THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP

HAZELHURST FARM

WORSLEY

WALKOVER HABITAT SURVEY

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Document Title	Walkover Habitat Survey
Prepared for	Peel Land and Property Group Management Limited
Prepared by	TEP - Warrington
Document Ref	7489.001

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Date	March 2020
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Approved	David Sweeting

Amendment History					
Version	Date	Modified by	Check / Approved by	Reason(s) issue	Status

Hazelhurst Farm, Worsley

Walkover Habitat Survey - Target Notes Report

The site is approximately 16ha in size and predominantly arable fields. Worsley Wood Site of Biological Interest (SBI) is located adjacent to the west of the site. The site is centred on grid reference SD 75883 01446.

A walkover habitat survey was carried out by TEP ecologist Stephanie Davies, (FISC Level 3) on 18th December 2019. The survey was broadly carried out in accordance with the Phase 1 habitat assessment methods (JNCC 2010[1]) and the Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM 2017[2]).

The recommended season to undertake Phase 1 habitat surveys is between April and mid-October and therefore the survey date falls outside of this window. There will be constraints to the number and diversity of plant species recorded. It is also possible that Schedule 8 protected species and Schedule 9 invasive species could have been missed. For example, Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* was recorded on the northern boundary in a previous survey by ESL Ltd in 2017 but was not recorded by TEP in December 2019 – it is possible that the plant is still present but would have died back during the winter and may also have been cut back during hedge cutting.

Target Note 1

The site comprises three large arable fields which had recently been ploughed. These fields were extremely waterlogged. The field margins have a stand-off between 1-2m of rough grassland, which is mainly where the species below were recorded. Field margins are poor semi-improved grassland, although they were considered too narrow to map on the Phase 1 habitat plan (Drawing G7489.0001).

Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire-fog	D
Galium aparine	Cleavers	A
Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oat-grass	F
Cornus sanguinea	Dogwood	F
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	F
Epilobium sp.	Willowherb species	F
Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed	F
Poa annua	Annual Meadow-grass	F
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	F
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	F
Taraxacum sp.	Dandelion species	F
Urtica dioica	Nettle	F
Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle	O
Elytrigia repens	Common Couch	O
Geranium robertianum	Herb-Robert	O
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	O
Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved Dock	O
Carex pendula	Pendulous Sedge	R
Dryopteris filix-mas	Male-fern	R
Senecio jacobaea	Common Ragwort	R

[1] **JNCC 2010. Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: A technique for environmental audit.**

[2] **CIEEM 2017. Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.**

KEY - D = Dominant, A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare

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Target Note 2

There is an area of swamp in the north of the site dominated by greater reedmace and willow scrub. Some parts of this area are dense with bramble dominated scrub. A few scattered trees are present. The MAGIC priority habitat inventory records this area as the section 41 (s41) habitat (Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006), 'lowland fens', although the survey by Salford City Council dates back to 2008 and confidence in the classification at that time was recorded as 'low'. The species dominating this area now are typical of high nutrient habitats, likely influenced by farming inputs on the surrounding land, and the habitat is not considered to represent an s41 habitat.

Epilobium sp.	Willowherb species	D
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	D
Typha latifolia	Greater Reedmace	D
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	F

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Target Note 3

A dry pond (P1) that is surrounded by scattered trees and dense scrub. Given that the pond had dried in December after heavy rainfall, it is unlikely to hold significant water to support breeding amphibians during warmer months.

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Target Note 4

A small stream in the east of the site, a tributary of Sindsley Brook. The flow was slow and the water depth was low. The southern bank of the stream is steep and covered by dense, bramble dominated scrub. The northern bank is shallow, allowing the surrounding area to become waterlogged.

Target Note 5

There are many scattered trees throughout the site ranging in age from young to mature. Many trees were identified as having suitable features for roosting bats. These trees with bat potential are marked on the Phase 1 map and are categorised in accordance with Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) guidelines (2006)[3].

Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore
Alnus glutinosa	Alder
Corylus avellana	Hazel
Fagus sylvatica	Beech
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash
Ilex aquifolium	Holly
Malus pumila	Apple
Prunus sp.	Cherry species
Quercus robur	English Oak
Salix species	Willow species

[3] **BCT 2016. Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines. Bat Conservation Trust 3rd Ed.**

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Target Note 6

A number of intact and defunct hedgerows are present across the site. The majority of the hedgerows on site are dominated by hawthorn. Woody species recorded are listed below.

Corylus avellana	Hazel
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn
Cupressocyparis leylandii	Leyland Cypress
Ilex aquifolium	Holly
Prunus laurocerasus	Cherry Laurel
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn
Quercus robur	English Oak
Sambucus nigra	Elder

Target Note 7

Adjacent to the south of the site is an active construction site. The site is separated from the construction site by Heras-type fencing.

Target Note 8

An area of poor semi-improved grassland is present around an electricity tower. Species composition in this area is the same as in the field margins recorded at TN1.

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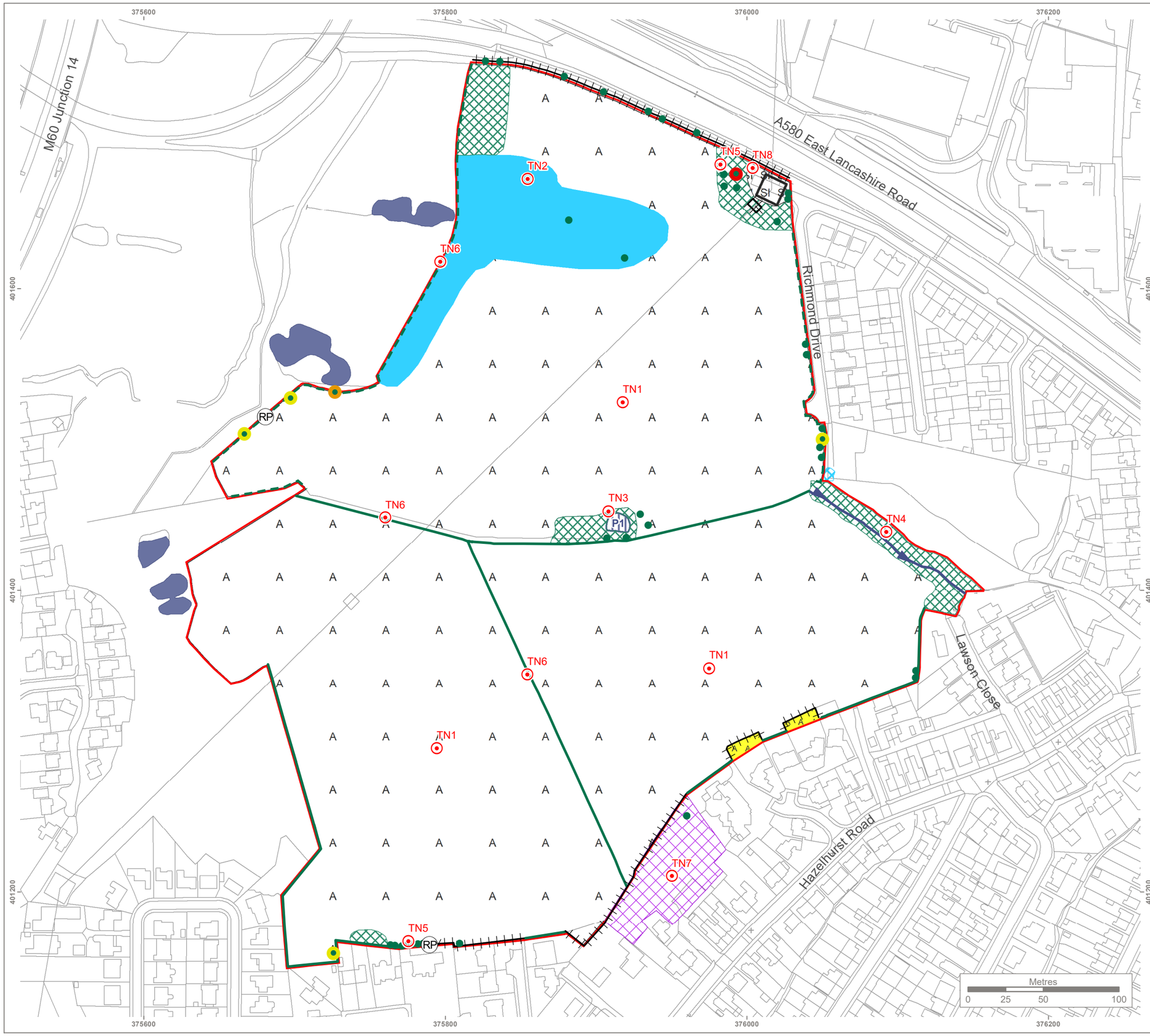

KEY

- Site boundary
- Target note
- Rhododendron ponticum
- Scattered broad-leaved tree
- Broad-leaved tree with low bat potential
- Broad-leaved tree with moderate bat potential
- Broad-leaved tree with high bat potential
- Running water
- Species-poor intact hedge
- Species-poor defunct hedge
- Fence
- Development area
- Dense/continuous scrub
- Poor semi-improved grassland
- Dry pond
- Swamp
- Ephemeral pool
- Standing water
- Arable
- Amenity grassland
- Building

Note:
The locations of habitats and habitat features are indicative.

Site Map

Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP

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Project
Hazelhurst Farm Site, Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

Title
Phase 1 Habitat Survey

Drawing Number
G7489.002

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
SA	MK	SD	1:2,500 @ A3	09/03/2020