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# Princedom Street Harpurhey, Manchester

## Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

Kingdom Ecology have carried out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (comprising of a field survey and a desk study) of an approximately 0.8ha area of amenity grassland located at Princedom Street, Harpurhey, Manchester, M9 4GP (National Grid Reference SD 8643 0167).

Survey has been carried out as part of a proposed planning application to redevelop the site. The location of the study site is shown on Figure 1 in the Appendix.

The purpose of the assessment was to identify any potential ecological constraints to the proposed development.

Field survey was undertaken on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Surveys were carried out by Richard Roe (BSc, MSc, MIEEM, CEnv). Richard has extensive experience of undertaking protected species, habitat and botanical surveys as a professional ecological consultant with over twenty years' experience.

## 1.2 Purpose of Report

This report provides and outlines the findings of the field survey and desk study undertaken in January 2022.

Surveys aimed to identify habitats and species which are either of importance in terms of their conservation value or are afforded statutory legal protection. The presence of such habitats or species would form a material consideration during the planning process and could pose a constraint to the redevelopment of the site.

The field surveys comprised of an ecological walkover survey with a search for habitats that could support any protected species.

Following a description of the survey findings and an evaluation of habitats at the site, the report goes on to make recommendations for further works, mitigation and ecological enhancement measures where relevant.

## 1.3 Relevant Legislation

### 1.3.1 Birds

All wild birds in England and Wales are protected under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird, or take, damage or destroy the nest (whilst being built or in use) or its eggs.

## 2 Field Survey Methods

### 2.1 Survey Aims and Objectives

The survey aim was to assess the site as to its ecological importance by assessing the value of habitats and their suitability to support any protected or notable species. The purpose of this was to highlight any ecological constraints associated with future development proposals.

Field survey comprised of an ecological walkover survey, this included an assessment of habitats at the site in terms of their suitability to support any other protected species including bats, badgers and breeding birds.

Species that are considered unlikely to be significantly affected by the proposed development, even if known to be present in the general vicinity, were 'scoped out' of the assessment.

### 2.2 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

#### 2.2.1 Methods

An Ecological walkover of the site was undertaken on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Given the highly artificial nature of habitats present at the site a full Phase 1 Habitat Survey of the site was not undertaken.

The aims of the walkover survey were to:

- identify areas or habitats that are of particular ecological interest for nature conservation and which require more detailed investigation;
- provide additional information regarding incidental observations of protected species or non-native, invasive species;
- to assess the site as to its ecological importance by assessing the value of habitats and their suitability to support any protected or notable species (including breeding birds and bats).

The purpose of the walkover survey was to highlight any ecological constraints associated with future development proposals and to inform further ecological survey of the site, where relevant.

A map of the broad habitats recorded within and adjacent to the study site is shown in Figure 2. Typical habitats recorded at the site are also shown in photographs in the Appendix.

## 3 Desk Study and Data Search

### 3.1 Sources of Information

Ecological information on habitats, species and designated nature conservation sites has been sought from Greater Manchester Local Record Centre who are the local biological records centre for Manchester.

### 3.2 Species

#### 3.2.1 Badgers

There are records badgers within 2 km of the site. However, there are no records of badger within 500m of the site.

Surrounding badger records are typically within areas of parkland and other interconnected blocks of green space. The study site is well isolated from similar habitats by surrounding roads and housing.

#### 3.2.2 Bats

There are several records bats within 2km of the site. These principally comprise of common pipistrelle bat records, with other species recorded including Daubenton's bat, Noctule bat, Soprano pipistrelle bat and *Myotis* bat species.

The bat records typically comprise of bat activity or records of injured bats as opposed to roost records. There is a record of an injured Pipistrelle bat having been released at the Princedom site dating from 2002. There are also records of common pipistrelle and noctule bat approximately 50m to the south of the site from 2003 and 2004. There are no other of bat records for the site itself or within 100m.

#### 3.2.3 Other Species

Records of species within 300 m of the site principally comprise of bats. Other than bats, there are no records of any other protected or notable species within 300m of the site.

Records of other species within 2 km of the site include:

- Hedgehog,
- Peregrine,
- Hobby,
- Common toad,
- Kingfisher, plus
- several other S41 bird and invertebrate species.

### 3.3 Designated Sites

There are no statutory designated sites within 2km of the study area.

#### 3.3.1 Local Sites of Biological Importance

There are several Sites of Biological Importance (SBI) located within 2km of the study site, however none of these are located within 250m. The nearby SBI's include:

- Hapurhey Reservoirs,
- Boggart Hole Clough,
- Bailey's Wood,
- Broadhurst Clough,
- Moston Fairway, and
- The Rochdale Canal

Given the distance of the site from these SBI's and the nature of the development, it is considered to be very unlikely that works would impact upon any locally designated sites nature conservation.

## 4 Survey Results

### 4.1 Site Description and Habitats

The site is located within the Harpurhey area of central Manchester (see Figure 1 for Site Location). The study area measures approximately 0.8ha in area and comprises of two, mown amenity grassland field located either side of Princedom Street (Target Notes 1 and 2 on Figure 2 in the Appendix).

The site is located within a residential area, the site surrounded by brick terraced housing of late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century origin.

The North field (Target Note 1) is bounded by roads on each side, with Princedom Street to the south, Jonas Street to the west, Sequoia Street to the north, and Simister Street to the east.

Princedom Street runs along the northern boundary of the southern field (Target Note 2); with the southern, eastern and western boundaries of this field marked by palisade fencing which backs on to the rear alleyways and gardens of the adjoining residential housing.

The fields are used recreationally by dog walkers and children. There is also recent evidence of a small bonfire having been set here.

The two fields are both frequently mown and support similar grassland species. These species comprise of abundant perennial rye-grass with occasional Yorkshire fog, and red fescue. Occasional herbs present within the fields include dandelion, white clover, creeping buttercup, broadleaved dock, common mouse ear and ribwort plantain.

The fields are considered to be species-poor and typical of other areas of amenity grassland and playing fields throughout the UK. There are no trees, shrubbery or scrub presence at the site.

Habitats within the study site itself are considered to be of limited biodiversity value in their own right.

No evidence of invasive, non-native plant species were identified at the site.

Habitats recorded at the study site are shown on Photographs and Target Noted on Figure 2 in the Appendix.

#### 4.1.1 Protected Species

Given that habitats site comprised exclusively closely mown amenity grassland, it is considered very unlikely that the site supports any protected or notable species.

The site does not support any suitable habitat for roosting bats, badgers, hedgehog or nesting birds.

## 5 Evaluation and Recommendations

### 5.1 Results Summary

#### 5.1.1 Habitats

Development proposals will affect a 0.8ha area of land which comprises exclusively of closely mown, amenity grassland and hardstanding.

These habitats are all considered to be of limited nature conservation value.

#### 5.1.2 Protected Species

Given that habitats site comprised exclusively closely mown amenity grassland, it is considered very unlikely that the site supports any protected or notable species.

The site does not support any suitable habitat for roosting bats, badgers, hedgehog or nesting birds.

### 5.2 Ecological Enhancements

Paragraph 175d of the National Planning Policy Framework states that 'opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged'. It is therefore recommended that opportunities to enhance the ecological value of the development area are taken.

#### 5.2.1 Bat and Bird Box Plan

It is recommended that the overall site be enhanced for bats and breeding birds. This can be achieved through the installation of bat boxes (recommended model Habibat 003) and sparrow and swift nest boxes (recommended models Schwegler 1SP and Schwegler No.16 Swift Box or similar) into proposed buildings at the development site.

The bat and bird boxes can be built into the brick walls of the proposed buildings so as to remain visually unobtrusive.

The precise location, model and number of bat and bird boxes should be determined by an appropriately qualified ecologist.

#### 5.2.2 Plants for Pollinators and Birds

The development proposals should also aim to maximise the biodiversity of landscaping proposals at the site.

The development will largely comprise of new housing/apartments with associated gardens and hardstanding. However, the landscaping design for the development should include new trees and planting. It is recommended that new planting includes species which can provide nectar sources for insects and berries/fruits for invertebrates and birds.

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The following small/medium sized tree species are recommended as they offer suitable foraging opportunities to various native wildlife (including birds and invertebrates): rowan, wild cherry, crab apple, silver birch, holly, and willow.

Areas of new shrubbery should include suitable nectar sources for insects. The Royal Horticultural Society provides a list of suitable plants for invertebrates (see [rhs.org.uk/plantsforpollinators](https://rhs.org.uk/plantsforpollinators)). It is recommended that this list is consulted when producing detailed landscaping designs for the site.

## 6 Appendix

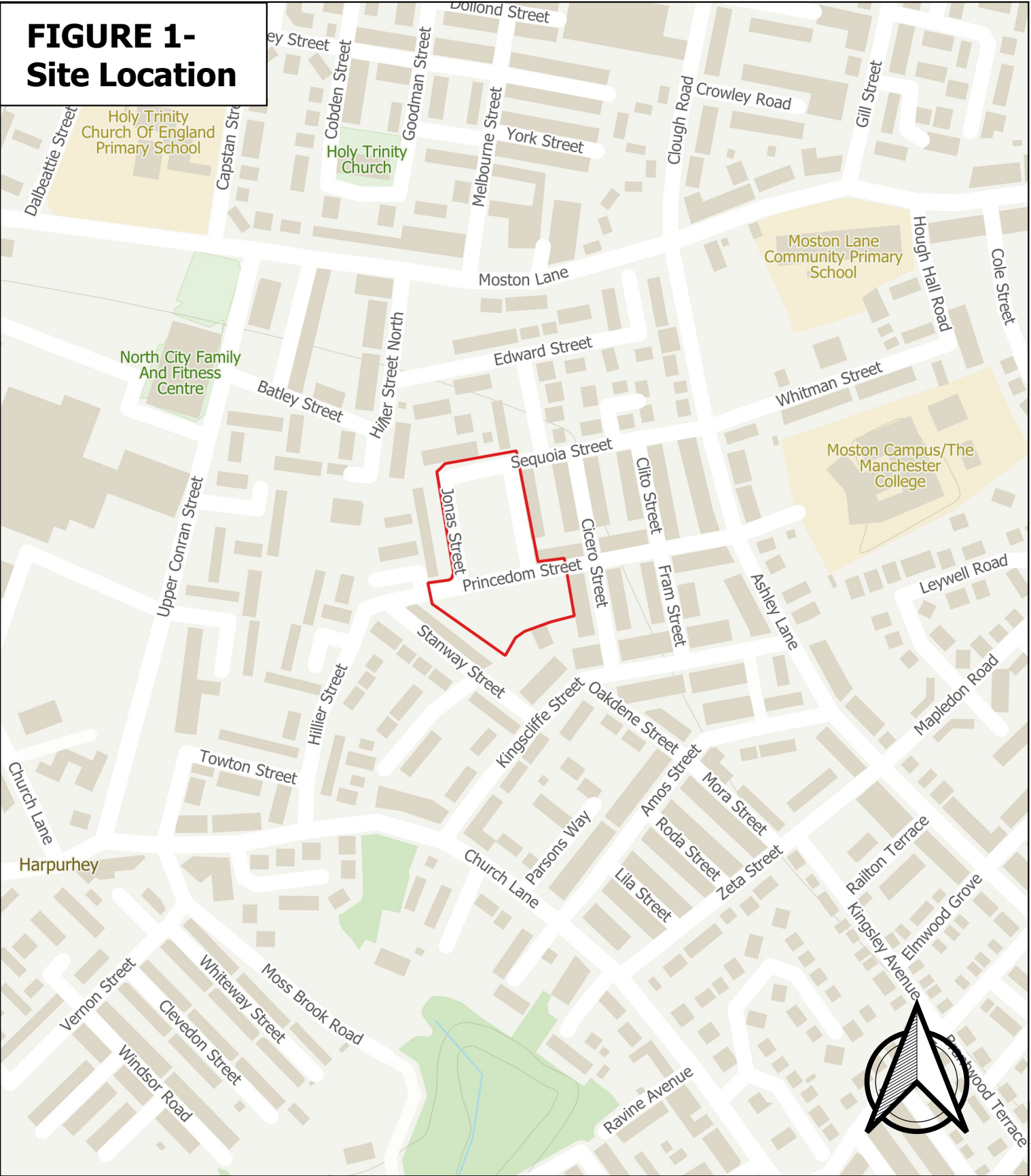
*Photograph 1 - North Field (Target Note 1)*



*Photograph 2 - South Field (Target Note 2)*



**FIGURE 1-  
Site Location**



**KEY**

 Study Site

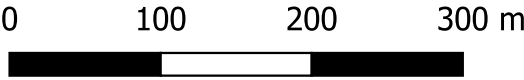
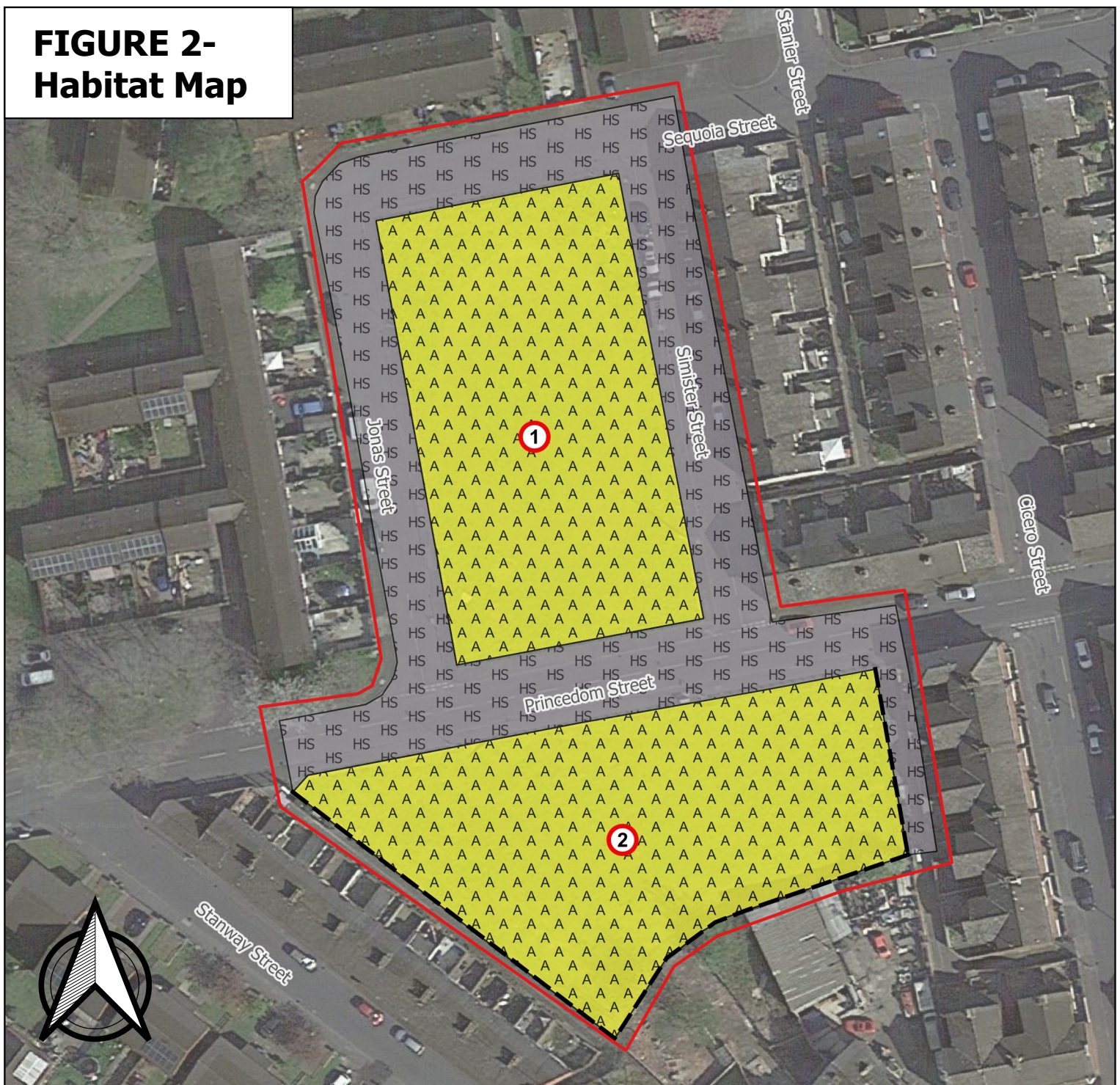


**FIGURE 2-  
Habitat Map**



**KEY**



Study Site



Target Note



Fence



Amenity grassland



Hardstanding

0 10 20 30 40 50 m

