

EXTENDED PHASE 1 HABITAT SURVEY OF
NAYLOR STREET, SOUTH OF ORIEL STREET,
LIVERPOOL,
MERSEYSIDE

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Rachel Hacking Ecology Limited was commissioned in 2018 by Smith Young Architecture Limited to undertake an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey of land at Naylor Street, south of Oriel Street, Liverpool, Merseyside. The site will be the subject of a planning application for the construction of over 400 residential apartments, 14 commercial units and basement car parking facilities, with access and hard and soft landscaping.
- 1.2 The development site is situated off Naylor Street and Oriel Street in Liverpool, Merseyside (O.S. grid reference: SJ 34474 91281– see Figure 1). The site comprises an area of hardstanding, currently in use as a busy inner-city car park. Oriel Street lies north of the parcel of land. Ephemeral vegetation and sparse scatted scrub occurs around the boundary of the site. The site is surrounded by roads on the northern, eastern and southern boundaries and industrial units to the west. In a wider context the site is surrounded by commercial and residential developments, infrastructure including roads. Small areas of amenity grassland with trees occur next to the roads.
- 1.3 The aims of the survey were to:
- Describe and map the habitats present on the site
 - Assess the potential for protected species to be present on the site or just outside the immediate site boundary
 - Identify where further survey may be necessary.

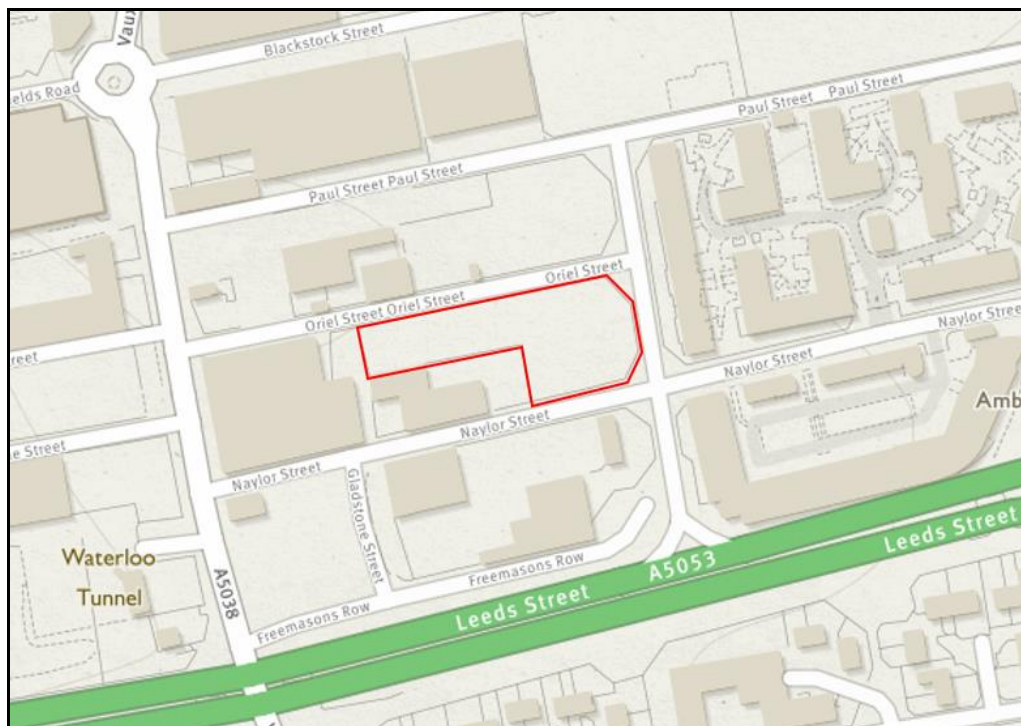


Figure 1 showing the site location within the red line boundary

2.0 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 A Phase 1 Habitat survey was undertaken to JNCC standards (JNCC, 2010). The site was walked, and each habitat was assigned a Phase 1 habitat category. Species lists were taken at locations of botanical interest. All botanical nomenclature follows Stace, 2010. A Phase 1 map was produced showing habitat boundaries.
- 2.2 During the Phase 1 survey, the habitats were assessed for their potential to support protected species. This included looking for signs of Badger activity (e.g. setts, paths, latrines and hairs on fences), assessing any waterbodies on site or near the site for their potential to support Great Crested Newt and assessing the potential for any buildings or mature trees to be used by bats.
- 2.3 The site was also surveyed for invasive, non-native plant species such as Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed.
- 2.4 Kate Reed and Rosie Fisher (Ecologists) undertook the survey on 26th February 2018. The weather was overcast and cool. Both surveyors have over four years of experience of habitat and protected species surveys and are fully trained. The site was fully accessible and there were no constraints to the survey. February is a sub-optimal time of year for botanical assessments, however, given the habitats present on site a thorough assessment was possible at this time. February is within the optimal time of year for protected species assessments. There were no constraints to the survey and the site could be fully accessed.

3.0 RESULTS

HABITATS

- 3.1 The Phase 1 Habitat Map can be found at the back of the report. The habitats present are described below.

Bare Ground

- 3.2 The dominant habitat on the site is bare ground (see Photograph 1). This is an area of hardstanding, currently in use as a busy car park.



Photograph 1 showing the bare ground in the northern car park

Ephemeral/Short Perennial

- 3.3 Around the site boundaries and within cracks in the hardstanding, ephemeral vegetation has established (see Photograph 2). Species include Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Black Medick *Medicago lupulina*, Annual Meadow-grass *Poa annua*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, Cleavers *Galium aparine*, Mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens* and Common Nettle *Urtica dioica*.



Photograph 2 showing the ephemeral vegetation

Scattered Scrub

- 3.4 A small amount of scattered scrub has developed within the ephemeral vegetation. Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg., Butterfly Bush *Buddleja davidii* and Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* (see Photograph 3).



Photograph 3 showing the scattered scrub

Other Habitats

- 3.5 A metal, container unit occurs on the site. This is used as a shelter for the car park attendants (see Photograph 4).



Photograph 4 showing a container unit

Boundary Habitats

- 3.6 Most of the site boundaries are marked with fencing or brick walls. Vegetation is growing within the gaps of the brickwork (see Photograph 4). Dominant species include Butterfly Bush *Buddleja davidii*, Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, Common Polypody *Polypodium vulgare* and Hart's-tongue *Asplenium scolopendrium*.



Photograph 4 showing one of the boundary walls

PROTECTED SPECIES

Badger

- 3.7 Badgers *Meles meles* are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. This Act, makes it illegal to disturb a Badger whilst it is in a sett, to kill, injure or take a badger and to obstruct the entrance to a Badger sett.
- 3.8 No evidence of Badger activity, such as latrines or snuffle holes, was found during the survey. No Badger setts were found on the site or immediately adjacent to the site.

Bats

- 3.9 All bat species are European Protected Species under the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994. This is implemented in the UK through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Bats are also protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC, 2006). It is illegal to disturb or damage a bat roost.
- 3.10 The container unit does not provide suitable bat roosting habitat. It is well-sealed and no access points for bats to the internal space could be found. No cavities suitable for roosting bats could be found on the unit and the building has a flat roof which also is in good condition. The container unit offers 'negligible' suitability to support a bat roost. There are no mature trees on site. The site does not support any other suitable bat roosting habitat. Given the inner-city location, and lack of linear habitats, it is unlikely that bats will use the site for foraging.

Great Crested Newt

- 3.11 Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus* is a European Protected Species (EPS). It is listed under Annex IV of the EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora. This is implemented in the UK through The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the species is fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- 3.12 No ponds are present on the site or within 250 metres of the site. Terrestrial Great Crested Newt habitat is poorly represented on the site. The hardstanding is considered hostile to amphibians. The scattered scrub is too sparse to provide suitable habitat for Great Crested Newt.

Nesting Birds

- 3.13 All bird species are protected at their nest under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- 3.14 The car park is busy and there are high levels of disturbance. No suitable vegetation for nesting birds occurs. No bird activity was noted during the survey.

INVASIVE SPECIES

- 3.15 No non-native, invasive plant species, as listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), are present on site.

PROTECTED SITES

- 3.16 No statutory protected sites lie within the site boundary or immediately adjacent to the site boundary. Three statutory protected sites lie within 3.5km of the site. Two of these Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore RAMSAR site and Mersey Narrows Site of Special Scientific interest (SSSI), cover the western bank of the River Mersey Estuary, 1.8km to the west of the proposed development site. Liverpool Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) is a marine designation covering the estuary and this lies 1km away from the proposed development. The proposed development occurs within a built-up area with suitable buffer zones between the protected sites and the development.
- 3.17 No non-statutory protected sites occur on site or immediately adjacent to the site. Two Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) occur within 3.5km of the site. Leeds-Liverpool Canal LWS occurs 0.6km to the west of the proposed development. Melrose Cutting LWS lies 2.3km to the north of the site. All these sites occur within built up areas and are surrounded by large amounts of infrastructure. There is no habitat connectivity from the protected sites to the site.
- 3.18 The proposed development site lies within a SSSI Impact Risk Zone, which lists certain types of development that may have a negative impact on protected sites nearby. Development proposals including over 50 residential units are listed as a concern; therefore, Natural England may be consulted during a planning application.

4.0 ASSESSMENT

HABITATS

- 4.1 The Phase 1 Habitat types present on site are common throughout the UK. No nationally rare or locally rare plant species were located during the extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey.
- 4.2 The site offers very limited ecological value. The scattered scrub and ephemeral vegetation offer a limited pollen and nectar source for invertebrates. The hardstanding is of little value to wildlife. The site is in use and therefore disturbed.

Development Context

- 4.3 The development will involve the loss of hardstanding, scattered scrub and ephemeral vegetation. Given the ecologically poor habitats to be lost, no specific habitat mitigation is considered necessary. The proposed soft landscaping includes green/brown roofs, native trees, water gardens with aquatic vegetation added and shrub beds, which will all bring biodiversity gain to the site.

PROTECTED SPECIES

Badger

- 4.4 No Badger sett was located on the site or immediately adjacent to the site. No evidence of Badger activity was found. Badger is not considered to be a constraint on development at this time.

Bats

- 4.5 The container unit on site offers negligible suitability to support a bat roost. There are no mature trees on site. The site offers limited bat foraging and commuting habitat. No other further bat survey work is considered to be necessary.

Great Crested Newt

- 4.6 No ponds are present on site or within 250 metres of the site. The site supports little suitable terrestrial habitat for Great Crested Newt; therefore, Great Crested Newt is not considered to be a constraint on the development and no further newt survey work is necessary.

Nesting Birds

- 4.7 The scrub on site is young and not dense enough to support nesting birds. There are also high levels of disturbance within the busy car park. Nesting birds are not considered to be a constraint on development at this time.

PROTECTED SITES

- 4.8 The nearest statutory protected site is The Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore RAMSAR site which is 1.8km away from the site and

is also designated as Mersey Narrows SSSI. The nearest non-statutory protected site is Leeds-Liverpool Canal LWS. There is a large amount of infrastructure between the statutory protected site and the proposed development site. There is no habitat connectivity between the protected sites and the development site. Given the distances involved, and the buffer habitats it is considered unlikely that the development would negatively impact the protected sites. The site lies within a SSSI Impact Risk Zone and Natural England may be consulted during the planning application.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The presence of protected species is a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a planning application. The presence of protected species and the effect of the proposed development must be established before planning permission can be granted. Following the results of the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey, the following work is recommended:

- **Nesting Birds** - If an active birds nest should be discovered on site, then works should cease and an experienced ecologist be contacted for advice.

Habitat enhancement and creation

5.2 The following measures are general recommendations to enhance the biodiversity value of the site:

- Tree planting – where practical, native tree species should be planted.
- Soft landscaping should include the provision of native and non-native flowering perennial species, to provide a pollen and nectar source for invertebrates.

6.0 REFERENCES

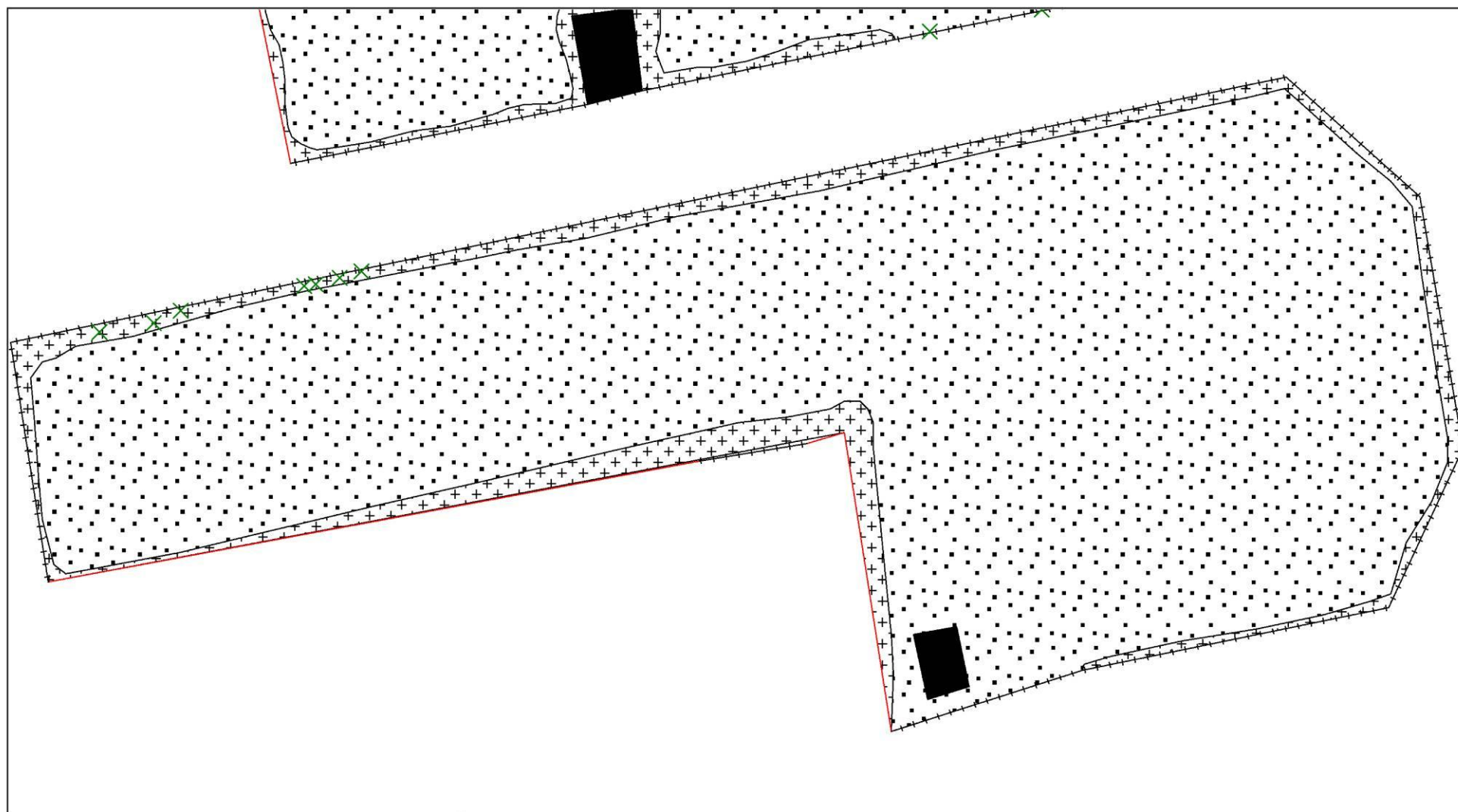
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




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PHASE 1 HABITAT MAP



Key

-  Bare Ground
-  Ephemeral Short Perennial
-  Building
-  Fence
-  Wall
-  Scattered Scrub

Phase 1 Habitat Map

Naylor Street, South of Oreil Street, Liverpool

Drawn by: KR
Date: 14/03/2018

NOT TO SCALE

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