



Parkmount Road Harpurhey, Manchester

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

9th February 2022

Authored by Richard Roe BSc MSc MCIEEM CEnv

CONTACT DETAILS

KINGDOM ECOLOGY LTD
7 Speke Road
Woolton
Liverpool
L25 8QA

Email: enquiries@kingdomecology.com

CONTENTS

1	Introduction.....	3
1.1	Background.....	3
1.2	Purpose of Report	3
1.3	Relevant Legislation.....	3
1.3.1	Birds.....	3
1.3.2	Bats.....	4
2	Field Survey Methods.....	5
2.1	Survey Aims and Objectives	5
2.2	Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey	5
2.2.1	Methods.....	5
3	Desk Study and Data Search	6
3.1	Sources of Information.....	6
3.2	Species.....	6
3.2.1	Badgers.....	6
3.2.2	Bats.....	6
3.2.3	Other Species	6
3.3	Designated Sites	7
3.3.1	Local Sites of Biological Importance.....	7
4	Survey Results.....	8
4.1	Site Description and Habitats.....	8
4.2	Protected Species	9
4.2.1	Bats.....	9
4.2.2	Breeding Birds	9
4.2.3	Other Protected Species	9
5	Evaluation and Recommendations	10
5.1	Results Summary	10
5.1.1	Habitats	10
5.2	Protected Species	10
5.2.1	Birds.....	10
5.2.2	Bats.....	10

5.2.3	Other Protected Species	11
5.3	Ecological Enhancements	11
5.3.1	Bat and Bird Box Plan.....	11
5.3.2	Plants for Pollinators and Birds.....	11
6	Appendix	12

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 and scattered, ornamental trees located at Parkmount Road, Harpurhey, Manchester, M9 8AL (National Grid Reference SD 8601 0213).

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 27th 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.

1.3.2 Bats

All British bat species are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and through their inclusion in Schedule II of the Habitats Regulations 2010 which transpose Annex II of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (“EC Habitats Directive”) which defines European protected species of animals.

British bats species are afforded further protection by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000; and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

Taken together, this legislation makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally or deliberately kill, injure or capture bats.
- Deliberately disturb bats, whether at roost or not.
- Damage, destroy or obstruct access to bat roosts.
- Possess or transport bats, unless acquired legally.
- Sell, barter or exchange bats.

A bat roost is interpreted as “any structure or place, which any wild bat uses for shelter or protection.” (Bat Conservation Trust 2016¹). A bat roost is protected whether or not bats are present at the time.

All species of British bat are considered a European Protected Species (EPS). The Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations (2010) provide derogation against certain offences which could potentially affect an EPS through the EPS Licensing system.

¹ Bat Conservation Trust (2016) ‘Bat Surveys: Good Practice Guidelines 3rd Edition’

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 27th 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, badgers 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 common pipistrelle bat having been collected from a house approximately 75 m to the north-west of the site in 2018. 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 an area of mown amenity grassland located on a shallow slope adjacent to the A664 Rochdale Road.

The site is located within a mainly residential area, with surrounding buildings largely comprising of late 20th-century housing plus some older brick buildings of 19th-century origin. Areas of nearby green space are relatively limited, with the main surrounding landuse comprising of further residential properties.

The David Lewis Recreation Ground (an additional area of park and playing fields) is located approximately 80 m to the north of the site. Boggart Hole Clough (a Site of Biological Interest) is located approximately 350 m to the north of the site. This comprises of an area of broadleaved woodland along a watercourse. A further area of broadleaved woodland is located approximately 300m west of the site around Harpurhey Reservoirs.

The busy A664 Rochdale Road runs along the western boundary of the site; Parkmount Road runs along the northern boundary of the site; Shepherd Street runs along the southern boundary of the site; whilst the eastern boundary is marked with palisade fencing and residential housing.

The site comprises of an area of frequently mown grassland with three groups of broadleaved trees. The groups of trees or target noted on Figure 2.

The grassland species comprise of abundant perennial rye-grass and occasional Yorkshire fog. Herbs include occasional common mouse ear, ribwort plantain, daisy, dandelion and cat's ear. Two hardstanding paths run through the areas of grassland.

The areas of mown grassland are considered to be species-poor and typical of areas of amenity grassland and playing fields throughout the UK.

The trees at Targets Note 2 comprise of three semi-mature lime trees and a hawthorn shrub. The trees at Target Note 3 comprise of four mature London plane trees. The trees at Target Note 4 comprise of six mature common lime trees.

None of the trees support suitable features for roosting bats with no obvious splits, cracks, cavities or woodpecker holes etc present.

There are no other trees or areas of scrub/shrubbery present at the site.

Habitats within the study site are considered to be of limited botanical value in their own right. However, the trees are considered to be of minor conservation value as they offer suitable foraging and refuge habitat to various common wildlife including common invertebrates and birds. All trees would be removed as part of the development proposals.

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.

4.2 Protected Species

4.2.1 Bats

None of the trees present within the proposed development site are considered to support suitable features for roosting bats.

Habitats at the site are generally considered to be of low value for foraging bats comprising principally of areas of amenity grassland with some low suitability foraging habitat offered around the scattered trees.

However, the site is located in a heavily urbanised area within the centre of Manchester. Therefore, it is unlikely that the site would be used by anything other than low numbers of common bat species. More suitable bat foraging habitat is offered relatively nearby at Boggart Hole Clough and Harpurhey Reservoirs.

4.2.2 Breeding Birds

The trees present could support nesting birds during the breeding bird season.

4.2.3 Other Protected Species

It is considered unlikely that any other protected species would be present at the site.

5 Evaluation and Recommendations

5.1 Results Summary

5.1.1 Habitats

Development proposals will affect a 0.8ha area of land which comprises of closely mown, amenity grassland with scattered broadleaved trees comprising of common lime and London plane.

The majority of habitats at the site are considered to be of negligible biodiversity value comprising of areas of highly modified habitats with hardstanding and closely mown amenity grassland.

However, the scattered trees and hawthorn shrub present are considered to be of minor conservation value as they offer suitable foraging and refuge habitat to various common wildlife including invertebrates and birds. All trees will be removed as part of development proposals.

5.2 Protected Species

5.2.1 Birds

The scattered trees and hawthorn shrub could support nesting birds during the breeding bird season.

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.

Removal of any tall vegetation should be timed to avoid the breeding season (March-August inclusive).

Where this is not possible, a check for breeding birds should be carried by an appropriately qualified ecologist no more than 48 hours prior to the start of vegetation clearance works. If any nesting birds are found to be present, destruction of the nesting site will need to wait until the ecologist can confirm that all young birds have fledged.

5.2.2 Bats

None of the trees present on site support suitable features for roosting bats.

Small numbers of common bat species may occasionally forage amongst the scattered trees present, however it is very unlikely that the site is of any significant importance to local bat populations.

5.2.3 Other Protected Species

The site is considered unlikely to support any other protected species. The site does not support any suitable habitat for badgers or hedgehog.

5.3 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.

5.3.1 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.

5.3.2 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.

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). It is recommended that this list is consulted when producing detailed landscaping designs for the site.

6 Appendix

Photograph 1 - View of site looking north



Photograph 2 - Trees at Target Note 1



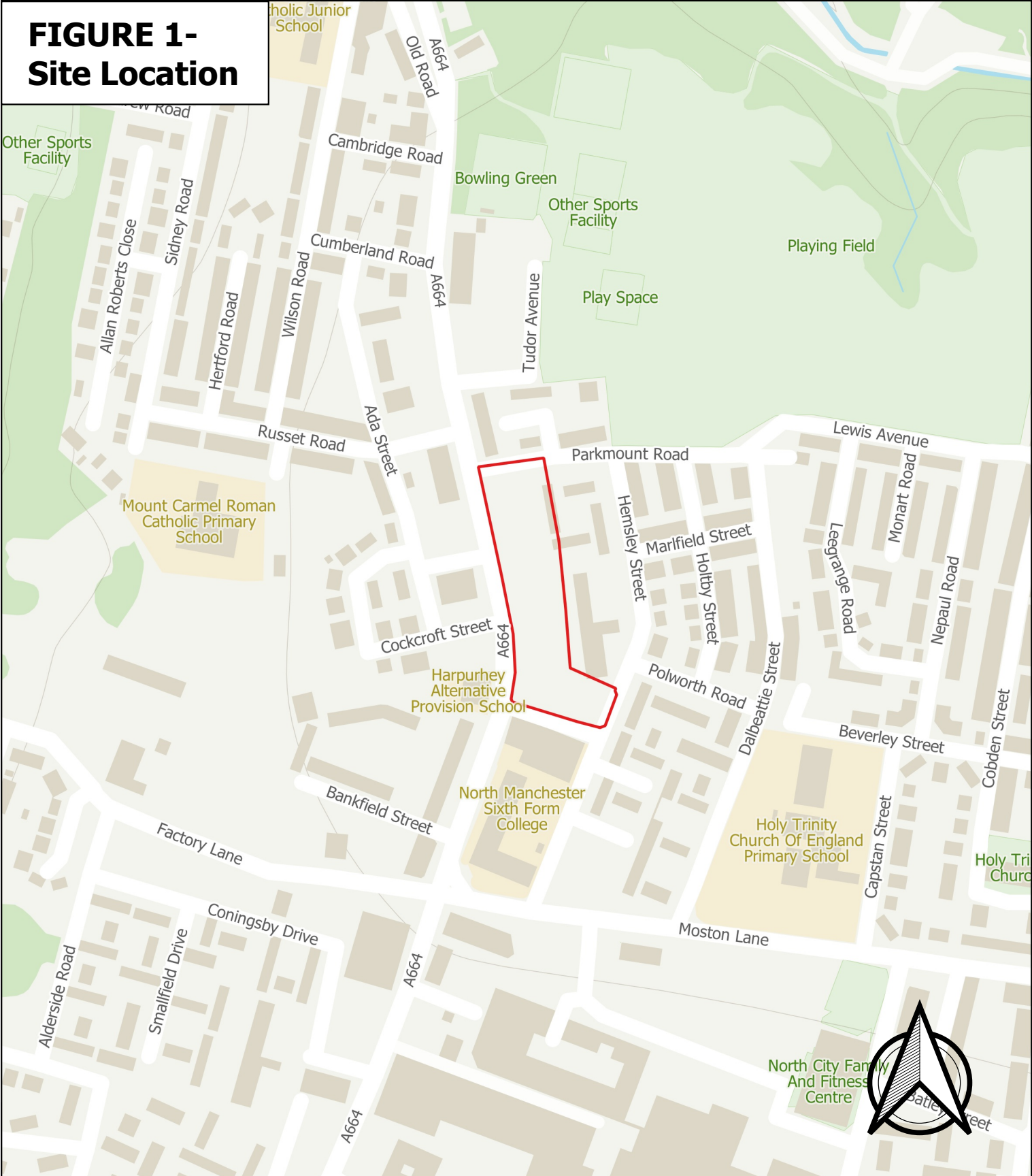
Photograph 3 - Trees at Target Note 2



Photograph 4 - Trees at Target Note 3



**FIGURE 1-
Site Location**



KEY

 Study Site

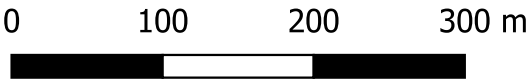
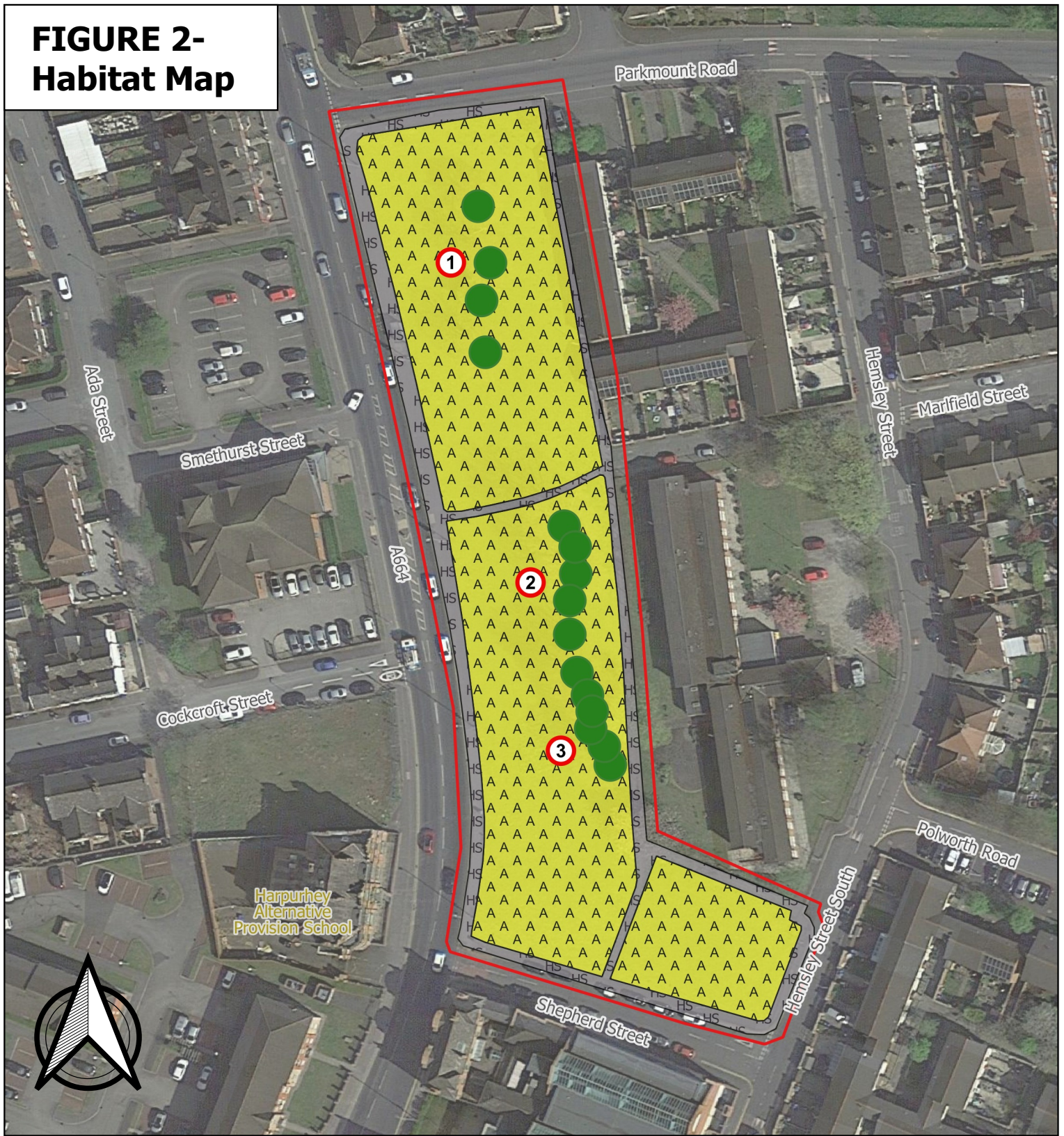


FIGURE 2- Habitat Map



KEY

- | | | | |
|---|-------------|---|-------------------|
|  | Study Site |  | Tree |
|  | Target Note |  | Amenity grassland |
|  | Fence |  | Hardstanding |

