



## Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

**Survey site:**

Abraham Moss Community School, Crescent Road, Crumpsall, Manchester, Greater Manchester, M8 5UF

**Client:**

Oliver Pennington

**Survey date:**

10/02/2026

**Project:**

This report is prepared to inform a planning application with Manchester City Council. This proposal can be described as refurbishment of existing Artificial Grass Pitch, replacement floodlights, replacement fencing, hardstanding.

*The survey results and recommendations contained within this report are valid for 18 months. An updated site visit may be required if the report is to be used any longer than 18 months after completion*

## Executive Summary

The following is work you will need to commission to obtain planning permission and to comply with legislation. Further information, along with opportunities for biodiversity enhancement, are outlined in Tables 1, 3 & 4 of this report.

| Feature          | Survey Results Summary                 | Impact Assessment                                                                                                                                                                     | Recommendations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Notable habitats | Deciduous woodland located ~10m south. | However, due to the proximity of the site to deciduous woodland (~10m south), indirect effects (e.g. pollution, dust, litter, surface run off, etc.) could occur during construction. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best practice measures to minimise the possibility of pollution must be implemented during construction.</li> <li>• A Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEMP) may be required, outlining best practice measures delineate the construction zone and to minimise the possibility of pollution and habitat damage during construction.</li> <li>• The proposed development will require a Biodiversity Net Gain assessment, to calculate the value of habitats on site and ensure the delivery of a minimum of 10% measurable biodiversity net gain.</li> </ul> |

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Invasive plants         | Japanese knotweed and cherry laurel are present within the ownership site.                                                                                                                | The proposed works will not impact the areas with the located invasive species. However, construction could result in the spread of Japanese knotweed and cherry laurel.                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An invasive species management plan is already in place on site to control and/or eradicate Japanese knotweed.</li> <li>Cherry laurel should be dug up, including roots, and disposed of in line with appropriate waste control measures to prevent its spread.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Other protected species | The site has value for foraging and commuting hedgehogs and badgers. Furthermore, due to nearby tree lines, there is a small risk of commuting reptiles within the vicinity of the works. | The proposed works will involve the removal of small sections of modified grassland. Although considered inconsequential to badgers, reptiles and hedgehogs, there is a risk they may be harmed by the works. | <p>A precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape.</li> <li>Any pipework exceeding 100mm will be capped overnight.</li> <li>The use of night-time lighting will be avoided, or sensitive lighting design will be implemented to avoid light spill on to retained habitats which hedgehogs could use.</li> <li>Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH</li> </ul> |

|  |  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--|--|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  | <p>regulations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If any small mammals are found in the working area these should be allowed to disperse of their own accord or, if at immediate risk, should be moved by hand to a sheltered, vegetated area away from disturbance.</li></ul> |
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## Introduction and Context

### Introduction

The aim of the PEA was to obtain data on existing ecological conditions, and to conduct a preliminary assessment of the likely significance of ecological impacts on the proposed development.

No previous ecology reports have been produced for this site by Arbtech Consulting Ltd or, to the author's knowledge, by any other consultancy.

### Methodology

PEA survey methodology and legislation can be found in the Arbtech Supplement: [PEA Methodology and Legislation - 2024](#).

### Limitations

Whilst every effort has been made to describe the baseline conditions within the survey area, and evaluate these features, this report is a preliminary assessment and does not provide a complete characterisation of the site. Nor does it represent a full botanical assessment. It assesses the likelihood of protected, notable and important habitats and species being present, based on a site and landscape level habitat value-based risk assessment. This is based upon the ecology, biology and known distribution of species as currently understood.

A biological records data search has not been undertaken. However, given the location of the site, the nature of the habitats present and the assessed suitability of the site for protected or notable species, it is not anticipated that the purchase of biological records data will add any significant weight or alter the conclusions and recommendations outlined in this report.

The survey was completed outside of the optimal survey period (April to October) for ground flora, and as such the accuracy of botanical assessment and condition assessment data may be limited in terms of species visible and ground conditions at the time of survey.

## Results, Impacts and Recommendations

### Site Location and Landscape Context

Table 1: Site location and landscape context

| Site Location                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                             |                    |             |                        |                    |                                      |                                                                                                             |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| The site is located at National Grid Reference SD 84497 01671 and has an area of approximately ~0.695ha (development boundary and ~3.12ha in the ownership boundary) comprising modified grassland and developed land; sealed surface.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                             |                    |             |                        |                    |                                      |                                                                                                             |            |
| Priority Habitats and Designated Sites                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                             |                    |             |                        |                    |                                      |                                                                                                             |            |
| <p><b>Summary of Survey Findings</b></p> <p><u>Priority Habitats</u><br/>There are 3 priority habitats located within 2 km of the site. These comprise deciduous woodland and ancient &amp; semi-natural woodland. The closest priority habitat comprises deciduous woodland, located ~10 m from the site.</p> <p>The site is well connected to nearby habitat via the surrounding lines of trees and scattered trees that extend into the wider landscape.</p> <p><u>Designated Sites</u><br/>There are 3 statutory sites within 2 km of the site. There is 1 statutory site within 10 km of the site. These are listed below:</p> <p><i>Table 1a: Statutory sites within 2km of the site.</i></p> <table> <tr> <th>Designation</th><th>Reason for designation</th><th>Distance from site</th></tr> <tr> <td>Blackley Forest Local Nature Reserve</td><td>The reserve supports a mix of woodland, grassland and wetland habitats with the River Irk through the site.</td><td>1.42km NNW</td></tr> </table> |                                                                                                             |                    | Designation | Reason for designation | Distance from site | Blackley Forest Local Nature Reserve | The reserve supports a mix of woodland, grassland and wetland habitats with the River Irk through the site. | 1.42km NNW |
| Designation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Reason for designation                                                                                      | Distance from site |             |                        |                    |                                      |                                                                                                             |            |
| Blackley Forest Local Nature Reserve                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | The reserve supports a mix of woodland, grassland and wetland habitats with the River Irk through the site. | 1.42km NNW         |             |                        |                    |                                      |                                                                                                             |            |

|                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |            |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Boggart Hole Clough Local Nature Reserve     | The site includes mature trees, with species such as birch, alder and oak, and understorey plants in wetter areas along the brook.                                                                                                                                                                | 1.42km ENE |
| The Cliff / Kersal Dale Local Nature Reserve | The site features woodland, including ash, silver birch, black poplar and mature beech. Associated rivarian habitats with River Irwell, the reserve supports riparian habitats where kingfishers, woodpeckers and other bird species are regularly seen along the water and in surrounding trees. | 1.83km W   |

*Table 1b: Statutory sites within 10km of the site.*

| Designation        | Reason for designation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Distance from site |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Rochdale Canal SAC | Its primary reason for designation is the presence of the aquatic plant floating water-plantain ( <i>Luronium natans</i> ), a species listed under Annex II of the Habitats Directive. This plant has significant populations along the canal and is rare in the UK. | 4.32km E           |

The site does fall within the impact risk zone for Rochdale Canal (SSSI – Site of Special Scientific interest) however, the proposed development type is not listed as possible high risk with regard to this designation.

The presence of non-statutory designated sites within 2km of the site cannot be established without data from the local records centre. Whilst some habitats in the wider landscape may host designations, the immediate environs of the site do not host habitats likely to be of designable quality.

## Impacts

No direct impacts to any designated sites will occur as a result of the proposed development, due to the small scale and low overall impact of the development from such sites (where known), alongside additional factors such as distance in combination with connectivity disrupting barriers.

**Recommendations**

No recommendations.

## Habitats and Flora

The site survey was undertaken by Kayleigh Davies BSc (Hons), MSc, Consultant Ecologist.

Table 2: Survey weather conditions

| Date of survey | Temperature (°C) | Humidity (%) | Cloud Cover (%) | Wind (km/h) | Rain |
|----------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|------|
| 10/02/2026     | 9                | 78           | 75              | 9.3         | None |

Table 3: Habitats and flora

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Habitats and Flora: Conclusion, Impact or Recommendations</b></p> <p><i>This table may include further work you will need to commission (if any) to obtain planning permission or comply with legislation for other consent. All clients are expected to read and understand this section, or to contact the lead surveyor for advice.</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p><b>Onsite habitats</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p><b>Summary of Survey Findings</b></p> <p><b>Development boundary</b></p> <p><u>Modified grassland (g4) - Scattered dwarf shrubs (13)</u></p> <p>The site has several patches of modified grassland, which consists of grass verges and lawns. All the modified grass sections have large sections of bare ground due to the use of the site as a school and the grass regularly used by the school as a playground. The grass is regularly maintained by mowing and kept to a ~10cm uniform height.</p> <p>In accordance with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessment Matrix, the modified grassland was assessed to have a poor condition value.</p> <p><i>Table 3a: Modified grassland species abundance.</i></p> |

| Abundance  | Species                                                                                                                     |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dominant   | Yorkshire-fog ( <i>Holcus lanatus</i> )                                                                                     |
| Abundant   | White clover ( <i>Trifolium repens</i> ), dandelion ( <i>Taraxacum</i> )                                                    |
| Frequent   | Daisy ( <i>Bellis perennis</i> )                                                                                            |
| Occasional | Ribwort plantain ( <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> )                                                                             |
| Rare       | Red fescues ( <i>Festuca rubra</i> ), box-leaved honeysuckle ( <i>Lonicera pileata</i> ), box ( <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> ) |

Developed land; sealed surface (u1b)

The site largely consists of developed land, paths and playground.

In accordance with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessment Matrix, this habitat is not subject to a condition assessment and is automatically assigned a poor condition.

**Site Ownership Boundary (blue line)**

Developed land; sealed surface (u1b) - Educational building (813)

The site largely consists of developed land, sealed concrete roads, car park, paths and playground.

In accordance with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessment Matrix, this habitat is not subject to a condition assessment and is automatically assigned a poor condition.

Mixed scrub (h3h) - Scattered trees (32)

There is a section of mixed scrub to the northeast of the site, adjacent to the northern grass verge section of the site. There are remnants of Japanese Knotweed present within the section of scrub, reduced likely to the out of season survey timings. The site is currently undergoing removal procedures for this invasive species. There are trees present within this section of scrub, largely are self set saplings. There are two silver birch trees, all of small trunk size (discussed further below).

In accordance with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessment Matrix, the mixed scrub was assessed to have a poor condition value.

Table 3b: Mixed scrub species abundance.

| Abundance         | Species                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dominant</b>   | Bramble ( <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> )                                                                                              |
| <b>Abundant</b>   | Ground-ivy ( <i>Glechoma hederacea</i> )                                                                                         |
| <b>Frequent</b>   | Grey willow ( <i>Salix cinerea</i> subsp. <i>cinerea</i> )                                                                       |
| <b>Occasional</b> | Male-fern ( <i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i> ), wild cherry ( <i>Prunus avium</i> ), japanese knotweed ( <i>Reynoutria japonica</i> ) |
| <b>Rare</b>       | Silver birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> ), cherry laurel ( <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> )                                             |

#### Scattered Trees (32)

50 trees are present on site, comprising 35 small and 15 medium size. The survey identified a mix of native and non-native tree species including swedish whitebeam (*Sorbus intermedia*), goat willow (*Salix caprea*), common alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), field maple (*Acer campestre*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*), pear (*Pyrus communis*), Crab apples (*Malus sylvestris*) and yew (*Taxus baccata*). Group 1 comprises two medium-sized swedish whitebeams, both assessed as moderate condition. Group 2 contains small and medium-sized goat willow, common alder, common ash, and field maple, all of moderate condition. Group 3 includes small and medium-sized field maple, sycamore, common ash, locust, and elder, also all assessed as moderate condition. Group 4 is the largest, featuring a variety of small and medium-sized trees including sycamore, norway maple, common alder, yew, silver birch, field maple, and locust, all of which were assessed as moderate condition. Group 5 consists of small urban trees to the north of the school consisting of 6 small pear, apple and field maple trees. No specific ecological niches were recorded for any of the trees during this survey. Over 50% of all trees are young or semi-mature.

The trees were grouped and assessed in accordance with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessment Matrix as follows:

Table 3c: The condition scores of each group of trees on site.

| Group         | Tree                                                                 | Condition Score |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Group 1 (x2)  | Swedish Whitebeam                                                    | Moderate        |
| Group 2 (x8)  | Goat Willow, Common Alder, Common Ash                                | Moderate        |
| Group 3 (x13) | Field Maple, Sycamore, Common Ash, Locust, Elder                     | Moderate        |
| Group 4 (x21) | Sycamore, Norway Maple, Common Alder, Yew, Field Maple, Silver Birch | Moderate        |
| Group 5 (x6)  | Pear, crab apples and field maple                                    | Poor            |

#### Building (u1b5)

There are two buildings on site, both of them are schools.

#### **Impacts**

No direct impacts to any notable habitats will occur as a result of the proposed development. No direct impacts to any notable habitats will occur as a result of the proposed development. However, due to the proximity of the site to deciduous woodland (~10m south), indirect effects (e.g. pollution, dust, litter, surface run off, etc.) could occur during construction.

The proposed development will result in the loss of modified grassland. This is likely to have a minimal impact on biodiversity due to the low ecological value of these habitats. However, this could lead to a net loss in biodiversity at the site.

#### **Recommendations**

Best practice measures to minimise the possibility of pollution must be implemented during construction. This should include the following measures:

- Remove only the minimum of habitat required to facilitate the development
- Use of Heras or other appropriate fencing to prevent encroachment by contractors onto retained habitats.
- Protect retained turf and soil resource from destruction and compaction using plastic matting and wooden boarding. Do not store skips and other heavy materials on retained turf.
- Grasscrete, cell web or any other porous surface treatment facilitating recovery of vegetation is preferred to hard standing.

A Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEMP) may be required, outlining best practice measures delineate the construction zone and to minimise the possibility of pollution and habitat damage during construction.

The proposed development will require a Biodiversity Net Gain assessment, to calculate the value of habitats on site and ensure the delivery of a minimum of 10% measurable biodiversity net gain.

### Invasive / Non-native species

#### Summary of Survey Findings

Cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) and japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) were identified within the ownership boundary of the site. Both species are listed as an invasive, non-native species, with Japanese knotweed listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

#### Impacts

The proposed works will not impact the areas with the located invasive species. However, construction could result in the spread of japanese knotweed and cherry laurel.

#### Recommendations

An invasive species management plan is already in place on site to control and/or eradicate japanese knotweed.

Cherry laurel is recommended to be dug up, including roots, and disposed of in line with appropriate waste control measures to prevent its spread.

## Fauna

Table 4: Fauna

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Fauna: Conclusion, Impact or Recommendations</b></p> <p><i>This table may include further work you will need to commission (if any) to obtain planning permission or comply with legislation for other consent. All clients are expected to read and understand this section, or to contact the lead surveyor for advice.</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p><b>Invertebrates</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p><b>Summary of Survey Findings</b></p> <p>The site provides limited habitat value for a variety of commonplace species but is unlikely to support important species and assemblages. In particular, the deadwood will provide value to saproxylic invertebrates.</p> <p><b>Impacts</b></p> <p>The proposed development will result in the loss in small sections of modified grassland. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local invertebrate populations owing to the presence of more extensive habitat locally.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The following habitat creation and enhancement opportunities could be incorporated into the proposed development which would be beneficial for invertebrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retention of scrub pockets</li> <li>• Planting of pollinator friendly grassland species</li> <li>• Installation of insect hotels</li> <li>• Incorporation of log piles/dead wood</li> <li>• Creation of rock and brash piles</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Roosting Bats</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p><b>Summary of Survey Findings</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

A review of the MAGIC database for European Protected Species Licences (EPSL) for bats within a 2km radius of the site has been completed. 2 EPSL were identified, as detailed below:

*Table 4a: EPSL records within 2km of the site - bats*

| EPSL reference    | Bat species affected | Distance from site | Impacts allowed by licence                 |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 2014-1562-EPS-BDX | Common pipistrelle   | ~1.8km north       | Destruction of breeding and resting place. |
| 2014-1364-EPS-BDX | Common pipistrelle   | ~2km north         | Unknown.                                   |

No buildings or trees are to be impacted by the proposed works and therefore no impacts are anticipated to roosting bats.

#### Impacts

No impacts are foreseen to roosting bats.

#### Recommendations

None.

### Foraging and Commuting Bats

#### Summary of Survey Findings

Onsite trees and grassland could be used by local bat populations for foraging and commuting. In addition, the site is well connected to more suitable habitats in the wider landscape such as further woodland pockets and grassland.

#### Impacts

The proposed development will result in the loss of small sections of modified grassland. Given the presence of more extensive areas of foraging and commuting habitat in the locality, this is likely to be inconsequential for bats.

#### Recommendations

A low impact lighting strategy will be adopted for the site during and post-development, which will be designed to incorporate the measures laid out in the latest (2023) bat lighting guide Guidance Note 8 Bats and Artificial Lighting<sup>1</sup>.

The following habitat creation and enhancement opportunities could be incorporated into the proposed development which would be beneficial for foraging bats:

- Planting of locally characteristic tree, shrub and hedgerows to increase foraging opportunities.

## Birds

### Summary of Survey Findings

No trees within the development boundary. No evidence of nesting birds was identified on or within nearby trees, however the nearby trees provide suitable shelter and could be used by common nesting birds.

Due to the small size of the site and the extent and type of the habitats recorded, the site not considered suitable to support a significant assemblage of protected and/or notable birds.

### Impacts

Small sections of modified grassland will be removed during construction. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local bird populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitat locally. No trees will be impacted, however there are trees located near to the proposed development. The proposed development could result in the disturbance and subsequent abandonment of active bird nests if present in the nearby trees.

### Recommendations

Precautions should be taken with machinery and noise levels when working close to any retained nests so as not to disturb any nearby nesting birds during construction works. At least a 3-5m buffer should be created between any machinery and active nests, depending on species present, until the young have fledged.

## Reptiles

### Summary of Survey Findings

The dominant habitat onsite (modified grassland) is considered unsuitable for reptiles due to the species content (common and widespread species with minimal diversity) and associated management regime, where at the time of the survey the grassland was recorded as being a

relatively short sward.

Given the management regime employed on the modified grassland, as well as the species composition, it is considered unlikely that this faunal group would be present within this habitat.

However, the tree lines ~10m to the south of the development and mixed scrub to the north of the site provide sheltering and hibernation opportunities for reptiles. In any case, the tree lines are to be retained as part of the development proposals, albeit loss of bramble scrub to facilitate development.

### Impacts

The proposed development will result in the loss of small areas of modified grassland. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local reptile populations owing to their low value and the presence of more suitable habitat locally and on site. However, site clearance could result in the death or injury of reptiles, if present.

### Recommendations

Owing to the nature of the proposed development and the low potential for impacts to reptiles, further surveys are considered to be disproportionate. A precautionary working method will be implemented for widespread reptiles during construction, including the following measures:

- Grassland to be impacted and immediately surrounding should be maintained at a short sward for the duration of construction to deter reptiles from the working area.
- Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape.
- Best practice pollution prevention measures will be implemented to minimise impacts to nearby habitats.
- Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations.
- If any reptiles are found in the working area these should be allowed to disperse of their own accord or, if at immediate risk, should be moved by hand to a sheltered, vegetated area away from disturbance.

## Amphibians

### Summary of Survey Findings

A review of MAGIC database found no granted EPSL for great crested newts within 2km of the site.

Great crested newts (GCN) exist in metapopulations and are known to utilise ponds and their connecting terrestrial habitat during their life cycle; great crested newts are typically found within terrestrial habitats up to 500m from breeding ponds (Langton et al. 2001).

No ponds are located on, or adjacent to, the site. A review of aerial imagery shows there are no ponds within 500m of the site.

#### **Impacts**

No impacts are anticipated on great crested newt, as a result of the proposed development as this species is considered to be absent from the site. No ponds are present on site or within 500m of the site.

The site provides limited suitable terrestrial habitat for amphibians given the lack of optimal habitat (i.e. scrub, rank grassland). The areas of hard standing and amenity grass offer sub-optimal habitat for terrestrial amphibians. The tree lines and scrub on site may offer refuge for these species, however given the urban nature of the surrounding landscape (i.e. dominated by roads and hard standing which are sub-optimal for amphibians) it is unlikely that amphibians will migrate on to site. Furthermore, the tree lines and onsite scrub will not be impacted by the proposed works.

#### **Recommendations**

None.

### **Badgers**

#### **Summary of Survey Findings**

The site is relatively flat and open, limiting sett excavation opportunities. No badger setts were noted on site or within a 30m radius of the site, where accessible. No evidence of badgers was found on site. The wider landscape lacks woodland pockets which are likely to host established populations. However, field margins and hedgerow networks, which are directly connected to the site, will provide value. As such, the presence of foraging, commuting, and sheltering badgers on site cannot be discounted.

#### **Impacts**

No works will be undertaken within 30m of a known badger sett. The proposed development will result in the loss of small sections of modified grassland. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local badger populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitat locally. However, construction activities could result in the death or injury of badgers, if present.

#### **Recommendations**

Owing to the nature of the proposed development and the low potential for impacts to badgers, further badger surveys are considered to be disproportionate. A precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures:

- Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape.
- The use of night-time lighting will be avoided, or sensitive lighting design will be implemented to avoid light spill on to retained habitats which badgers could use.
- Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations.
- In the unlikely event that a badger sett is identified, works must cease and advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.

### Riparian animals

#### Summary of Survey Findings

There are no riparian habitats on or adjacent to the site.

#### Impacts

Otters

No impacts are anticipated on riparian animals as a result of the proposed development.

Water Vole

No impacts are anticipated on riparian animals as a result of the proposed development.

#### Recommendations

None.

### Hazel dormouse

#### Summary of Survey Findings

The site lies outside of the known current range for hazel dormice and there are no suitable habitats within the development area. As such it is considered likely that hazel dormice are absent from site.

#### Impacts

No impacts are anticipated on hazel dormice as a result of the proposed development.

#### Recommendations

None.

#### Other e.g. small mammals

##### Summary of Survey Findings

The scrub and tree lines on site offers suitable foraging, sheltering and commuting opportunities for small terrestrial mammals such as rabbits, hares and hedgehogs. The site is well connected to more extensive habitats such as residential gardens to the north, and grassland and associated field margins and hedgerow networks to the east, which are likely to host established populations. As such, the presence of foraging, sheltering and commuting small mammals on site cannot be discounted.

##### Impacts

The proposed development will result in the loss of small areas of modified grassland. The loss of such habitats is likely to be inconsequential to local small mammal/hedgehog populations owing to their low value and the presence of more extensive habitat locally. However, construction activities could result in the death or injury of hedgehogs, if present.

##### Recommendations

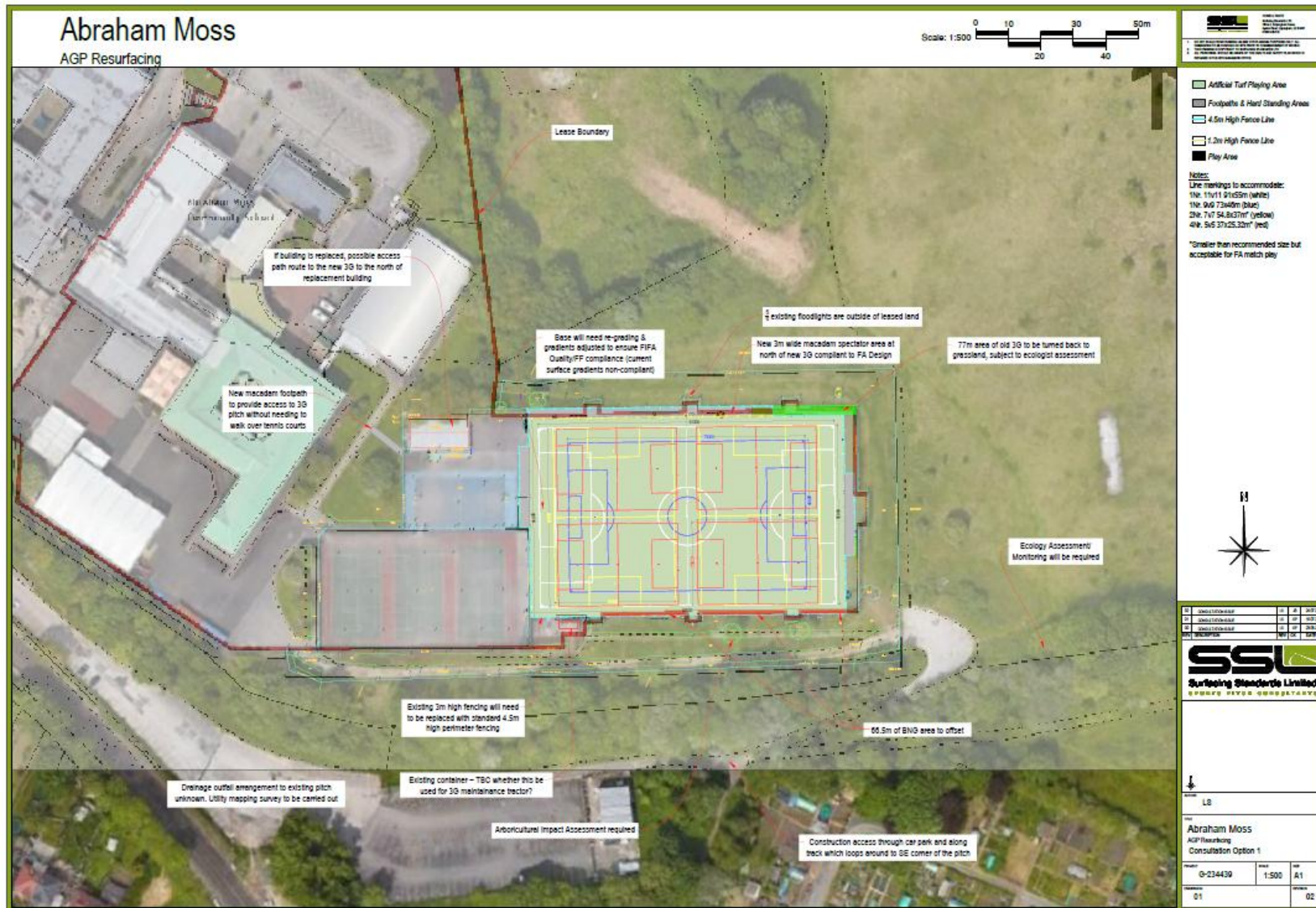
A precautionary working method will be implemented during construction, including the following measures:

- Any excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed to enable any trapped animals to escape.
- Any pipework exceeding 100mm will be capped overnight.
- The use of night-time lighting will be avoided, or sensitive lighting design will be implemented to avoid light spill on to retained habitats which hedgehogs could use.
- Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations.
- If any small mammals are found in the working area these should be allowed to disperse of their own accord or, if at immediate risk, should be moved by hand to a sheltered, vegetated area away from disturbance.

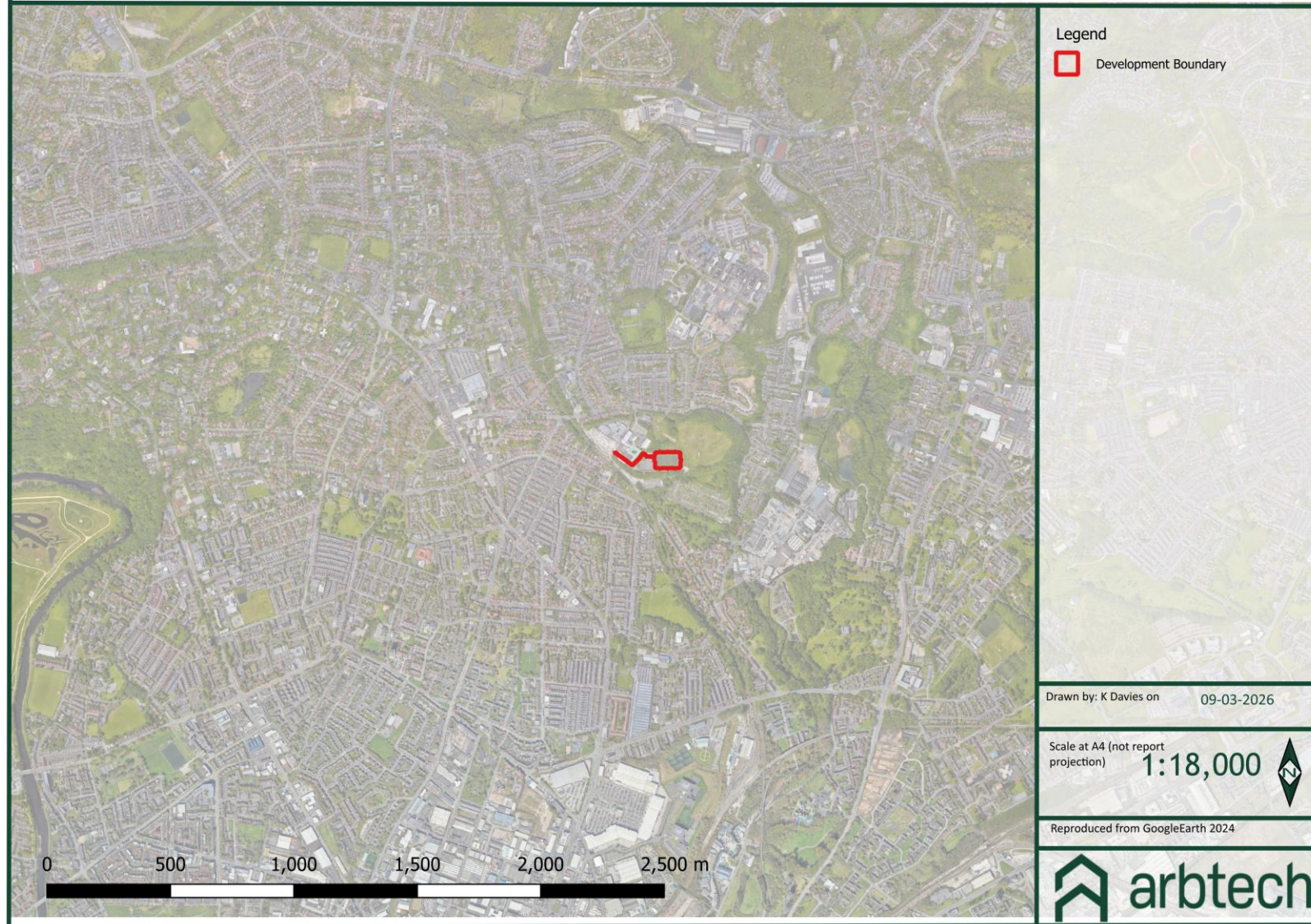
The following habitat creation and enhancement opportunities could be incorporated into the proposed development which would be beneficial for hedgehogs:

- Creation of brash piles
- Installation of hedgehog houses in shady areas.

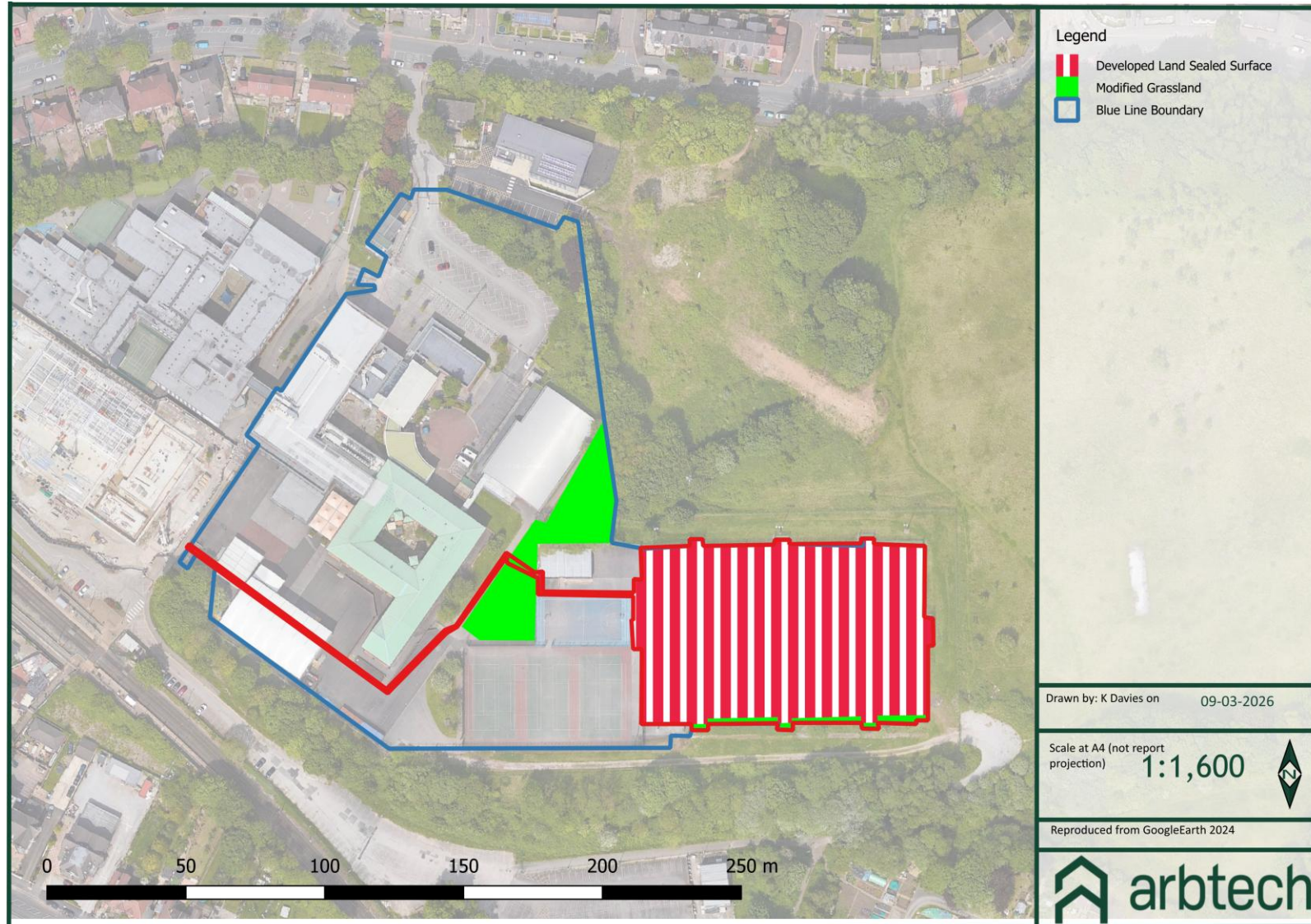
## Appendix 1: Proposed Development Plan



## Appendix 2: Site Location Plan



### Appendix 3: Habitat Survey Plan



#### Appendix 4: Site Photographs (including ownership boundary)



*Photo 1: Modified grassland - example of a grass verge to the east of B1.*



*Photo 2: Modified grassland - grassland to the north of the carpark onsite with example of trees on site. .*



*Photo 3: Developed land; sealed surface - the playground on site.*



*Photo 4: Developed land; sealed surface - the existing astroturf field.*



*Photo 5: Mixed scrub - example of the scrub to the northeast of the site.*



*Photo 6: Group 1 - Swedish Whitebeam (Sorbus intermedia)*



*Photo 7: Group 2 of common alder, ash and goat willow.*



*Photo 8: Group 3 - Sycamore, Norway Maple, Common Alder, Yew, Field Maple, Silver Birch.*



*Photo 9: Field Maple (Acer campestre)*



*Photo 10: Norway Maple (Acer platanoides)*



*Photo 11: B1*



*Photo 12: B2*

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## Version Control

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