservation status or of global conservation concern in the UK BAP.</p> <p>A regularly occurring, nationally significant population/number of any internationally important species.</p>
National	<p>SSSIs or non-designated Sites meeting SSSI selection criteria, NNRs, Marine Nature Reserves, NCR Grade 1 Sites. Sites containing viable areas of key habitats identified in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>Any regularly occurring population of a nationally important species which is threatened or rare in the region or county (see local BAP).</p> <p>A regularly occurring, regionally or county significant population/number of any nationally important species.</p>
Regional	<p>Sites containing viable areas of threatened habitats listed in a Regional BAP (or some Natural Areas), comfortably exceeding SINC criteria, but not exceeding SSSI criteria.</p> <p>Any regularly occurring, locally significant population of a species listed as being nationally scarce which occurs in 16-100 10km squares in the UK or in a Regional BAP or relevant Natural Area on account of its regional rarity or localisation;</p> <p>A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a regionally important species.</p>
County / Metropolitan	<p>Sites meeting the criteria for county or metropolitan designation (SINC, CWS, etc.). Ancient semi-natural woodland, LNRs or viable areas of key habitat types listed in county BAPs/Natural Areas.</p> <p>Any regularly occurring, locally significant population of a species which is listed in a County/Metropolitan “red data book” or BAP on account of its regional rarity or localisation;</p> <p>A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a County/Metropolitan important species.</p>
Local	<p>Undesignated Sites or features considered to appreciably enrich the habitat resource in the District or Borough or within a zone of influence.</p> <p>A population of a species that is listed in a District/Borough BAP because of its rarity in the locality or in the relevant Natural Area profile because of its regional rarity or localisation;</p> <p>A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a District / Borough important species during a critical phase of its life cycle.</p>

Appendix 3: Phase 1 Habitat Survey Map

See following page.



Document Path: N:\Projects\FocalPoint\Developers\Pick_Everard\call_off\1051168_Pick_Everard\call_off\1051168_AllensCentre\Phase1_v6.mxd

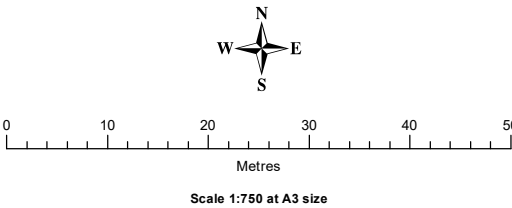
Walsall Council

Allens Centre,
New Invention, Wolverhampton

Phase 1 Survey

- Site boundary
- A Amenity grassland
- Broad-leaved semi-natural woodland
- Dense scrub
- Scattered scrub
- SI Semi-improved grassland
- Tall ruderal
- Introduced shrub
- Hardstanding
- Footpath
- Fence
- Scattered tree
- Target notes

Drawn by Paul Taylor 09/08/2023, Verified by Shannan Poyner 09/08/2023



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Wolverhampton. WV9 5HB. Tel +44(0)1902 271300



Appendix 4: Target Notes



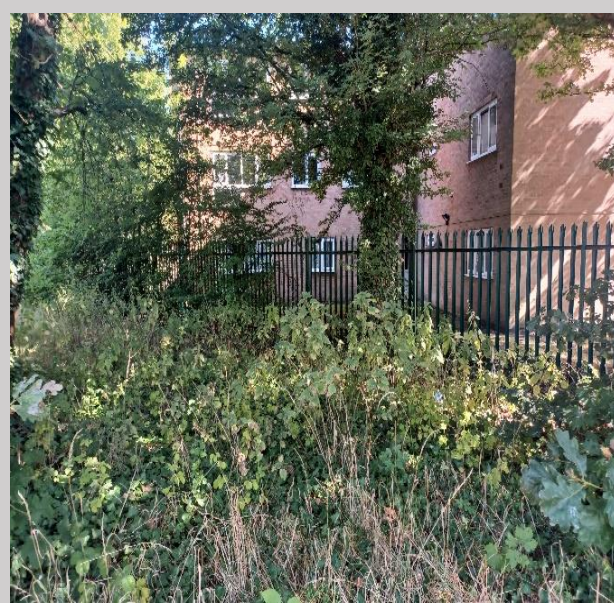
Target Note 1: Dense Common Ivy cover on Pedunculate Oak.



Target Note 2: Locally dominant Common Nettle.



Target Note 3: Locally dominant reed and rush.



Target Note 4: Locally dominant Common Ivy and Common Nettle.

Appendix 5: Photographs



Photograph 1: Semi-natural woodland on southern boundary, adjacent to offsite Allen's Rough.



Photograph 2: Dense scrub immediately west of the entrance at Hilton Road.



Photograph 3: Dense scrub located within a central mosaic.



Photograph 4: Buddleia dominant scrub within small carpark on northern boundary.



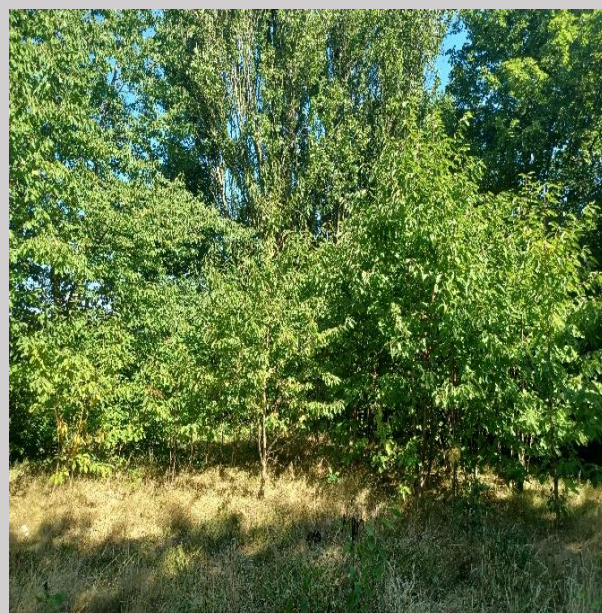
Photograph 5: Bramble dominated scrub on northern boundary.



Photograph 6: Scattered scrub present central to the site.



Photograph 7: Scattered Silver Birch scrub lining hardstanding pathway.



Photograph 8: Self-set Wild Cherry on northeast boundary.



Photograph 9: Semi-mature trees atop semi-improved neutral grassland to the east of the site.



Photograph 10: Lombardy-poplar trees at Sherringham Drive entrance.



Photograph 11: Immature willow along an internal palisade fence.



Photograph 12: Scattered trees on the northern edge of the southern carpark.



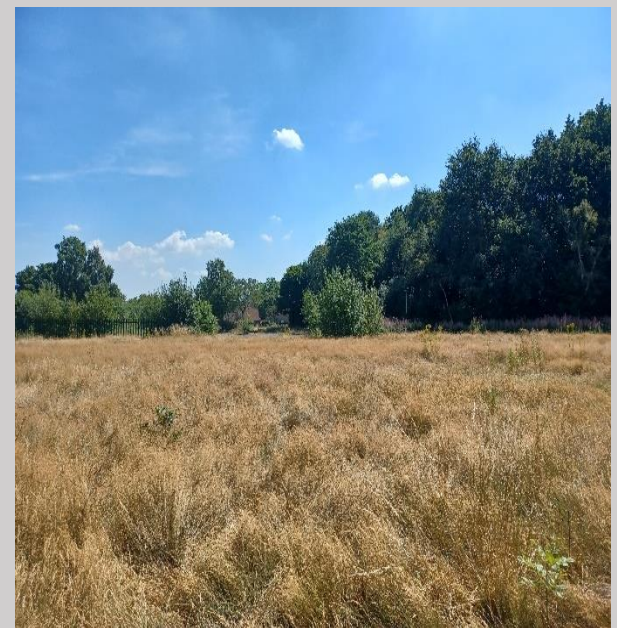
Photograph 13: Mature Silver Birch to the east of central scattered scrub.



Photograph 14: Scattered Silver Birch and Field Maple southeast of the carpark.



Photograph 15: Mature willow and Silver Birch in northwest field.



Photograph 16: Largest area poor semi-improved grassland to the west of the site.



Photograph 17: Cherry Laurel on eastern boundary.



Photograph 18: Hardstanding to the south of the site.