

Hollingworth Road, Littleborough

11833_R01_Ecology Technical Note

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1. This note has been prepared on behalf of Bloor Homes in response to an ecological walkover survey undertaken in August 2018 at the above-named site. The note should be read alongside the **Habitat Features Plan (11833 / P01)**, as well as photographs that are contained within.
- 1.2. This note provides a high-level overview and ecological advice in relation to the proposed future residential development of land at Hollingworth Road, Littleborough (hereafter referred to as 'the site'). It does not constitute a comprehensive assessment of ecological issues, which would require additional fieldwork at the site.

2.0 Site Context

- 2.1. The site is located approximately 4 miles east of Rochdale, covering an area of 17.3 hectares centred around OS grid reference SD 93341 15448 (see **Habitat Features Plan 11833 / P01**).
- 2.2. Lower Cleggswood Farm is located at the centre of the site and is surrounded by horse- and cattle-grazed (improved/marshy) grassland bordered by dry stone walls. A railway line and the Rochdale Canal run along the northern site boundary, and Hollingworth Lake Country Park is located immediately south of the site, across Lake Bank. Hollingworth Road runs along the eastern site boundary, and residential development lies to the west. A number of public footpaths transverse the site.
- 2.3. In the wider context, the site is surrounded by agricultural fields, and residential development – the village of Smithy Bridge is located immediately west of the site.

3.0 Planning & Legislative Context

Legislation

- 3.1. Specific habitats and species receive legal protection in the UK under various pieces of legislation, including:
 - The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
 - The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017
 - The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
 - The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
 - The Hedgerows Regulations 1997
 - The Protection of Badgers Act 1992
- 3.2. The European Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna, 1992, often referred to as the 'Habitats Directive', provides for the protection of key

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habitats and species considered of European importance. Annexes II and IV of the Directive list all species considered of community interest. The legal framework to protect the species covered by the Habitats Directive has been enacted under UK law through The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

- 3.3. In Britain, the WCA 1981 (as amended) is the primary legislation protecting habitats and species. SSSIs, representing the best examples of our natural heritage, are notified under the WCA 1981 (as amended) by reason of their flora, fauna, geology or other features. All breeding birds, their nests, eggs and young are protected under the Act, which makes it illegal to knowingly destroy or disturb the nest site during nesting season. Schedules 1, 5 and 8 afford protection to individual birds, other animals and plants.
- 3.4. The CRoW Act 2000 strengthens the species enforcement provisions of the WCA 1981 (as amended) and makes it an offence to 'recklessly' disturb a protected animal whilst it is using a place of rest or shelter or breeding/nest site.
- 3.5. Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 lists UK priority species and habitats subject to conservation action, which are referred to as Species of Principal Importance (SoPIs) or Habitats of Principal Importance (HoPIs). Section 41 of the NERC Act states that local planning authorities must have regard for the conservation of both SoPIs and HoPIs.
- 3.6. The Hedgerows Regulations 1997 restrict the removal of hedgerows, or parts of hedgerows over 20m in length (but note gaps of less than 20m are not classed as gaps, so e.g. a defunct hedgerow 10m in length with a 15m gap and then a 20m length would be classed as a 45m hedgerow). This legislation prevents digging up and replanting the hedgerow elsewhere, destroying it completely, or impacting on their roots in situ, causing them to die.
- 3.7. The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 consolidates the previous Badger Acts of 1973 and 1991. The legislation aims to protect the species from persecution, rather than being a response to an unfavourable conservation status. As well as protecting the animal itself, the 1992 Act also makes the intentional or reckless destruction, damage or obstruction of a badger sett an offence. A sett is defined as 'any structure or place which displays signs indicating current use by a badger'. In addition, the intentional elimination of sufficient foraging area to support a known social group of badgers may, in certain circumstances, be construed as an offence by constituting 'cruel ill treatment' of a badger. Badgers are not the subject of conservation action.

Local Planning Policy

- 3.8. The site falls within the administrative borough of Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council (www.rochdale.gov.uk). The Council's planning policies are set out in the council's Core Strategy¹ which was adopted in October 2016, and the Rochdale Unitary Development Plan (UDP)² which was adopted in June 2006. Many of the policies will remain until they are replaced by the Allocations Development Plan.
- 3.9. Objectives in the Core Strategy relating to ecology include SO4 which aims 'to promote a greener environment'. Policies within this objective include G7 'increasing the value of

¹ <http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-planning-policy/the-local-plan/core-strategy/Pages/default.aspx>, accessed 24/08/18

² <http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-planning-policy/unitary-development-plan/Pages/default.aspx>, accessed 24/08/18

biodiversity and geodiversity’ and G6 ‘enhancing green infrastructure’. Objectives in the UPD relating to ecology that will need to be considered as part of development proposals include:

- Conserving the natural environment, including biodiversity (objective KO/3, policies G/BE/9, G/NE/1, G/RE/1), and focussing and encouraging environmental improvements within regeneration areas (objective KO/3, policy G/R/1);
- Recreational open space / financial contributions to off-site provision secured through new housing developments (objectives KO/2, KO/3, G/SP/3, policy G/2);
- Changes (additions, deletions and grades) in areas with protected status (objective KO/3, policy NE/2);
- Changes in number of regionally/locally distinctive species and habitats (objective KO/3, policy NE/2 – 4);
- Significant new habitats established through new development management programme or planning agreement (objective KO/3, policy NE/2 – 4);
- Area of woodland cover (objectives KO/3 and G/SP/2, policy NE/9 – 10); and
- Numbers and extent of sites upon which commitments have been secured to secure new woodland planting and management / improvement (objectives KO/3 and G/SP/2, policy NE/9 – 10).

3.10. Policies in the Rochdale UPD relating to the natural environment are:

- G/NE/1 nature conservation – sites and features of nature conservation value will be given full and appropriate recognition and protection, including creation/enhancement of sites, with the aim of increasing local biodiversity;
- NE/2 designated sites of ecological and geological/geomorphological importance – development adversely affecting sites will not be permitted;
- NE/3 biodiversity and development – effect of land use changes on existing features, species and habitats of ecological value will be taken into account in assessing proposals. Any development should seek to retain such features and incorporate them into development. Compensatory measures of an equivalent nature and value, commensurate with the scale and type of development may be required where features are affected by development. Developments which establish new landscaping and open spaces that will contribute to nature conservation and local biodiversity will be supported and encouraged;
- NE/4 protected species – planning conditions will be used to secure the protection of species and their habitats, where required;
- G/NE/5 landscape and woodlands – measures to secure the protection and enhancement of existing woodlands and establish new woodland planting in appropriate locations will be carried out and encouraged; protection/enhancement should provide clear benefits for biodiversity;
- NE/7 tree preservation orders – no work of any nature should be carried out which could possibly affect the health of a tree or trees included in a Tree Preservation Order without the proper written authority of the Council;
- NE/8 development affecting trees, woodlands and hedgerows – proposals should ensure space for successful retention of trees/woodland/hedges, and that new planting is appropriate; suitable care and protection of trees and their environment during construction should be undertaken;
- NE/9 protection of woodlands – the Council will take measures to conserve and enhance existing woodlands, including ancient woodlands, which are important for their contribution to biodiversity, landscape, amenity, and for their recreational and commercial value; and
- NE/10 new woodland planting – the Council will support proposals and initiatives which increase the amount and quality of new woodland planting.

- 3.11. The Greater Manchester Biodiversity Audit and Action Plan (BAP) includes a series of Biodiversity Action Plans for priority species and habitats at national, regional and county level. The BAP³ covers the following:
- Habitats: grasslands, hedgerows, lowland mosslands, reedbeds and bittern, ponds and lodges, canals, native woodlands, uplands, and urban managed greenspace; and
 - Species: bats, black redstart, farmland birds, great crested newt, hares, native black poplar, twite, water voles and willow tit.
- 3.12. The council has also produced a 'Biodiversity and Development Supplementary Planning Document'⁴ (SPD), and a 'Provision of Recreational Open Space in New Housing SPD'⁵. The latter sets out the requirement for, and minimum extent of open space including play areas on new housing developments. The former aims to ensure no net loss of ecological interests or assets, and that opportunities to enhance such interests are incorporated into development proposals.
- 3.13. Additionally, details in respect of requirements for new developments on or adjacent to European Protected Sites will be contained within the Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) which is currently being produced – proposals affecting the conservation interests of European sites will require a Habitats Regulations Assessment as well as any required Environmental Assessment.

4.0 Ecology Context

- 4.1. A site walkover survey was conducted on the 22nd August 2018 by Georgina Palmer, an experienced field ecologist. The weather was overcast, cloudy (100% cover), warm (20°C) and with a moderate breeze (Beaufort scale 4). The methods used during the walkover survey broadly followed methods used in an 'extended' Phase I habitat survey. The technique is based upon Phase I survey methodology (JNCC, 2010). This 'extended' Phase I technique provides an inventory of the habitat types present and dominant species.
- 4.2. A desk-based data search was conducted to identify any statutory and non-statutory sites present close to, or within, the site, which could present a potential constraint on development. This data search has been undertaken for a 10km radius around the site for European statutory sites, and a 2km radius for national statutory sites. Locations of non-statutory sites (Sites of Biological importance, SBI) were obtained from the Greater Manchester Record Centre's website⁶ – for this high-level note, SBI citations⁶ have not been requested. Similarly, no protected- or priority species data has been requested or received from the local records centre.
- 4.3. With the exception of the gardens surrounding the farm buildings, all of the site was accessed during the initial site visit, which is mapped on the **Habitat Features Plan (11833 / P01)**.

Statutory Protected Sites

- 4.4. There are two European/nationally designated sites within 10km of the site. These are:

³ <http://www.gmbp.org.uk/site/images/stories/introduction%20gm%20bap%2009.pdf>, accessed 24/08/18

⁴ <http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/pdf/2017-02-21-biodiversity-development-spd-updated-v2.pdf>, 24/08/18

⁵ <http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/pdf/2017-02-21-recreational-open-space-spd-updated-v2.pdf>, 24/08/18

⁶ <https://gmwildlife.org.uk/mapapp/>, accessed 30/08/18

- Rochdale Canal Special Area of Conservation (SAC)⁷ and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)⁸ immediately adjacent to the north of the site; and
- South Pennine Moors SAC⁹/SSSI¹⁰ and South Pennine Moors Phase 2 Special Protection Area (SPA) with is located 1.4km east of the site.

4.5. SAC / SPA designations are of **international ecological importance**, and SSSIs are of **national ecological importance**.

4.6. The South Pennine Moors SAC / SSSI / SPA contains “*the largest area of unenclosed moorland within West Yorkshire and contains the most diverse and extensive examples of upland plant communities in the country*”. Three habitat types are listed on Annex 1 of the EC Habitats and Species Directive (92/43) EEC: ‘European dry heaths’, ‘blanket bogs’ and ‘old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles’. This site supports a moorland breeding bird assemblage of national importance, including (inter)nationally-important breeding populations of merlin *Falco columbarius*, curlew *Numenius arquata*, golden plover *Pluvialis aprocaria* and twite *Carduelis flavirostris*. It also supports several regionally important plant communities, including bog pondweed *Potamogeton polygonifolius* and chickweed wintergreen *Trientalis europaea*.

4.7. Rochdale Canal SAC / SSSI contains “*important habitats for submerged aquatic plants and emergent vegetation, including extensive colonies of nationally scarce SAC species of floating water-plantain Luronium natans*”, as well as pondweeds *Potamogeton* spp. The canal supports a diverse invertebrate assemblage, including nationally scarce water beetle *Agabus uliginosus* (Notable B) and the pea mussel *Pisidium pulchellum*. Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* (protected under Schedule 1 of the WCA 1981 [as amended]) have also been recorded.

4.8. It is possible that the development could lead to indirect impacts on the qualifying features of the Rochdale Canal and the South Pennine Moors. Therefore, a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening may be required to determine the potential for impacts on their qualifying features.

4.9. The site also falls within an Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) of a SSSI site, which requires consultation with Natural England for all planning applications, including ‘residential development of 50 units or more’.

4.10. There are no other statutorily designated sites within 2km of the site.

Non-Statutory Protected Sites

4.11. Sites of Biological Importance (SBI) are sites of nature conservation importance defined on a Greater Manchester wide basis, which contain valuable habitats, animal and plant communities, and also locally rare habitat types. They are classified under 3 grades: grade ‘A’ sites are of ‘county or regional importance’, grade ‘B’ sites are those of ‘district importance’ and grade ‘C’ sites are of ‘more than local importance’.

4.12. There are four SBIs in the vicinity of the site:

⁷ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/sac.asp?euocode=UK0030266>, accessed 30/08/18

⁸ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s2000430>, accessed 30/08/18

⁹ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/sac.asp?euocode=UK0030280>, accessed 30/08/18

¹⁰ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1007196>, accessed 30/08/18

- Rochdale Canal (Scowcroft to Warland) SBI, immediately north of the site;
- Hollingworth Lake SBI immediately south of the site;
- South Pennine Moors (north) SBI 1.4km east of the site; and
- Slopes by River Beal, Fir Grove Farm SBI, 1.9km south-west of the site.

4.13. Given the nature of development proposals it is possible that the development could impact on local wildlife sites within the vicinity of the site, particularly the Rochdale Canal and the Hollingworth Lake SBIs, which are adjacent to site. As well as impacts on species / habitats in these areas, there is also the potential for increased recreational impacts, which would also need to be considered.

Habitats and flora

4.14. The site supports the following habitats:

- Amenity grassland;
- Buildings;
- Dry stone walls;
- Hardstanding;
- Hedgerow and scattered trees;
- Improved grassland (pasture);
- Marshy grassland; and
- Tall ruderal.

4.15. For ease of reference, habitat types have been described alphabetically, below. All the features described are shown on the **Habitat Features Plan (11833 / P01)**.

Amenity grassland

4.16. There is a small area of amenity grassland which forms the gardens surrounding the farm buildings in the middle of the site (**Photograph 1**).



Photograph 1. Amenity grassland fenced off around the farm buildings on site.

Buildings

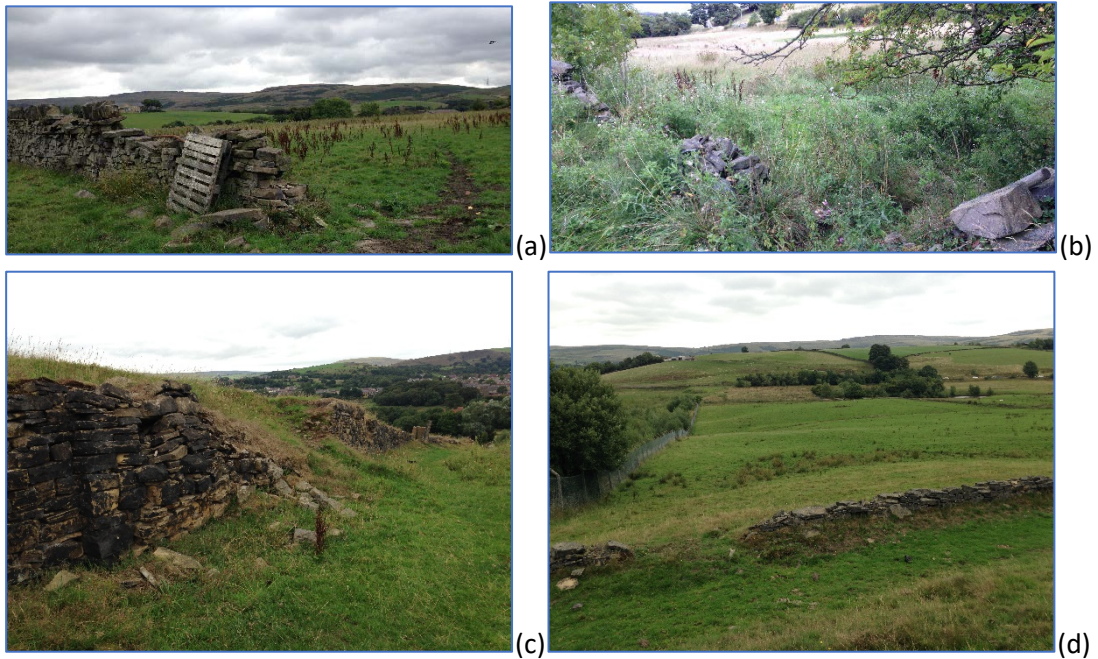
4.17. There are a group of farm buildings including a stone farm house, stone barns and brick/stone storage sheds in the middle of the site (**Photograph 2a-g**) as well as a small concrete building used as a chicken coop and a static caravan towards the south of the site (**Photograph 2h**).



Photograph 2. Buildings on site.

Dry stone walls

- 4.18. There are numerous drystone walls across the site, as shown on **Habitat Features Plan 11833 / P01**. These walls are mostly defunct; some walls across the site are within embankments (e.g. **Photograph 3c**) while others are derelict and at ground level (**Photograph 3d**).



Photograph 3. Drystone walls on site. The wall in (c) is denoted by the target note on Habitat Features Plan 11833 / P01.

Hardstanding

- 4.19. There is an access road into the site from Lake Bank, as shown on **Photograph 4**.



Photograph 4. Access road to the farm buildings on site.

Hedgerows and scattered trees

- 4.20. There are several mature hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* bushes/trees which most likely mark out an old hedgerow at the north of the site, down towards the canal (**Photograph 5a**). Elsewhere, there are a few scattered trees along field margins (e.g. **Photograph 5b**), around the farm house (**Photograph 4**) and along the access road at the south of the site (**Photograph 5c**).



Photograph 5. Hawthorn trees at the north of the site (a) and along the drystone wall field margin (b), and broadleaved trees lining the access road on site (c).

- 4.21. Hedgerows provide wildlife corridors along the site boundary and connect to the wider landscape. Existing hedgerows and trees are recommended to be retained and incorporated in to the sites green infrastructure layout, where possible. Defunct hedgerows can also be enhanced, as part of the development.

Improved grassland (pasture)

- 4.22. The majority of the site comprises horse and cattle-grazed improved grassland (**Photograph 6**). The grassland is species-poor and contains common grass species such as Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus* and rough meadow grass *Poa trivialis*. Other species recorded in this habitat include common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, willowherb *Chamerion* sp., white cover *Trifolium repens*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata* and very occasional ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*.



Photograph 6. Horse-grazed grassland looking towards the canal on the northern boundary (a) and east, from the western boundary (b).

Marshy grassland

- 4.23. Marshy grassland on site is dominated by soft rush *Juncus effusus*, with some compact rush *J. conglomeratus*, water-pepper *Persicaria vivipara*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, marsh horsetail *Equisetum palustre* and field horsetail *E. arvense*.



Photograph 7. Marshy grassland on site, looking towards the eastern boundary from the farm buildings.

Tall ruderal

- 4.24. There are some disturbed areas supporting tall ruderal vegetation dominated by nettle *Urtica dioica*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and creeping thistle in the middle of the site, as shown on **Photograph 8**.



(a)

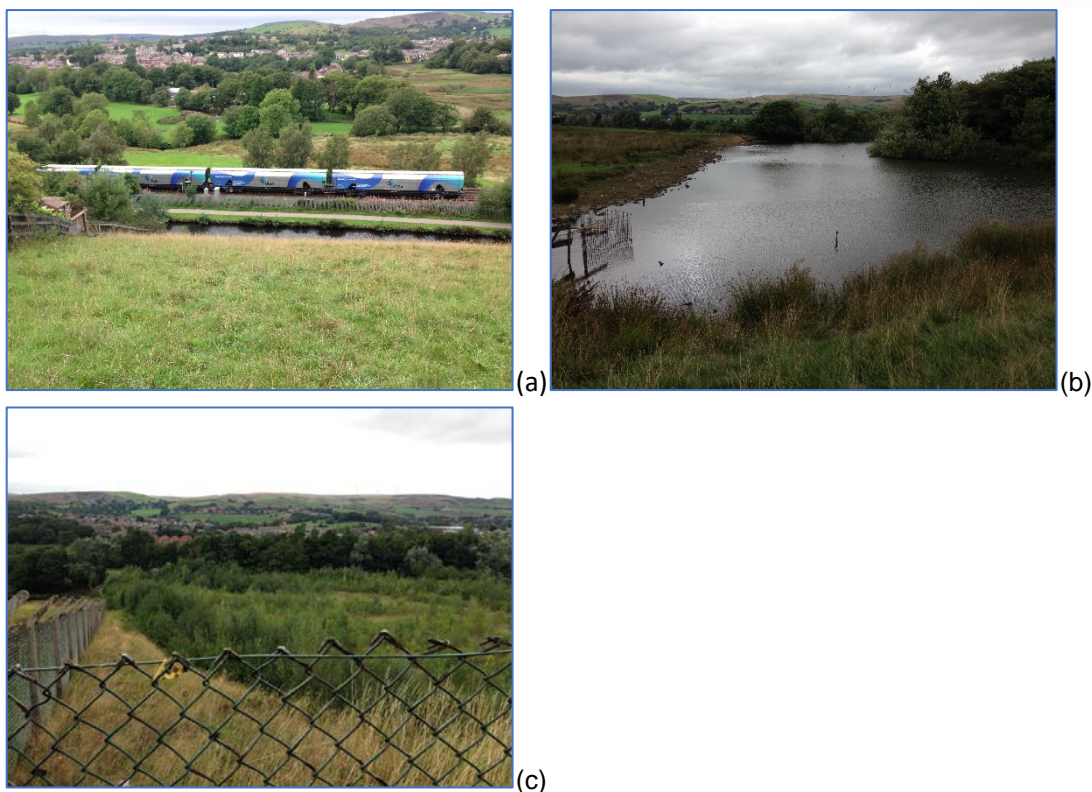


(b)

Photograph 8. Tall ruderal vegetation on site.

Habitats adjacent to the site

- 4.25. The Rochdale Canal and a railway line are located immediately north of the site, with no physical boundaries between them and the site (**Photograph 9a**). To the west of the site, there are fields of unmanaged tussocky grassland and scrub (**Photograph 9b**), and a large pond (**Photograph 9c**). Residential development runs along the western boundary, and Hollingworth Lake (part of Hollingworth Lake Country Park) is located immediately south of the site, across Lake Bank road.



Photograph 9. Offsite habitats – canal and railway (a), large pond (b) and unmanaged tussocky grassland and scrub (c).

Invasive non-native species

- 4.26. No invasive non-native species were recorded on site.

Fauna

- 4.27. The information below is based upon habitats / species encountered during the Phase I survey – for this note, no protected- or priority species data has been requested or received from the local records centre. If the site is going forward, these data should be obtained to help inform required surveys and potential impacts on species.

Badger

- 4.28. No evidence of badger (such as latrines, setts, hairs or prints) were recorded during the walkover survey. However, there are suitable habitats on- and adjacent to the site which have the potential to support badgers – especially the embankments along the access road at the south of the site, and in woodland / scrub adjacent to the site boundaries.
- 4.29. It is recommended that a badger survey is conducted prior to any development of the site to assess their status on the site.
- 4.30. Should badger sett(s) be found within the site prior to the commencement of works, it may be necessary to either provide a suitable buffer (up to 30m) to the sett(s) or to close off the sett(s) entirely, if providing a buffer is considered impractical. Should a sett closure be required a licence from Natural England will be required for the works. If badgers are found to be using the site for foraging, it is considered that there is adequate foraging habitat within surrounding areas, and so no mitigation would be required.

Bats

- 4.31. The buildings have roosting potential for bats and there are also several mature trees present on site which could support roosting bats. Dry stone walls across the site also have the potential to support roosting bats, particularly the walls which edge the embankment along the north-eastern boundary (see target note on Habitat Features Plan **11833 / P01**).
- 4.32. All trees which are to be affected by the development should be subject to more detailed inspections prior to any planning application, and a preliminary roost assessment (PRA) should be undertaken on the dry stone walls and the buildings. These assessments will be used to determine the need for, and scope of, emergence / re-entry bat surveys which may be required to inform European Protected Species (EPS) bat mitigation licences.
- 4.33. The site is also likely to be used by foraging and commuting bats, particularly along woodland edges, hedgerows, and on the boundaries of the site adjacent to the pond and canal. Bat activity surveys would be required, to obtain data to ensure development proposals do not lead to a reduction in habitat resources for bats.

Birds

- 4.34. The woodland edge, trees, hedgerows, stone walls and fields present within the site are likely to provide nesting and foraging habitat for a range of species, including priority species. The site also has the potential to support populations of wintering birds including waders using the lake and pond adjacent to site, as well as the species for which the South Pennines SPA is designated. As such, wintering bird surveys and breeding bird surveys will be required at the site to inform any necessary mitigation.
- 4.35. The farm buildings on site provide suitable habitat for barn owl *Tyto alba* – surveys will be required (ideally in June / July when any potential nests would be occupied) prior to submission of a planning application to inform any necessary mitigation.
- 4.36. All wild birds, their nests and eggs are afforded protection under the WCA 1981 (as amended). As such, the removal of woody vegetation or demolishing of buildings during the bird breeding season could trigger this legislation, which protects birds while actively nesting. Development proposals should therefore include measures for timing vegetation clearance to avoid the breeding bird season where possible, or other measures to avoid disturbance to breeding birds where works have to proceed whilst birds are likely to nesting.

Great crested newt and other amphibians

- 4.37. Hedgerows, dry stone walls, woodland edges, and grassland on site all provide high quality terrestrial habitat for great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*. There are also three waterbodies within 250m of the site, which may provide suitable breeding habitat for this species – one is located immediately adjacent to the east of the site, and the other two are approximately 160m north of the site, but across significant barriers to dispersal (the canal and railway).
- 4.38. The pond immediately adjacent to the eastern boundary is large (approximately 2750m²), and cattle poached on its western bank. During the phase I survey, Canada geese *Branta canadensis* were recorded on the periphery, and a grey heron *Ardea cinerea* was observed fishing at the pond. These factors make the pond less suitable for GCN, although this does not rule out their presence.

- 4.39. As such, GCN surveys are recommended in order to determine if GCN are present on (or in the vicinity of) the site, and therefore if mitigation for this species is required. In the first instance, this could be an eDNA survey which would determine either their presence or absence. If absent, no further surveys would be required, but if GCN presence was confirmed, a full population assessment survey would then be required.
- 4.40. Any mitigation for GCN will also benefit other amphibians, including toad *Bufo bufo*, which are a Species of Principal Importance.

Water vole and otter

- 4.41. There are no waterbodies on site suitable for these species, but there are anecdotal records of otter *Lutra lutra* on the Rochdale Canal, which is immediately adjacent to the northern site boundary; this SBI may also support water vole *Arvicola amphibius*. Hollingworth Lake at the south of the site may also provide suitable habitat for these species.
- 4.42. A search of the local records centre data should be carried out, and citations for the two SBIs should be obtained to determine if these species are known to be present. Consultation with the local planning authority should then be undertaken to discuss whether surveys for these species would be required to inform a planning application.
- 4.43. A minimum development offset of between 8m – 15m is recommended between the canal/lake and the development; this offset will minimise disturbance to this species, if present. However, increased recreational pressure at the lake and along the canal may cause increased disturbance to these species, if present – in this case, additional mitigation may be required.

Reptiles

- 4.44. The majority of the site is sub-optimal for reptiles – the improved grassland covering the majority of the site is short and grazed, and areas of woodland edge / tussocky grassland are very small. As such, we consider the likelihood of reptiles being on site is low, and that reptile surveys are not required. However, we would seek to confirm this approach with the LPA ecologist.

5.0 Conclusions

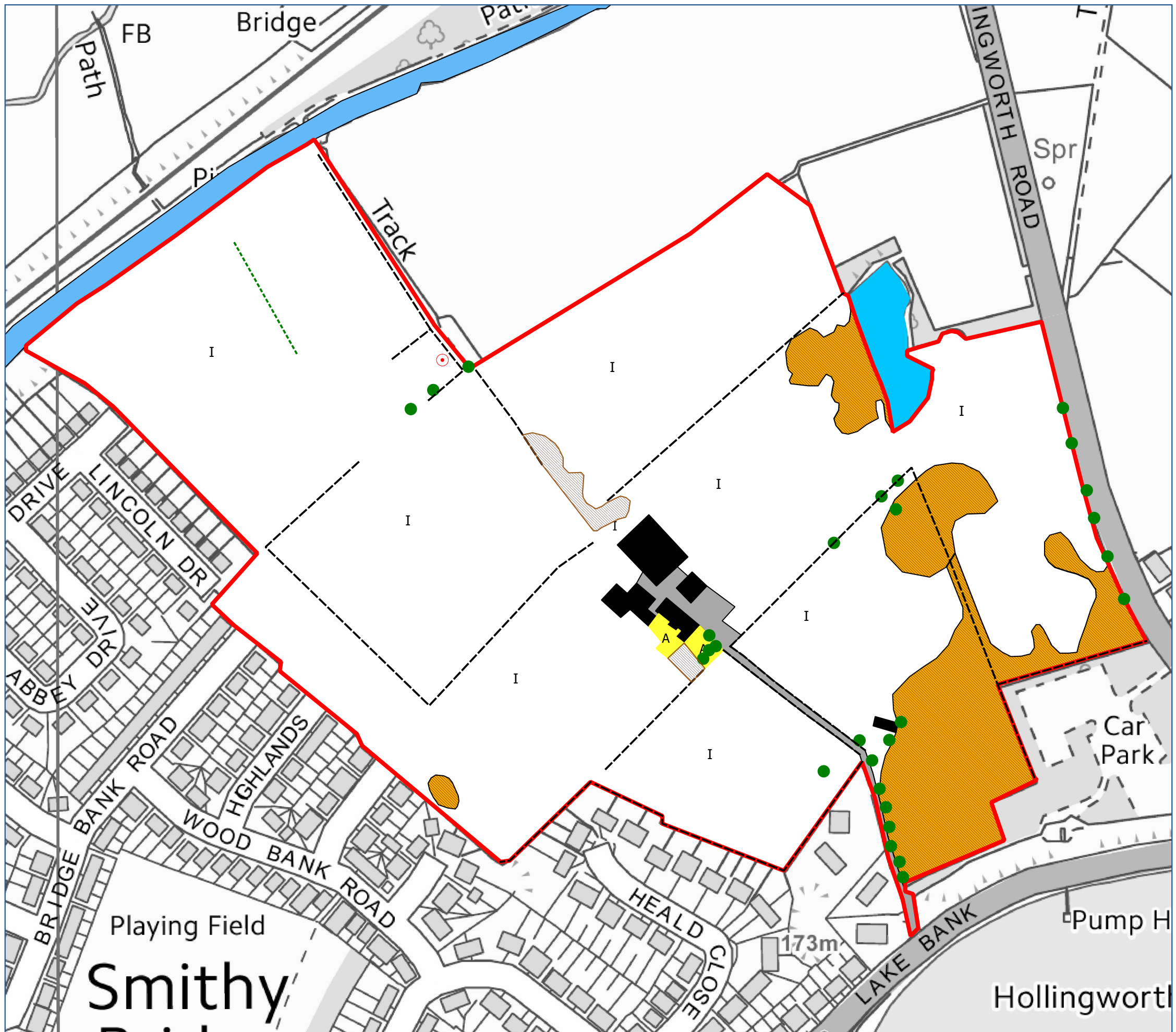
- 5.1. Whilst it is appreciated that this is only a broad level assessment, and no protected species surveys have been undertaken, this technical note has demonstrated that development within the proposed site could be accommodated, with respect to ecological matters.
- 5.2. Where possible, the scattered trees, dry stone walls and hedgerows should be retained, and enhanced. A buffer of between 8m and 15m should be incorporated around the pond at the eastern boundary, as well as along the Canal at the northern boundary to prevent impacts on waterbodies during construction and operation. Similarly, a buffer should be maintained between the site and the woodland bordering the south-eastern corner of the site (in the Rochdale Council Carpark site).
- 5.3. Two European designated sites are located within the vicinity of the site; Rochdale Canal SAC / SSSI is located immediately adjacent to the site and the South Pennine Moors SPA / SAC / SSSI is located 1.4km east of the site. The Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) is currently being produced but is expected to set out that proposals affecting the conservation interests of European sites will require a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) as well as any required Environmental Assessment. There is also the potential for

impacts on Sites of Biological Importance, particularly those located adjacent to the site (Rochdale Canal and Hollingworth Lake).

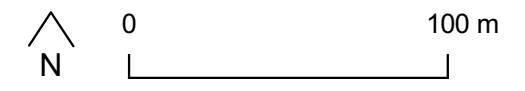
- 5.4. Surveys for badger, barn owl, wintering birds, breeding birds, bats and GCN will be required to inform any potential mitigation which may be required for these species. Water vole and otter surveys may be required, but the need for these would be subject to consultation with the local planning authority.
- 5.5. Mitigation in respect of badgers, breeding birds and bats can normally be easily accommodated within green infrastructure proposals for development. However, the presence of GCN may affect the quantity of development that can be achieved, and if the site is important for wintering birds an area of open space may need to be incorporated into the site's design, too.
- 5.6. With the above conclusions taken into account and with respect to ecological matters, this site should therefore be considered suitable for development.

6.0 Plan

Habitat Features Plan
11833 / P01 September 2018 GP



- Site Boundary
- A Amenity Grassland
- Building
- Canal
- Dry stone wall
- Hardstanding
- Hedgerow (species-poor) defunct
- I Improved grassland
- Marshy grassland
- Pond
- Scattered trees (broad-leaved)
- Tall Ruderal
- ⊙ Target Note



Project Hollingworth Road, Littleborough

Drawing Title **Habitat Features Plan**

Scale As Shown (Approximate)

Drawing No. 11833 / P01

Date August 2018

Checked GP / LJD