

Land at Amberley Drive, Wythenshaw

Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme

2023



RACHEL
HACKING
ECOLOGY



Client	Wythenshawe Community Housing Group
Project Title	Land at Amberley Drive, Wythenshaw
Project Reference	RHE.2783.2
Project Leader	Austin Rigby
Contact Details	austin@rachelhackingecology.co.uk

	Name	Position	Date
Author	Austin Rigby	Junior Ecologist	29/01/2024
Reviewer	Simon Holden	Associate Ecologist	29/01/2024
Revision			



**RACHEL
HACKING
ECOLOGY**

The Stables
Paradise Wharf
Ducie Street
Manchester
M1 2JN

0161 465 8971

www.rachelhackingecology.co.uk

mail@rachelhackingecology.co.uk



**RACHEL
HACKING
ECOLOGY**

Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme

Background

Rachel Hacking Ecology Ltd was commissioned in 2024 by Wythenshawe Community Housing Group to provide ecology consultancy services in connection with a proposed development at Land at Amberley Drive, Wythenshaw, hereafter referred to as the 'site'. Biodiversity enhancements are proposed in conjunction with the construction of 8 new dwellings.

Habitat

A detailed ecological appraisal of the site was undertaken in 2021¹ for a residential development. The habitats on site have been surveyed again recently to inform enhancements and have not changed. A detailed habitat plan can be found in (Appendix 1)

Poor Semi-improved Grassland

This habitat is located across the northern part of the site. The grassland is unmanaged, resulting in a tall sward-height (see Photograph 1). Dominant grass species are Cock's-foot *Dactylus glomerata*, False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* and Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera*.

¹ Rachel Hacking Ecology (2022) *Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey and Daytime Bat Survey* - Land off Amberley Drive, Wythenshawe, Manchester, August 2022, Rev C.





Photograph 1: Showing poor semi-improved grassland

Scattered Trees

Scattered trees are found across the site, particularly along the brook. The tree ages range from juvenile to semi-mature (see Photograph 2). Species comprise Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur*, Alder *Alnus glutinosa*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Wild Cherry *Prunus avium*, Apple *Malus* sp., Elder *Sambucus nigra*, Crack Willow *Salix fragilis*, Pear *Pyrus* sp. and Fig *Ficus carica*.



Photograph 2: Showing scattered trees

Continuous Scrub

This habitat is located in the southern half of the site, between the linear area of amenity grassland and Mill Brook (see Photograph 3). Abundant species include Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg., Pedunculate Oak, Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Rosebay Willowherb *Chamaenerion angustifolium* and Elder.



Photograph 3: Showing continuous scrub

Habitat condition

Litter is present around the site, especially near the border fences. This is negatively affecting the grassland habitat especially.



Photograph 4: Showing litter

Enhancements

Litter will be removed, reducing the risk of local wildlife becoming entangled or choking and preventing the pollution of the brook.

Bird Boxes

The following bird boxes will be installed on site:

- 4 x Habibat Bird Boxes (or similar).
- 4 x Nestbox sparrow tower² (or similar).
- 2 x Habibat Little Owl Nest Boxes (or similar)

Bird boxes should be fitted at least 3 metres high on scattered trees around the site. The recommended models are designed to specifically for UK species to enhance biodiversity.

Bat Boxes

The following bat boxes will be installed on site to provide roosting habitat for bats:

- 4 x Improved Crevice Bat Box, Double (or similar)
- 3 x Large Multi Chamber WoodStone Bat Box (or similar)
- 3 x 2F Schwegler Bat Box (General Purpose)

Bat boxes should be fitted at least 3 metres high on scattered trees around the site. The recommended models are designed to specifically for UK species to enhance biodiversity.

Hedgehog Homes

Hedgehogs benefit from being able to sleep, hibernate, feed and mate in a safe space. Hedgehog homes can be created to provide refuge. Hedgehog homes can be purchased from multiple suitable retailers³, or built from untreated wood⁴. The following Hedgehog homes will be installed around the site.

² [Eco Sparrow Tower | The Nestbox Company](#)

³ [Timber Products | Habibat](#)

⁴ [Hedgehog-houses-updated.pdf \(hedgehogstreet.org\)](#)



- 5 x Habitat Hedgehog homes (or similar)

Hedgehog homes should be placed suitably in areas of scrub with some vegetation coverage.

Bee Bank

Solitary bees often require sand soil to burrow and lay eggs. Suitable habitat for bees could be created by importing sand and forming into a south-facing bank. Sow with a range of wildflowers e.g. clovers, bird's-foot trefoil etc⁵. The suggested location for the bee bank can be seen in (Photograph 5).



Photograph 5: Showing recommended location of bee bank

⁵ [Bee-bank-booklet-4.pdf \(buglife.org.uk\)](#)

Appendix 1: Habitat map

