

ROWLEY MILLS

LANDSCAPE STRATEGY
December 2025
PWP 822 100 | Revision P02

This document has been prepared by PWP Design Ltd to support a full application submission to Kirklees Council for an extension of the building and car parking associated with the existing industrial/commercial site housing Reliance Precision Ltd, and redevelopment of the existing buildings associated with the International House site, which are both located on Penistone Road (A629) to the south east of Huddersfield.

Revision	Purpose	Originated	Checked	Reviewed	Date
P00	For Planning	RD	LW	SH	11/01/23
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1.0 SITE CONTEXT

The proposed development sites (Sites A & B) are located on Penistone Road A629, 2.8 miles south west of Huddersfield town centre. They lie between the village of Kirkburton to the south and Fenay Bridge, a suburb of Huddersfield, to the north east. The combined area of both sites is approximately 2.14ha (1.81ha Reliance Precision site, 0.33ha International House site). The sites sit within the Green Belt, in a semi-rural setting on the outer urban fringe of Huddersfield.

Site A has been home to Reliance Precision, a specialist engineering firm, since the 1980's, with all UK operations consolidated at the site in 1995. The site comprises a single integrated block of light industrial units, which have been extended over the years to meet the needs of an expanding company. The proposed development comprises of extensions to the existing units, and expanded parking capacity.

Site B, International House, comprises of modern office buildings which house a variety of firms, including recruitment consultants and technology distributors. The proposed development comprises of refurbishment of the existing buildings.

In the immediate context the site boundaries are defined by Penistone Road at the centre, Beldon Brook and residential properties in the village of Kirkburton to the south, agricultural land to the northern, eastern and western boundaries, with Woodsome Hall Golf Club to the north west and residential properties in the Fenay bridge area of Huddersfield to the north east.

The key driver behind the landscape approach for the proposed development is to maximise biodiversity value, and creating a varied and habitat focussed landscape. The proposed development has been broken up into 3 key character areas:

1. The Core of the Development
2. The Frontage with Penistone Road
3. Green Infrastructure corridors (inc other site boundaries)

This document sets out the overarching high level landscape strategy and key design principles for the site. These will be developed further through the application process, following initial engagement with the Local Planning Authority.

This document has been prepared in consideration of: the Design and Access Statement by KPP Architects; 'Primary Ecological Appraisal: Reliance Precision and International House, Rowley Mills, Huddersfield' by Envirotech (2025) (extract shown in Appendix 1&2); and 'Arboricultural Impact Assessment' by JCA Ltd (2025) (extract shown in Appendix 3).



1.1 LANDSCAPE CONTEXT



1. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

The proposed development sites of Reliance Precision (A) and International House (B) are surrounded by blocks of green infrastructure. These form a network of high level wildlife corridors both within the red line development boundaries and with the local area. There is scope for the existing green infrastructure to be protected and enhanced as part of the proposed development, strengthening the immediate and wider green matrix and improving diversity.

2. WILDLIFE HABITAT NETWORK

The Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network runs along the southern and eastern edges of the Reliance Precision site, and to the west of the International House site. There are designated areas of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland approximately 500m to the east and 700m to the west, and lowland meadow approximately 700m to the south west. The landscape strategy seeks to minimise loss of habitat, and where this is unavoidable, to provide mitigation through the improvement of existing green infrastructure and the introduction of high quality habitat, including a high percentage of native species. The introduction of proposed additional native scrub and understorey planting, and meadow seeding will provide structurally diverse and valuable habitats and strengthen habitat networks.

3. CORE OF THE SITES

The central core of both proposed development sites consist of existing light industrial units/office buildings and associated amenity landscaping. This area has low landscape and ecological value and has the potential to be enhanced to improve biodiversity and habitat value.

4. MOVEMENT CORRIDORS

Penistone Road (A629) separates the two distinct areas of the proposed development site, with two-way vehicular access into Site A provided through a gated entrance.

5. STRONG GREEN BOUNDARIES

The boundaries of the Reliance Precision site, including the frontage along Penistone Road (6), benefit from dense existing and proposed tree cover, providing visual screening and a high level, established green infrastructure corridor. Targeted infilling of gaps along the northern, eastern and western boundaries with native tree and scrub planting would provide additional screening, strengthen the green matrix and improve habitat connectivity. A gated two-way access serves as the main entrance to the site, providing controlled vehicular movement while maintaining the integrity of the green frontage. Existing established green infrastructure envelopes the International House site, sitting just outside the development boundary. It provides visual screening of the site from Penistone and neighbouring development. Targeted enhancement of existing trees along the northern boundary would provide additional screening and improve habitat connectivity.

7. BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE

The southern boundary of the Reliance Precision site runs adjacent to Beldon Brook.

1.2 LANDSCAPE STRATEGY & DESIGN PRINCIPLES



LANDSCAPE KEY

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|------------------------------------|
| Existing trees & vegetation retained | Existing Mixed Plantation Woodland enhanced with proposed native understorey planting | Proposed mixed semi-native shrub planting | Proposed street and boundary trees |
| Existing mixed scrub retained and enhanced | Proposed mixed native woodland to extend & strengthen the edge of the retained woodland | Proposed native flowering lawn and meadow seeding to verges | |
| Existing Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland enhanced with proposed native understorey planting | Proposed mixed native scrub planting | Trees and vegetation to be removed | |

The following landscape strategy captures the overarching design principles for the two sites which comprise the proposed development. The strategy takes into account 4 character areas and has been developed to create a cohesive and ecologically focussed design approach:

1. THE CORE OF THE DEVELOPMENT (RELIANCE PRECISION - SITE A)

Create a defined internal landscape throughout the proposed development, adding structural height and a cohesive green planting palette, with additional street trees and native woodland & scrub planting. The introduction of a unified planting approach will create a strong green interior to the site which visually complements and enhances the existing green boundaries, and creates character and sense of place. Consideration to be given to practical constraints such as the maintenance of visibility splays.

Improve the ecological value of the core of the site, utilising wildlife-friendly semi-native shrub planting and areas of native meadow seeding to enhance the existing matrix of vegetation and improve habitat connectivity.

Removal of invasive species as identified in the *Primary Ecological Appraisal* (Envirotech, 2025), such as *Cotoneaster horizontalis* along the car park boundaries and from areas of native trees and scrub, is also recommended and will improve biodiversity value.

2. THE CORE OF THE DEVELOPMENT (INTERNATIONAL HOUSE - SITE B)

Improve the ecological value of the core of the site, by replacing the low quality existing amenity shrub planting with more wildlife-friendly semi-native shrub planting. Proposed planting will create a more cohesive and attractive green frontage to the building, and visually complement the enhanced boundary planting creating character and a sense of place.

3. FRONTAGE WITH PENISTONE ROAD (RELIANCE PRECISION - SITE A)

Maintain and enhance the existing strong green frontage provided by plantation woodland along Penistone Road. This will be achieved by retaining existing vegetation as far as is possible, with the introduction of new layers of habitat, particularly the strengthening and diversifying of the tree understorey in line with Ecologist recommendations. The soft landscape provides the opportunity to integrate the proposed development with the wider landscape setting.

4. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDORS

Strengthen and diversify the existing green infrastructure along the site boundaries to maintain ecological networks and habitat corridors. Introduce additional native understorey planting to the existing higher-quality broad leaf woodland and lower-quality plantation woodland on the Reliance Precision site. Introduce low-level native scrub and areas of native meadow seeding to enhance the existing matrix of vegetation in line with Ecologist recommendations.

The existing matrix of mature boundary trees will also be strengthened, with targeted infilling of gaps with native tree planting. This will strengthen the existing foraging and movement corridors which connect with the existing green infrastructure outside the red line application boundaries

Tree group G14, which form part of a wider Tree Protection Order (Ref. 55/50/a1) to be retained and protected. See '*Arboricultural Impact Assessment*' by JCA Ltd (2025) for further details (extract shown in Appendix 3).

1.3 INDICATIVE PLANTING PALETTE

The palette for the soft landscape performs the vital role of creating a strong landscape character and sense of place, as well as connecting the proposed development with the wider landscape. A primary objective is to utilise a native planting palette to ensure new and enhanced habitats add value to the biodiversity value of the site. Where the loss of existing habitat is unavoidable to facilitate the development, replacement planting is proposed to ensure valuable green corridors are not lost. New planting includes native and native-cultivar trees and scrub to provide enhanced ecological value and high level habitat connections. Habitats to be developed and maintained in line with best Ecological practice. For further information and details regarding the different habitat types and Ecologist recommendation, see 'Primary Ecological Appraisal: Reliance Precision and International House, Rowley Mills, Huddersfield' by Envirotech (2025) for further details (extract shown in Appendix 1 & 2).

1. CORE OF THE DEVELOPMENT (RELIANCE PRECISION - SITE A)



Proposed mix of native-cultivar tree species to be planted throughout the core of the development to provide vertical height and structure, screen and soften the buildings, and enhance the high level habitat corridor network. In conjunction with the trees, semi-native shrub and meadow seeding will be introduced to verges, enhancing areas which currently have low ecological value. Size and form of trees to vary to suit location.

Suggested Tree Species:

- Acer campestre (Streetwise)
- Carpinus betulus (Fastigiata)
- Sorbus aucuparia (Joseph Rock)
- Tilia cordata (Greenspire)

Suggested Native Shrub Species:

- Cornus sanguinea (Dogwood)
- Viburnum opulus (Guelder Rose)
- Rosa canina (Dog Rose)

Suggested Verge/Meadow Seed Mixes:

- Flowering lawn meadow mix (for areas requiring shorter height meadow seeding)
- 80/20% Meadow seed and wildflower mix

2. FRONTAGE WITH PENISTONE ROAD (RELIANCE PRECISION - SITE A)



The mixed plantation woodland (ref. w1h - 'Primary Ecological Appraisal') which forms a dense green boundary with Penistone Road and along the Northern site boundary, to be enhanced with additional layers of understorey planting to strengthen and diversify the existing green matrix and maintain visual screening of the site from the road. Tree canopy to be lightly thinned to create glades, with underplanting of understorey shrubs and a woodland seed mix to a diverse range of species of varying ages, in line with Ecologist recommendations. Creation of standing deadwood and targeted replacement tree planting of native tree species where required.

Suggested Tree Species:

- Birch (Betula pendula)
- Prunus avium (Plena)
- Malus sp. (Crab Apple)

Suggested Understorey Species:

- Cornus sanguinea (Dogwood)
- Rosa canina (Dog Rose)
- Viburnum opulus (Guelder Rose)

Suggested Woodland Seed Mix:

- Boston Seed 'Woodland and Heavy Shade Wildflower Seed BS8P 100%'

3. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDORS (SITES A & B)



The structure, diversity and interconnectivity of the dense woodland and scrub which forms the site boundaries of the Reliance Precision site is to be preserved. The good quality lowland mixed deciduous woodland (ref. w1f in 'Primary Ecological Appraisal') and mixed plantation woodland (ref. w1h) which form the site boundaries, will be protected and enhanced in line with Arboricultural and Ecologist recommendations.

Additional native woodland and scrub planting will strengthen the existing green infrastructure matrix of both sites, with targeted infilling of larger tree species to fill gaps/thinning along the boundary and improve structural diversity as required. Species should be suitable for the location and promote overall species diversity. Where native species are not appropriate, native cultivars should be utilised.

Consideration should be given to climate change and, where space permits, to planting larger stature trees with trees with longer life spans. Species planted on site now should be better suited to the climate in 100-150 years when they mature, such as Sweet chestnut, Oak and Hornbeam, could be incorporated into the mix to future proof long term tree cover.

Existing areas of dense scrub along the eastern boundary of the Reliance Precision site will be preserved and enhanced. Additional native scrub planting on both sites will diversify habitat and increase foraging provision for local wildlife, helping to offset the removal of areas of mixed scrub required to facilitate development (ref. h3h in 'Primary Ecological Appraisal'). The proposed mix should be species rich and include night flowering species which would be beneficial to foraging bats. Invasive species to be removed as required in line with Ecologist recommendations.

Native species seeding and bulb planting enhances the ecological value of both sites and, on the Reliance Precision site, replaces existing vegetation removed to make way for the proposed development. Wildflower seeding to be sown along the verges and under newly planted areas of trees/scrub.

Green infrastructure along Beldon Brook, which lies adjacent to the southern site boundary of the Reliance Precision site, to be protected and enhanced, with suitable SuDS species utilised to improve blue infrastructure if appropriate.

Suggested Tree Species:

- Birch (Betula pendula)
- Cherry (Prunus avium)
- Field Maple (Acer campestre)
- Hazel (Corylus avellana)
- Hornbeam (Carpinus betulus)
- Rowan (Sorbus aucuparia)

Suggested Scrub Species:

- Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna)
- Blackthorn (Prunus spinosa)
- Holly (Ilex aquifolium)
- Common Honeysuckle (Lonicera periclymenum)

Suggested Seed & Bulb Mixes:

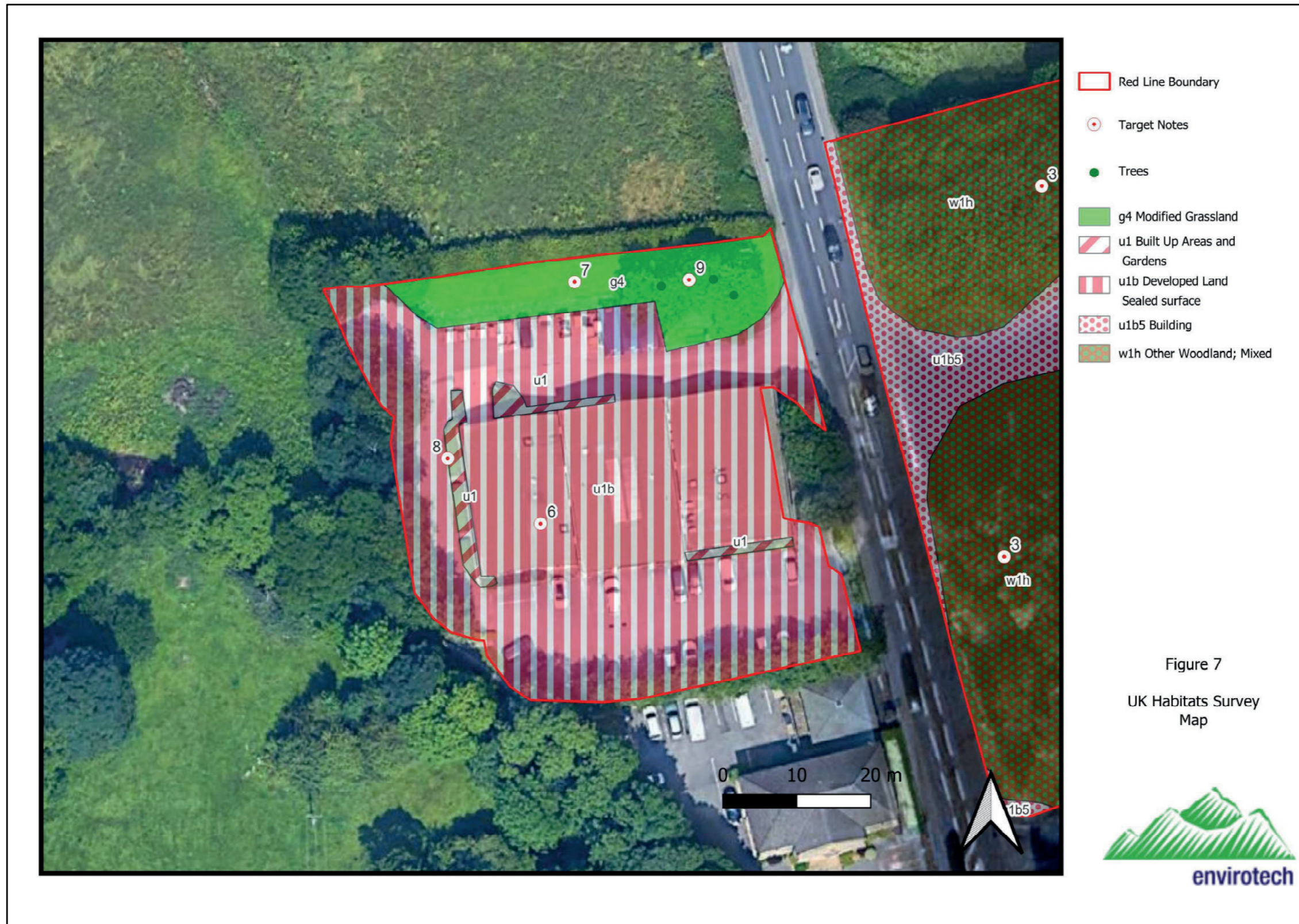
- Boston Seed 'Woodland and Heavy Shade Wildflower Seed BS8P 100%'
- Undersow woodland and scrub areas with bluebell, Garlic Mustard, Ramsons & Wood Avens

1.4 APPENDICES



Figure 6
UK Habitats Survey
Map





APPENDIX 2: Phase 1 Habitat Survey Map - International House Site, from 'Primary Ecological Appraisal: Reliance Precision and International House, Rowley Mills, Huddersfield' by Envirotech (2025)



APPENDIX 3: Tree Constraints Plan from 'Arboricultural Impact Assessment' by JCA Ltd Arboricultural & Ecological Consultants (2025)