

BRASSEY STREET, LIVERPOOL L8 5XP EXTENDED PHASE 1 HABITAT SURVEY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cheshire Ecology Ltd. was commissioned by The Eloquent Group Ltd. on 25th August 2016 to carry out an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey of land off Brassey Street, Liverpool L8 5XP, henceforth referred to as 'the site'.

The site includes the foundations of a former factory, a parking area and an access road (Brassey Street). The road is blocked at the northern end by a large steel gate and is secured along the southern boundary by a galvanised steel, palisade fence.

The site is located immediately adjacent to the Liverpool to Warrington railway line, which is partially hidden in a tunnel.

The original industrial buildings have been demolished, leaving two narrow strips of concrete and an area of mesotrophic grassland; which has developed on the foundations. Most of the substrate appears to consist of broken bricks and pulverised concrete, which are mixed with the original soil.

There are unlikely to be any impacts upon statutory or non-statutory sites. There are unlikely to be any impacts upon protected species.

There did not appear to be any invasive plants within the site boundary.

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Figure 1: Drawing CE199-001 Location of site.

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 Cheshire Ecology Ltd. was commissioned by The Eloquent Group Ltd. on 25th August 2016 to carry out an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey of land off Brassey Street, Liverpool L8 5XP, henceforth referred to as 'the site'.
- 1.1.2 The centre of the site is located at OS Grid Reference SJ35148 88820 (see Figure 1), at a height of approximately 10m AOD. The site is bounded to the north by Stanhope Street, to the east by Gore Street, to the south by Hill Street and to the west by Beaufort Street. Industrial units are located to the north and west and amenity grassland to the east.

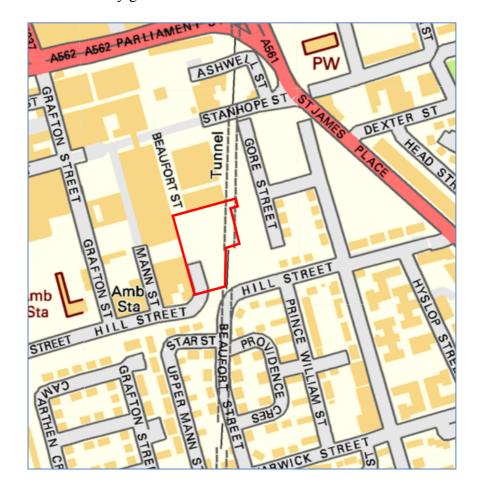


Fig 1: Site Location

- **1.1.3** The purpose of the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey was to determine:
 - The habitats present;
 - Any potential constraints to development;
 - The potential for legally protected species to be present;
 - The presence of invasive plant and animals; and
 - Any requirement for additional ecological surveys.

1.1.4 The Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey included a desktop study of any existing information regarding the site and a site visit.

1.2 Context

- 1.2.1 The site includes the foundations of a former factory, a parking area and an adopted access road (Brassey Street). The factory is blocked at the northern end by a large steel gate and is secured along the southern boundary by a galvanised steel, palisade fence. This has been vandalised and a number of the bars have been removed, enabling access to the enclosed area. The industrial building to the west has been covered by graffiti and large amounts of rubbish have been dumped in the access road. The site nevertheless has considerable potential for development. The site is located immediately adjacent to the Liverpool to Warrington railway line; the majority of which runs in a tunnel.
- 1.2.2 The original industrial buildings have been demolished, leaving two narrow strips of concrete and an area of mesotrophic grassland; which has developed on the foundations. Most of the substrate appears to consist of broken bricks and pulverised concrete, which are mixed with the original soil.
- **1.2.3** The access road has no ecological value.

2 METHODS

2.1 Data trawl

- **2.1.1** The desktop survey involved data searches for statutory and non-statutory sites, legally protected species and other features of interest within a 1km radius of the site. The centre of the site was used for the data search.
- **2.1.2** The following sources were searched for information about the site:
 - Defra's 'MAGIC' website;
 - Google Earth;
 - The NBN Gateway; and the
 - 'Where's the Path' website.
- **2.1.3** The baseline information referred to in this report was obtained from the Merseyside BioBank (MB).

2.2 Planning context

- **2.2.1** The following habitats are the subject of Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) in the North Merseyside Biodiversity Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP);
 - Canals.
 - Coastal saltmarsh.
 - Coastal sand dunes.
 - Conifer woodland.
 - Field boundaries.
 - Lowland acid grassland.
 - Lowland heathland.
 - Lowland mixed broadleaf woodland.
 - Lowland raised bog.
 - Lowland wood-pasture and parkland.
 - Ponds.
 - Reed-beds.
 - Urban grasslands.
 - Urban green infrastructure.
 - Urban trees.
 - Wet woodland
- **2.2.2** The following species are the subject of Species Action Plans (SAPs) in the North Merseyside Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP);
 - Bats.
 - Bluebell.
 - Brown hare
 - Common lizard.
 - Corn bunting.

- Dark green fritillary.
- Dragonflies.
- Dune Helleborine.
- Grayling butterfly.
- Great crested newt.
- Grey partridge.
- Isle of Man cabbage.
- Lapwing.
- Natterjack toad.
- Northern dune tiger beetle.
- Petalwort.
- Purple ramping-fumitory.
- Red squirrel.
- Sand lizard.
- Sand-grass.
- Sandhill rustic moth.
- Sefton coast plants.
- Skylark.
- Song thrush.
- Stoneworts.
- Urban birds.
- Vernal mining-beetle.
- Water vole.

2.3 Survey

- **2.3.1** Cheshire Ecology Ltd. carried out an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey of the site on Monday 5th September 2016. The weather was dry and sunny, with an average temperature of 19°C.
- 2.3.2 The survey was carried out in accordance with the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey methodology as described in *Guidelines for Ecological Assessment* (Institute of Environmental Assessment, 1995). This is a development of the original methodology outlined in the *Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey A technique for environmental audit* (JNCC, 2010). The main habitats were mapped and are shown on drawing CE199-001 'Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan'. Target notes are shown in Appendix A and a list of the plants recorded in Appendix B. A series of representative photographs are shown in Appendix C.
- **2.3.3** Plant names follow the Third Edition of the *New Flora of the British Isles* (Stace, 2010). The common name of the plant is stated first and is followed by the Latin name, on the first occasion that it is used. Only the common name is used subsequently.
- **2.3.4** The surveyor was carried out by Dr Martin Page MCIEEM. The surveyor is a Full Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and adheres to that organisation's Code of Professional Conduct.

2.3.5 The site was searched for evidence of any invasive plants or animals.

2.4 National and Local Planning Policy

- 2.4.1 Local authorities (and other public bodies) have a duty to conserve biodiversity under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. The local authority must take the protection of the priority habitat into consideration when it is making a planning decision.
- 2.4.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012) states that local planning authorities should "promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets, and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan."

2.5 Limitations

2.5.1 The survey was carried out in early September 2016. There were no seasonal limitations.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Statutory and non-statutory sites

3.1.1 Statutory sites within 5km of the site boundary.

Name	Distance from site	Description
New Ferry SSSI	2.3km	The SSSI has large areas of intertidal sand, mud-flats and other habitats. It supports nationally important wintering waterfowl, black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> and pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> . The southern part of the site is dominated by common cordgrass <i>Spartina anglica</i> , with glasswort <i>Salicornia</i> sp. and sea aster <i>Aster tripolium</i> .
Mersey Narrows and North Wirral (Ramsar), Mersey Narrows SSSI	3km	The site includes extensive areas of saltmarsh, rocky shoreline and boulder clay cliffs. The inter-tidal flats are an internationally important feeding ground for waders.
Mersey Estuary Ramsar and SSSI	2.3km	This is a large sheltered estuary with extensive areas of saltmarsh, mudflats and intertidal sand. The site also includes brackish salt marsh, cliffs and rocky shoreline.

Non-statutory sites

3.1.2 There are no non-statutory sites within 1km of the site (MBB, 2016).

Amenity grassland

3.1.3 The former car park consists of tarmac, surrounded on three sides by amenity grassland. This is dominated by perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne*, with white clover *Trifolium repens*, yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, common mouse-ear *Cerastium fontanum* subsp. *holosteoides*,

- cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata* and dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*. The amenity grassland is heavily shaded by deciduous trees.
- **3.1.4** The car park has a thick layer of moss (mainly *Brachythecium rutabulum*), with scattered plants of Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*, cat's-ear *Hypochoeris radicata*, sow-thistle *Sonchus oleraceus* and Canadian fleabane *Conyza canadensis*. The trees consist of nine pedunculate oaks *Quercus robur* and five limes *Tilia* x *europaea*.

Mesotrophic grassland

- 3.1.5 The majority of the former factory site is covered by mesotrophic grassland. Grasses such as false-oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, common bent *Agrostis tenuis* and couch *Eltrigia repens* are dominant. with ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*, white clover, red clover *T. pratense*, hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* and ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*. Other less common species include Canadian fleabane, creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, sow thistle, nipplewort *Lapsana communis*, and common melilot *Melilotus officinale*.
- 3.1.6 Butterfly bush *Buddleja davidii* is common around the margins, with smaller amounts of bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris*. Other species growing on the site include bush vetch *Vicia cracca*, gorse *Ulex europaeus*, broad-leaved dock and hemp agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum*.

Walls and disturbed ground

3.1.7 Ivy-leaved toad flax *Cymbalaria muralis* is common at the bottom of the standing brick walls. The disturbed ground along the western margin has been colonised by curly-leaved dock *Rumex crispus*, brambles, coltsfoot *Tussilago farfara*, ground elder *Aegopodium podagraria* and evening primroses *Oenothera* sp.

Trees

3.1.8 A line of alder trees *Alnus glutinosa* can be seen along the eastern boundary; which is adjacent to a small area of parkland. Other trees include rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* and sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*.

3.2 Protected species

Badgers

- **3.2.1** Badgers *Meles meles* are protected in the United Kingdom by The Protection of the Badgers Act 1992. The protection applies to both the animals and their burrows (setts). Setts are only protected when they are active, even if this is by a single animal and occasionally.
- **3.2.2** It is illegal to do the following:
 - Intentionally capture, kill or injure a badger;

- damage, destroy or block access to their setts;
- disturb badgers in their setts;
- treat a badger cruelly;
- deliberately send or intentionally allow a dog into a sett; and
- bait or dig for badgers.
- 3.2.3 There are no records for badger within 1km of the site boundary (MBB, 2016). Badgers are still persecuted by man and it is not surprising that they are absent from this part of Liverpool.

Bats

- 3.2.4 All bat species are protected in the UK under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). The species are also protected under Annex II of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (the EC Habitats Directive). This has been transposed has been transposed into UK law by means of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) (England and Wales), the Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) and the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended).
- 3.2.5 It is an offence to deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat; deliberately disturb in a way that would affect their local distribution or abundance, or affect their ability to survive, or breed. It is also an offence to damage or destroy a bat roost and to possess, control, transport, sell, exchange or offer for sale/exchange any live or dead bat or any part of a bat.
- 3.2.6 There are only four records of bats within 1km of the site. None of them have been identified beyond the genus. The first record is from 1990, two are from 1991 and the most recent is from 2008 (MBB, 2016). This could be the result of low survey effort or may be a true reflection of the fact that bats are rare in this part of Merseyside.
- 3.2.7 None of the trees within the site boundary, or immediately adjacent to it, have any bat potential. There are no existing records that might indicate that bats are roosting in the tunnels (MBB, 2016).

Birds

- **3.2.8** With certain exceptions, such as game birds, all wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence under the Act to:
 - Intentionally take, damage, or destroy the nest of any wild birds while it is in use or being built; or
 - Take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.
- **3.2.9** Bird species listed on Schedule One of the Act receive further protection, thus for these species is also an offence to:

- Disturb any bird while it is building a nest, or is at a nest containing eggs and young; or
- Disturb the dependent young of any such bird.
- **3.2.10** Fourteen bird species of Conservation Concern (RSPB, 2009) have been recorded within 1km of the site (MBB, 2016).

Common name	Latin name	Red list	Amber list
Bullfinch*	Pyrrhula pyrrhula		•
Dunnock*	Prunella modularis		•
Grey partridge*	Perdix perdix	•	
Greylag goose	Anser anser		•
Herring gull*	Larus argentatus	•	
House Martin	Delichon urbicum		•
House sparrow*	Passer domesticus	•	
Lapwing*	Vanellus vanellus	•	
Linnet*	Linaria cannabina	•	
Reed bunting*	Emberizia schoeniclus		•
Skylark*	Alauda arvensis	•	
Song thrush*	Turdus philomelos	•	
Starling*	Sturnus vulgaris	•	
Swift	Apus apus		•
* A species "of Principal Importance for the purpose of conserving			

^{*} A species "of Principal Importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity" as covered under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006.

- **3.2.11** The only birds that were seen during the survey were a black bird *Turdus merula*, a house sparrow and a feral pigeon. There was no evidence that they were nesting around the site.
- **3.2.12** Birds are unlikely to be a constraint to development.

Hazel Dormouse

- **3.2.13** The hazel dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* is protected in the UK under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is a 'European Protected Species' and protected under Schedule 2 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994. The dormouse is a 'Priority Species' in the UKBAP.
- **3.2.14** There are no records for dormouse within 1km of the site (MBB, 2016) and there is no suitable habitat for them on or near the site.

Invertebrates

3.2.15 Approximately 30,000 species of invertebrates have been recorded in the British Isles. They occur in every habitat, both terrestrial and aquatic. Forty-five species of invertebrate are fully protected under the Wildlife and

Countryside Act 1981.

- **3.2.16** The black-tailed skimmer dragon-fly *Orthetrum cancellatum* and blue-tailed damsel-fly *Ischnura elegans* have been recorded on several occasions from Princes Park. The migrant hawker *Aeschna mixta* has been recorded in Toxteth and the common darter *Sympetrum striolatum* has been found in several locations within 1km of the site (MBB, 2016).
- **3.2.17** Three species of moth; namely the rosy minor *Litoligia literosa*, sallow *Cirrhia icteritia* and shoulder-striped wainscot *Leucania comma* have been recorded with 1km of the site (MBB, 2016). All three are species "of Principal Importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity" as covered under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006.

3.3 Reptiles

- 3.3.1 Six species of reptile occur in England, but only two of them, the smooth snake *Coronella austriaca* and sand lizard *Lacerta agilis*, are fully protected under Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). These species are protected from intentional killing, injuring or taking; possession; intentional disturbance while occupying 'a place used for shelter or protection' and destruction of these places, sale, barter, exchange, transporting for sale and advertising to sell or buy.
- 3.3.2 The adder *Vipera berus*, grass snake *Natrix natrix*, slowworm *Anguis fragilis* and common lizard *Zootoca vivipara* are only protected under sub-section 9(1) and all of sub-section 9(5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, from deliberate killing, injury or trade. The habitats of these species are not protected. All native reptiles are 'Priority Species' in the UKBAP.
- **3.3.3** There are no records for reptiles within 1km of the site boundary (MBB, 2016) and there doesn't appear to very much potential for them on the site.

3.4 Plants

3.4.1 Darnel *Lolium temulentum* was recorded in a 1977 (MBB, 2016). This can probably be considered as a historical record. It is a "Species of Principal Importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity" as covered under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006.

3.5 Invasive plants

3.5.1 There did not appear to be any invasive plants within the site boundary. Butterfly bush was quite common, but this species is not included on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

3.5.2 Japanese knotweed has been recorded from three locations within 1km of the site. Two of the records are from the docks and the third is from Falkner Nursery. All three records are from 1981 or earlier and may have been eradicated. There was no sign of the plant within the site boundary.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 Potential impact on Statutory and non-statutory sites
- **4.1.1** There are unlikely to be any impacts upon statutory or non-statutory sites.
- 4.2 Protected species
- **4.2.1** There are unlikely to be any impacts upon protected species.
- 4.3 Priority habitats
- **4.3.1** There are no priority habitats within the site boundary.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Birds

- **5.1.1** Birds and their nests are protected from disturbance during the breeding season. Trees and scrub should ideally be removed outside the breeding season, which extends from the beginning of March to the end of August. If this is not possible the trees and scrub should be removed under the supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist. Any nests that are found should be left undisturbed until the young have fledged.
- **5.1.2** Berry-bearing native trees such as rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*, dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, spindle *Euonymus europaeus*, honeysuckle, elder *Sambucus nigra*, holly *Hedera helix* and whitebeam *Sorbus aria* should be planted to provide food and nesting opportunities for wild birds. Sloe *Prunus spinosa* should be avoided in a confined space because of its dangerous spines.
- **5.1.3** The site can also be planted with introduced ornamental species that have an ecological value. Ecologically valuable plants include those that produce nectar, fruit and provide cover from predators, such as domestic cats. The average domestic cat has been calculated to kill approximately fourteen birds or small mammals per year (Churcher and Lawton, 2009) and 30% of house sparrow deaths are due to predation by this domestic animal. Shrubs such as *Pyracantha* 'Orange Glow' are armed with thorns and will provide a certain amount of cover for garden birds such as the blackbird.
- 5.1.4 Consideration should be given to installing a number of bird boxes. These can be incorporated into the building or attached on the exterior. There are several different types and brands, but one of the highest regarded is the range produced by Schwegler. These artificial boxes can be installed beneath the eaves of the building (No 17 Schwegler Swift Box) or built into the structure (No 16 Schwegler Swift Box). External boxes have the advantage that they can easily be removed for cleaning.
- 5.1.5 House sparrows have experienced a dramatic decline in numbers due to the loss of habitat, predation and lack of suitable nesting sites. Sparrow terraces are one of the best ways to provide nesting opportunities for the birds. The term 'terrace' comes from the fact that the boxes are provided with a series of holes for access. The Schwegler 1SP Sparrow Terrace can be built into the wall or fixed onto its surface. The majority of Schwegler bird boxes are made from a wood-concrete mixture ('Woodcrete'). This is rot proof and can last for decades. The boxes are available in a stone colour or brown. Alternatively, they can be painted to match the colour of the masonry.

6 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: TARGET NOTES

Target note number	Description
TN1	The site is located immediately next to the
	Liverpool to Warrington Railway line. The
	majority of the railway is located underground,
	but here it is open to the sky for a short distance.
	The railway line is enclosed by brick walls and
	cannot be seen from the site.

APPENDIX B: SPECIES LIST

Latin name	Common name	DAFOR value
Acer platanoides	Sycamore	О
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	F
Aegopodium podagraria	Ground elder	A
Agrostis capillaris	Common bent	D
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping bent	F
Arrhenatherum elatius	False oat-grass	D
Artemisia vulgaris	Mugwort	A
Buddleja davidii	Butterfly bush	D
Calystegia sepium	Hedge bindweed	A
Cerastium fontanum subsp. holosteoides	Common mouse-ear	F
Cirsium arvense	Creeping thistle	F
Cirsium vulgare	Spear thistle	R
Conyza canadensis	Canadian fleabane	A
Cymbalaria muralis	Toadflax	A
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	0
Daucus carota	Wild carrot	R
Eltrigia repens	Couch	F
Equisetum arvense	Field horsetail	0
Eupatorium cannabinum	Hemp agrimony	0
Festuca rubra	Red fescue	F
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	О
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert	О
Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed	F
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire fog	A
Hypochoeris radicata	Cat's-ear	О
Lactuca serriola	Nipplewort	R
Lolium perenne	Perennial ryegrass	A
Lotus corniculatus	Bird's-foot trefoil	О
Medicago lupulina	Black medick	О
Oenothera sp.	Evening primrose	R
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort plantain	F
Plantago major	Greater plantain	R
Potentilla reptans	Creeping cinquefoil	F
Prunella vulgaris	Self-heal	R
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	О
Quercus robur	Pedunculate oak	F
Ranunculus repens	Creeping buttercup	F
Rubus fruticosus	Bramble	F
Rumex crispus	Curled dock	R

Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved dock	О	
Sambucus nigra	Elder	R	
Senecio jacobaea	Ragwort	R	
Senecio vulgare	Groundsel	F	
Sisymbrium officinale	Hedge mustard	R	
Sonchus oleraceus	Smooth sow-thistle	F	
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan	R	
Taraxacum officinale	Dandelion	F	
Tilia x europaea	Lime	R	
Trifolium pratense	Red clover	F	
Trifolium repens	White clover	F	
Tripleurospermum inodorum	Scentless mayweed	R	
Tussilago farfara	Colt's-foot	О	
Ulex europaeus	Gorse	R	
Urtica dioica	Nettle	О	
Vicia cracca	Bush vetch	R	
Vicia sativa	Common vetch	R	
Lower plants:			
Brachythecium rutabulum	Rough-stalked feather- moss	A	

Key to DAFOR scale

D-Dominant

A - Abundant

F – Frequent O – Occasional

R - Rare

NB: This list is not exhaustive.

APPENDIX C: PHOTOGRAPHS



Photograph 1: The right hand side of Brassey Street is lined by oak and lime trees.



Photograph 2: The graffiti problem should disappear when the site is occupied.



Photograph 3: The railway tunnel is situated to the east of the car park.



Photograph 4: A range of deciduous trees can be seen on the opposite side of the eastern boundary.



Photograph 5: Most of the brownfield site is covered by rank grassland, with shrub on the outer edges.



Photograph 6: The site has a relatively diverse flora, as is often the case on brownfield sites.

