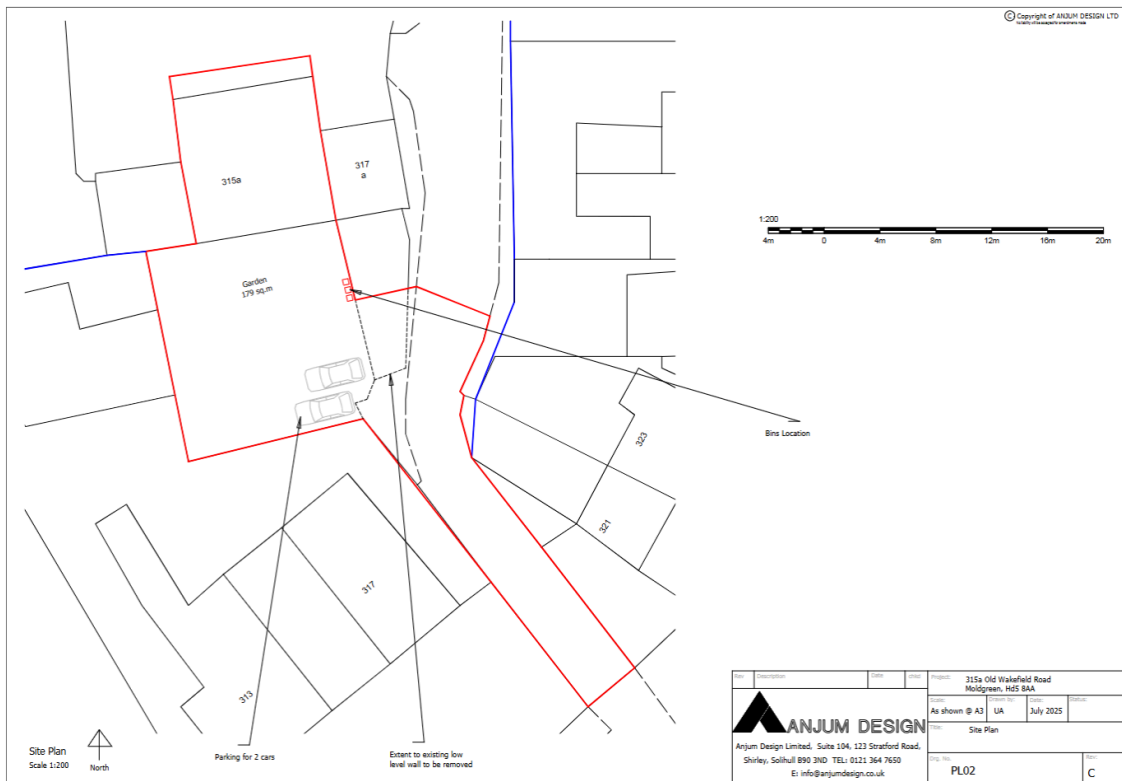




ROAVR | GROUP

Project: 26_LEMP_02_58
Site: 315a Old Wakefield Road, Huddersfield HD5 8AA
Client: Khurshid Khan
Application: 2025/62/92153/W



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Project Number:	26_LEMP_02_58
Report Type:	Technical Note - Biodiversity Enhancements
Site Address:	315a Old Wakefield Road, Huddersfield HD5 8AA

Role:	Name:	Position:	Date:
Author	Tom Johnson	Ecologist	23/02/2026

Revision History		
Date:	Version number:	Summary of changes:
25/02/2026	1.0	First Draft
27/02/20256	1.0	First Issue

Summary:	
Site	315a Old Wakefield Road, Huddersfield, HD5 8AA National Grid Reference: SD 9303 0599
Purpose & Brief	Biodiversity enhancement plan
Consented Proposals	Change of use of dwelling to children's home, including associated works.
Methods	Desk Study Proposal Assessment
Opportunities For Ecological Enhancements	Sparrow Terraces Invertebrate boxes Bee Bricks Bird boxes Native species planting Fruit tree planting Wildlife gap

With the assumption that the existing conditions on-site remain unchanged. The results of this report are likely to remain valid for 12-months inline with the guidance published by CIEEM and the Bat Conservation Trust.

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Appendix 3: Example Specifications for Wildlife Enhancements

Appendix 4: Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

Acknowledgements:

Data referred to within this report were sourced from the Natural England Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (DEFRA MAGIC) database.

Client Documents:

This report has been completed on the assumption that the plans provided by the client at the time of issue of this report remain the same. A list of the documents provided by the client can be found in the table below.

Table: Documents provided by the client as of February 2026.

Plans provided by the client as of February 2026
Floorplan02-PL02 Rev C.pdf
Floorplan01-PL03.pdf
Floorplan01-PL04.pdf

1 Introduction

- 1.1 ROAVR Group were commissioned to undertake a desktop assessment at 315a Old Wakefield Road, Huddersfield HD5 8AA and put forward biodiversity enhancements for the proposed scheme.
- 1.2 The reporting was comprised of a desktop study, which was undertaken in February 2026 and an assessment of the proposals to develop a biodiversity enhancement plan.
- 1.3 The methodology and results are outlined within the report. Where applicable, recommendations for suitable mitigation and ecological enhancements are provided.
- 1.4 The report is to be submitted to support a consented planning application. Full details of the proposals can be found on the planning portal ref. 2025/62/92153/W.
- 1.5 The information and recommendations within this report have been prepared and provided in accordance with CIEEM's Code of Professional Conduct (CIEEM, 2022).

SITE DESCRIPTION

- 1.6 The survey site covers an area of approximately 358 sq metres and is centred on grid reference 'SE 15812 16519'.
- 1.7 The site is situated in a residential area in the Kirklees Metropolitan Council control area. The site is located in the east of Huddersfield town centre and is accessed from Old Wakefield Road.
- 1.8 The development site currently comprises an area of artificial, unvegetated, unsealed ground with no established vegetation present.

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

- 1.9 The site is to be redeveloped with internal renovations, boundary fencing and a driveway with parking for two cars added. This has resulted in the loss of a mature sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and an ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), as well as some hedgerow of unknown species.

SCOPE OF WORKS

- 1.10 This assessment aimed to identify opportunities for ecological enhancement

2 Methodology

DESKTOP STUDY

- 2.1 Site-specific information in relation to land designations, protected species and protected habitats within a 2km search area was sourced from DEFRA MAGIC and NBN Atlas.
- 2.2 In order to ensure that ecological data searches were up to date, species data were screened, and all data records pre-2015 were omitted from the results.
- 2.3 Results of the desktop study should be considered to be indicative only.

SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT

- 2.4 The likelihood of occurrence of protected ecological features and species was ranked in accordance with the criteria listed in Table 2.4.1. Likelihood of occurrence was assessed using data collected during the desk study as to their likelihood to provide suitability for protected species (i.e. presence of breeding, nesting, roosting, foraging, commuting and/or refuge habitat, for example).
- 2.5 For biodiversity enhancement measures to be developed, it was important to have an understanding of what (if any) protected species may be in the local area.

Table 2.4.1: Criteria used to assess the likelihood of occurrence for protected ecological features and species on-site (excl. bats).

Likelihood of occurrence	Criteria
Present	Confirmed as present by confirmed historical records.
High	Species are known to be present within close proximity to the site (records present). Habitats on-site are of high quality for the species and/or likely to support a large population. The site is well connected to good quality habitat within the local area.
Moderate	Species are known to be present within the local area (records present). Habitats on-site are of moderate quality for the species and/or likely to support a moderate population. The site and connected habitats provide all of the ecological requirements of the species. Suitability of habitats on-site may be limited due to disconnectivity to the wider landscape, poor to moderate habitat available within the wider locality, and/or due to the presence of only a small area of suitable habitat.
Low	Few or no records of the species within the local area. Habitats on-site are of poor quality for the species and/or likely to support just a few individuals. The suitability of habitats may be limited due to disturbance, isolation and/or poor quality habitat available within the wider locality. However, species presence cannot be discounted due to the national distribution of the species or the nature of on-site and surrounding habitats (if all required ecological requirements for the species are present).
Negligible	While presence cannot be absolutely discounted, the site includes very limited or poor-quality habitat for a particular species. Connected habitats do not fulfil the ecological requirements of the species. There are no local records, and/or the site is outside the known national range of the species.

ECOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS AND MITIGATION

2.6 An evaluation of the potential ecological constraints to the proposed development and appropriate mitigation strategies was made following CIEEM's 'Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland (CIEEM, 2018).

LIMITATIONS

2.7 No site visit was carried out.

3 Policy and Legislative Context

- 3.1 This section includes the legislative context of those protected species or other notable species that are recorded on-site or have the potential to be present on-site. Details on specific legislation for other protected or notable species that have not been identified as being present, or having the potential to be present, are not included below.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

- 3.2 The introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012 sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied in the presumption in favour of sustainable development. It sets out the Government's requirements for the planning system, only to the extent that it is relevant, proportionate and necessary to do so and is a material consideration for local planning authorities in determining applications.
- 3.3 Planning Practise Guidance is relevant, covering the Natural Environment alongside the NPPF. Therefore, features of ecological value should be considered in the context of conserving and enhancing the natural environment.
- 3.4 The Government's objectives for planning are to promote sustainable development, to conserve, enhance and restore the diversity of England's wildlife and geology and to contribute to rural renewal and urban renaissance.

LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

- 3.5 This report has been commissioned to comply with the adopted [Kirklees Local Plan](#) framework and the following policies:
- Policy LP30 — Biodiversity & Geodiversity
 - Policy LP31 — Strategic Green Infrastructure Network

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION

- 3.6 Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1982)
- 3.7 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1983)
- 3.8 Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)
- 3.9 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949)
- 3.10 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)
- 3.11 Protection of Badgers Act (1992)
- 3.12 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017)
- 3.13 The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1975)
- 3.14 The Hedgerows Regulations (1997)
- 3.15 UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1994)
- 3.16 Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)
- 3.17 Wild Mammals (Protection) Act (1996)

4 Desktop Study

SITE DESIGNATIONS

4.1 There are no designated sites within the 2km search area.

LOCAL HABITAT

4.2 4 priority habitat types across 88 parcels were identified within 2km of the site boundary.

Table 4.2.1: Priority habitats formerly mapped within a 2km radius of the survey site.

Habitat	Approx. Closest Distance from Site (km)
Deciduous woodland	0.18 SW
Ancient Replanted Woodland	0.82 S
Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland	1.16 SE
Good quality semi-improved grassland	1.88 SE

*Data from DEFRA MAGIC

4.3 There were no standing water bodies situated within a 500m radius of the survey site.

HISTORICAL SPECIES RECORDS

4.4 Protected species records relating to the site and 2km search area were obtained from DEFRA MAGIC and other official data sources as part of the desktop study. A full LERC enquiry has not been carried out at this time.

4.5 The absence of identified records does not discount the presence of a species. An absence of identified records is primarily a result of a lack of survey or the non-submission of records. Furthermore, historical records of species do not confirm their current presence within an area.

4.6 A record search of NBN Atlas and DEFRA MAGIC was carried out on 23/02/2026. The desk study returned three EPSL licences within 2km of the site.

4.7 *Table 4.7.1: Previous protected species licences mapped within a 2km radius of the survey site. Data from DEFRA MAGIC.*

Reference, Date and Species	Approx. Distance from Site (km)
EPSM2011-3176 - C-PIP	0.82 SW
2014-856-EPS-MIT - C-PIP	0.95 W
EPSM2010-1750 - C-PIP;S-PIP;BLE	1.03 SW

- 4.8 Birds are well represented within the data search area, with 3,784 records returned. The dataset includes a broad range of common breeding and wintering species typical of urban, woodland and farmland habitats, such as Blackbird (*Turdus merula*), Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), Woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*), Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*), Great Tit (*Parus major*) and Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*). Records also include larger and water-associated species where suitable habitat is present, together with a variety of corvids, gulls and other passerines.
- 4.9 A single bat record was returned within the data search area, identified only to order level as Bat (*Chiroptera*). No records identified to the species level are present within this dataset.
- 4.10 Six amphibian records were identified within the study area. These comprise Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*), Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*) and Palmate Newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*).
- 4.11 No reptile records were returned within the data search area as part of this dataset.
- 4.12 Excluding bats, 44 terrestrial mammal records were returned. Species recorded include Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*), Brown Hare (*Lepus europaeus*), Badger (*Meles meles*), Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) and Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*).
- 4.13 The search returned 1,285 plant records within the data search area, representing a diverse assemblage of trees, shrubs, grasses and herbaceous species. The dataset includes both native and naturalised taxa typical of grassland, woodland, riparian and ruderal habitats.

5 Biodiversity Enhancements

- 5.1 The development should be used as an opportunity for biodiversity enhancement by creating new opportunities for wildlife.

BIRDS

- 5.2 It is recommended to place two new bird boxes on-site to provide additional nesting opportunities for local bird species. This simple enhancement supports breeding birds, promotes biodiversity, and contributes positively to the site's overall ecological value
- 5.3 A sparrow terrace should also be attached to the building in an area of low disturbance to provide dedicated nesting space for house sparrows, a species identified in the desk study, and of conservation concern.

INVERTEBRATES

- 5.4 It is recommended to install 2 invertebrate boxes on-site. The boxes should be suitable for solitary bees and located within the private garden to the western side of the site.
- 5.5 It is recommended to install 2 bee bricks within the garden to provide nesting habitat for solitary bees. This simple, low-maintenance feature supports declining pollinators, enhances biodiversity, and contributes positively to the site's ecological value.
- 5.6 Nectar-rich wildflowers should be planted within close proximity to the bee bricks/invertebrates boxes to create new opportunities for pollinators.
- 5.7 Fruit trees make an ideal habitat for many invertebrate species. Thus, it is recommended to plant new fruit trees in the garden on-site. For example, Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*), Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) and Common Pear (*Pyrus communis*), but care should be given to the placement of these trees to ensure they do not conflict with proposed built footprints or drop fruit on hard surfaces, thus creating a trip hazard.

ECOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS

- 5.8 Development proposals must have regard for protected species identified as potentially occurring on, or near to, the site (e.g., amphibians, birds, terrestrial mammals, and reptiles). Mitigation measures to protect these species have been produced within this report to ensure that the proposed works comply with relevant UK legislation.

MITIGATION STRATEGIES

- 5.9 Construction works should be limited to daylight hours (excl. dawn and dusk) to prevent disturbance to nighttime foraging activity.
- 5.10 Any trenches or other excavations left open overnight should be well covered to deter hedgehogs from entering. If this is not possible, any trenches or other excavations left open overnight should either be provided with an escape ramp (comprised of a sloped side or wooden plank reaching up to ground level or slightly above), to allow any wildlife that falls in to escape.
- 5.11 During hibernation season (October to March), piles of leaf litter and logs should be retained to ensure hibernating hedgehogs are not harmed. If removal is unavoidable, the piles must be carefully checked before burning.
- 5.12 Post-construction, the use of artificial lighting should be limited where possible. Motion sensors on outside lighting will prevent prolonged disturbance. It is recommended that outside lighting be set on short timers (1 minute) and that the sensitivity be set to large moving objects only.
- 5.13 Any newly built boundary features should incorporate 'wildlife gaps' (comprising a 13x13cm gap at the base of the feature), to allow wildlife to pass through.

SUMMARY

- 5.14 Subject to the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures, the proposed development is unlikely to have a significant ecological impact.
- 5.15 A detailed biodiversity enhancement plan is outlined in Appendix 4.

6 References and Bibliography

- 6.1 CIEEM. (2017). *Guide to Ecological Surveys and Their Purpose*. CIEEM, Winchester.
- 6.2 CIEEM. (2017). *Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal*. CIEEM, Winchester.
- 6.3 CIEEM. (2022). *Code of Professional Conduct*. CIEEM, Winchester.
- 6.4 CIRIA, CIEEM & IEMA. (2016). *Biodiversity Net Gain. Good practice principles for development*. CIEEM, Winchester.
- 6.5 CIRIA, CIEEM & IEMA. (2019). *Biodiversity Net Gain. Good practice principles for development: A practical guide*. CIEEM, Winchester.
- 6.6 J. Collins. (2023). *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 4th Edition*. The Bat Conservation Trust, London
- 6.7 DEFRA. (2022). *DEFRA MAGIC*. <https://magic.defra.gov.uk>.
- 6.8 Gunnell, K., Grant, G. & Williams, C. (2012). *Landscape and Urban Design for Bats and Biodiversity*. Bat Conservation Trust, London.
- 6.9 The UK Habitat Classification Manual (Butcher et al., 2020).
- 6.10 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. (2012). *National Planning Policy Framework*. <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/>.
- 6.11 Mitchell-Jones, A.J. (2004). *Bat Mitigation Guidelines*. English Nature, Peterborough.
- 6.12 Mitchell-Jones, A.J. & McLeish, A.P. (2004). *Bat Workers Manual 3rd Edition*. JNCC, UK.
- 6.13 Scottish Badgers. (2018). *Surveying for Badgers: Good Practice Guidelines Version 1*. Scottish Badgers, Scotland.
- 6.14 Reason, P.F. and Wray, S. (2023). *UK Bat Mitigation Guidelines: a guide to impact assessment, mitigation and compensation for developments affecting bats*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Ampfield.

7 Limitations

- 7.1 ROAVR Group has prepared this report for the sole use of the above-named client in accordance with our terms of business, under which our services were performed. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this report or any other services provided by us.
- 7.2 This report may not be relied upon by any other party without the prior and express written agreement of ROAVR Group. The assessments made assume that the land use will continue for its current purpose without significant change. ROAVR Group has not independently verified information obtained from third parties.
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Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

Tom Johnson
Consultant Ecologist



ROAVR | GROUP

Prepared by: Tom Johnson BSc
Checked by: Ioana Andor BSc(Hons) MSc

Appendix 1: Site Location and Assessment Boundary

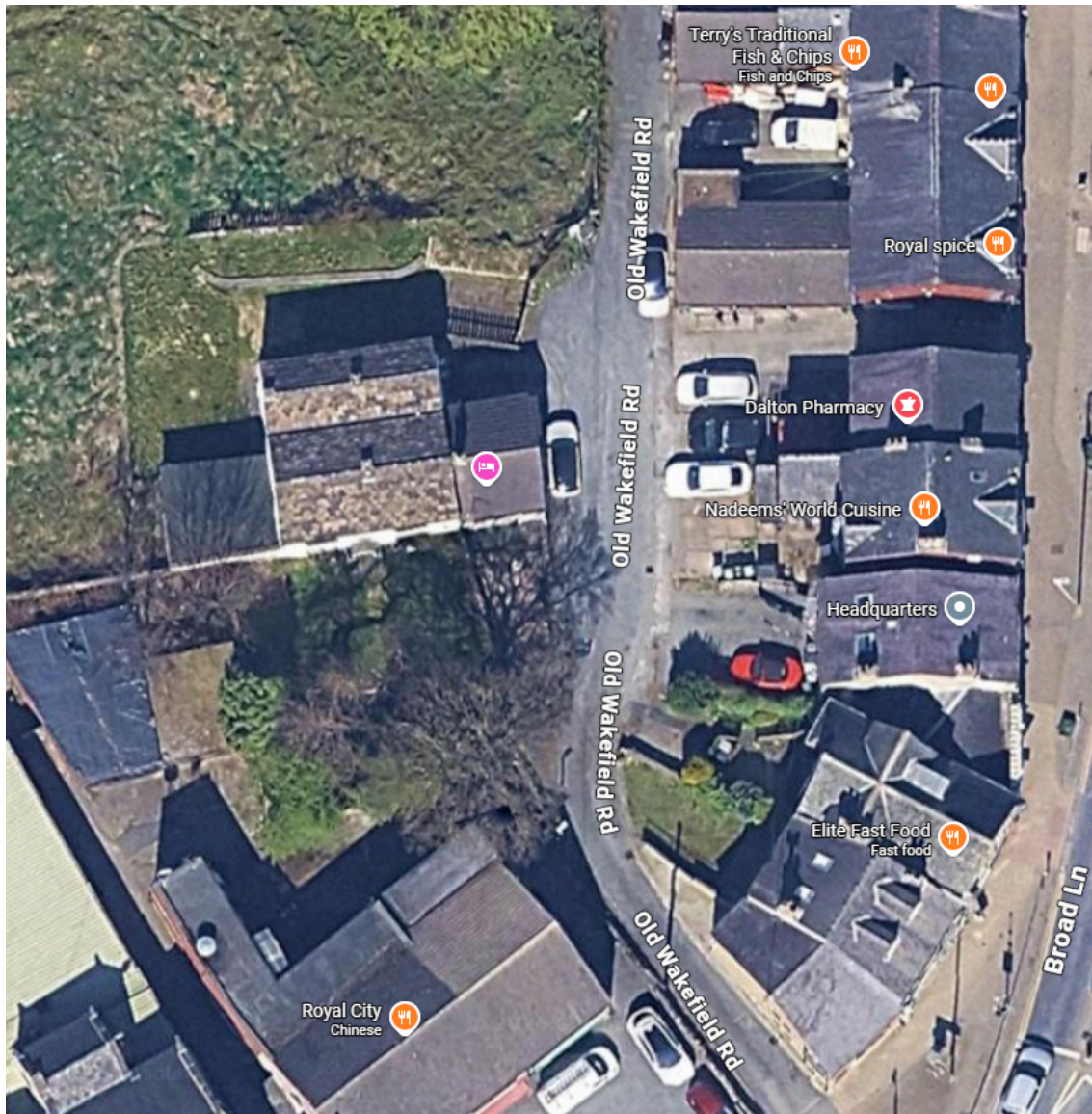


Figure A1.1: Aerial image showing the site location. (Google Maps, 2026).

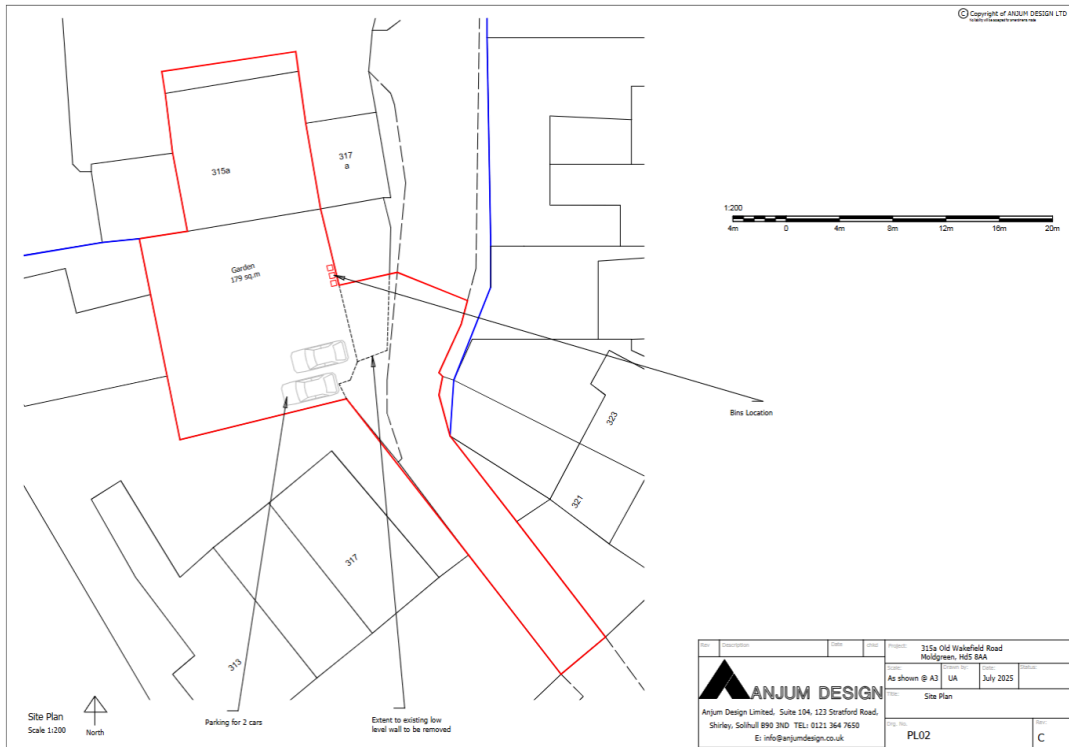


Figure A1.2: Extract from approved location plan showing the assessment boundary.

Appendix 2: Desktop Study

*Data from DEFRA.

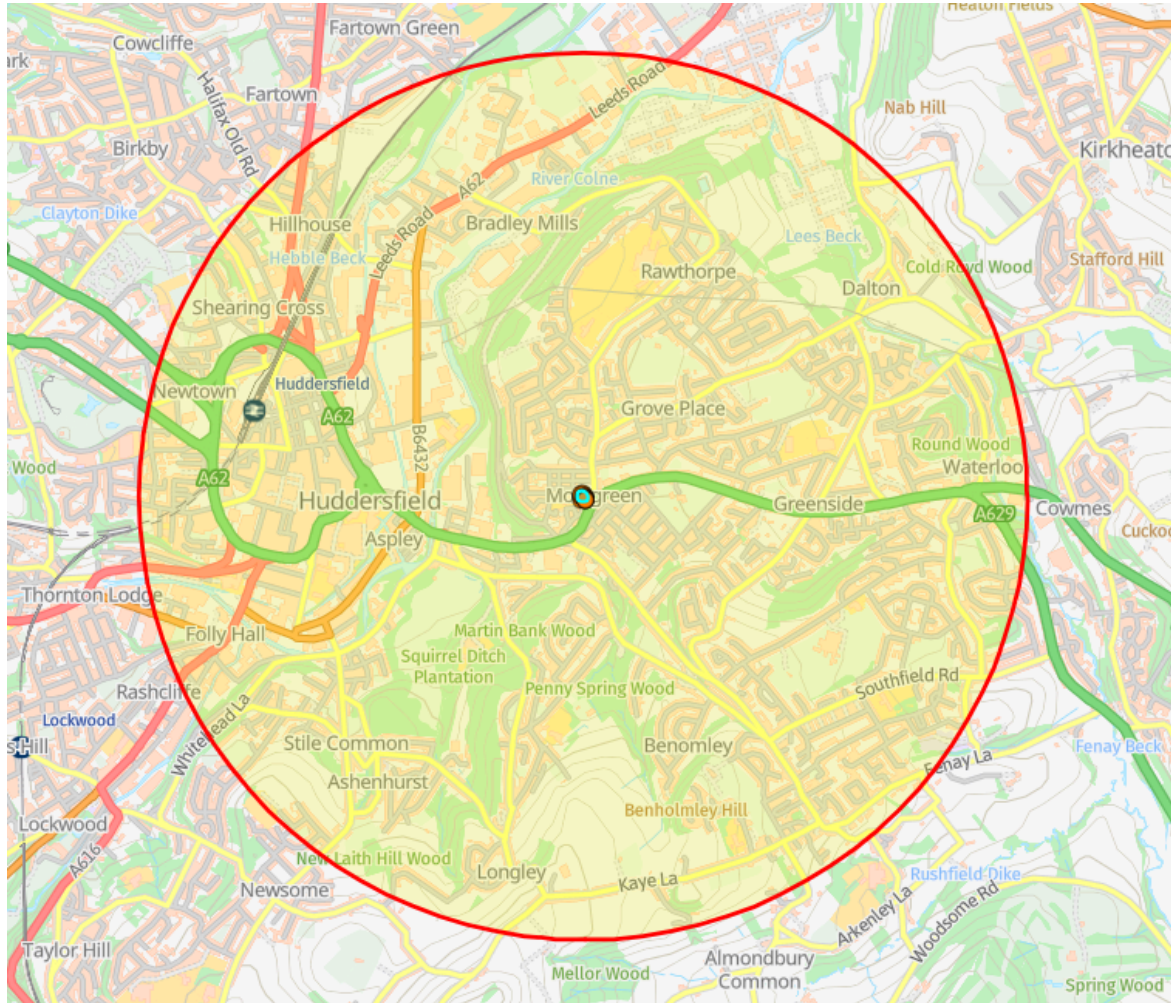


Figure A2.1: Location of Designated Sites situated within a 2km search radius of the site. (DEFRA MAGIC, 2025)

*Data from DEFRA.

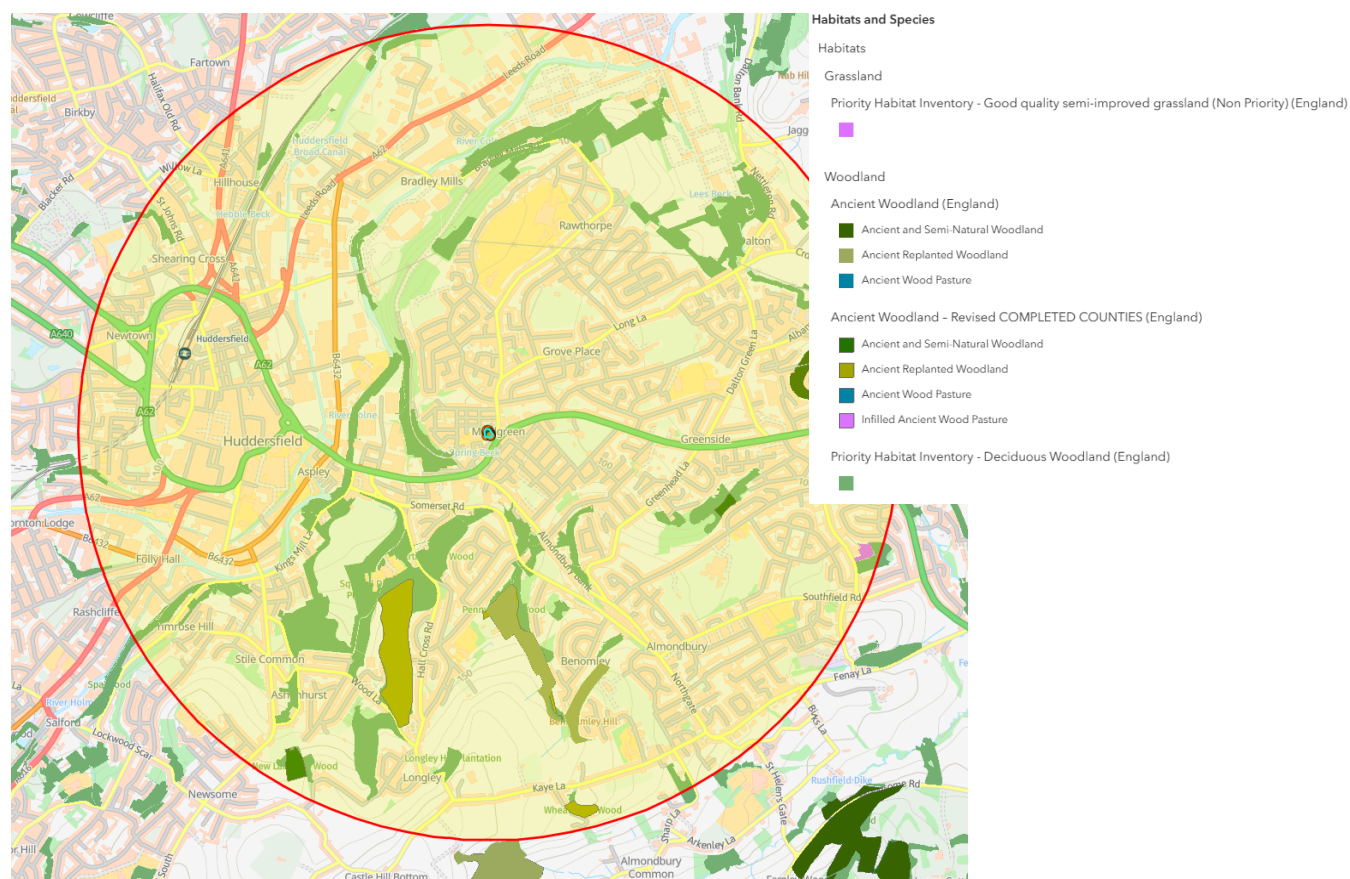


Figure A2.2: Priority habitats formerly mapped within a 2km search radius of the site.. (MAGIC, 2025)

Appendix 3: Example Specifications for Wildlife Enhancements

	ISP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace A sparrow terrace constructed of a wood-concrete mix that is suitable for incorporation into walls. https://www.nhbs.com/4/integrated-bird-boxes?q=&fR[hide][0]=false&fR[live][0]=true&fR[shops.id][0]=4&fR[subsidaries][0]=1&hFR[subjects_equipment.lv1][0]=Bird%20Boxes%20%3E%20Integrated%20Bird%20Boxes&qtview=174850
	Bee Brick A bee brick for solitary bees suitable for incorporation into buildings or as a standalone feature. https://www.nhbs.com/search?q=bee+brick&qtview=221091



Clay and Reed Insect Nest

An insect nest which can be hung in any sunny, sheltered spot. These attract only harmless insects.



2GR Schwegler Nest Box

The 2GR nest box was designed with the assistance of senior forest rangers to provide nesting birds with extra protection from predatory species and mammals. The uniquely protected entrance panel on this box will protect resident birds from cats, magpies, jays and martens. With a choice of oval or three-hole entrance, the nesting chamber is well-lit despite its size. This means that birds will construct their nest very low down at the rear of the box, away from the reach of predators. The front panel, with its integrated protection, can be easily removed for inspection and monitoring, providing an unobstructed view of the nest.

Appendix 4: Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

1. Introduction:

- The following Biodiversity Enhancement Plan outlines measures to promote biodiversity at 315a Old Wakefield Road. The development aims to incorporate features to support local wildlife, including birds, bees, and invertebrates, while enhancing the overall ecological value of the site through the planting of native trees and fruit trees.

2. Site Description:

- Due to development works, the site has lost mature trees, hedgerows and areas of grassland. As it sits currently, the front yard of the development is an empty lot of artificial, unvegetated, unsealed surface.

3. Biodiversity Enhancement Features:

3.1 Sparrow Terrace:

- Ideal Location: Install the sparrow terrace on the north-facing facade of the building, preferably under the eaves or roof overhangs. It should be placed at a minimum height of 3m.
- Timing: The sparrow terrace should be installed during the construction phase, prior to the completion of exterior finishes.
- Example: [ISP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace](#)
- See figure A4.4.1 for more details.

3.2 Bird Boxes:

- Ideal Location: Place two bird boxes in the north- and east-facing areas of the newly installed fencing, spaced at suitable intervals along the length.
- Position boxes at a minimum of 3m above the ground or as high as the fence allows if 3m is not achievable.
- Timing: Bird boxes should be installed during the construction phase.
- Example: [2GR Schwegler Nest Box](#)
- See figure A4.4.1 for more details.

3.3 Bee Bricks:

- Ideal Location: Incorporate 2 bee bricks into the brickwork or masonry of the garden wall. Ideally, they would be south-facing; however, if this is not practical, then on the east-facing walls of the garden boundary would suffice. Ensure bee bricks are situated in sunny, sheltered locations at a height of 1-2m above the ground. If there is no practical location for their installation, they may be removed from the proposal.
- Timing: Bee bricks should be integrated into the construction process, ideally during bricklaying or wall construction.
- See figure A4.4.1 for more details.

3.4 Invertebrate Boxes:

- Ideal Location: Place two invertebrate boxes within the garden area. Position boxes 1.5m or higher to provide habitat for invertebrates.
- Invertebrate boxes should be placed on the western fenceline near the hedgerow, wildflowers and fruit tree.
- Timing: Install invertebrate boxes during the landscaping phase, once garden areas are established but before planting and seeding works.
- Example: [Schwegler Clay and Reed Insect Nest](#)
- See figure A4.4.1 for more details.

3.5 Wildlife Gaps:

- The newly built boundary fence will incorporate 'wildlife gaps' (comprising 13x13cm gaps at the base of the feature), to allow wildlife to pass through.
- See figure A4.4.1 for more details.

3.6 Planting

- A native hedgerow is to be planted along the western boundary fence.
 - Examples of native species suitable for establishing ecologically functional hedgerows include:
 - Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)
 - Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)
 - Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)
 - Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)
 - Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*)
 - Guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*)
 - Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*)

- Two locally native trees are to be planted along the southern boundary near the car park.
 - Trees will be supplied as heavy standard or standard stock (minimum 10–12 cm girth or similar specification).
 - Trees will be planted in suitably sized pits with appropriate soil preparation, staking and mulching in accordance with good arboricultural practice, including the use of good quality soil conditioners where appropriate. The use of peat-free materials should be prioritised.
 - Some suitable locally native species include:
 - Rowan / Mountain Ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*)
 - Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*)
 - Field Maple (*Acer campestre*)
 - Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*)
 - Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)
 - English Oak (*Quercus robur*)
 - Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)
- A single fruit tree will be planted to provide foraging and habitat resources for birds and invertebrates.
 - Some suitable species include:
 - Apple (*Malus domestica*)
 - Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*)
 - Pear (*Pyrus communis*)
 - Plum (*Prunus domestica*)
 - Damson (*Prunus insititia*)
 - Sweet Cherry (*Prunus avium*)
 - Quince (*Cydonia oblonga*)
 - Medlar (*Mespilus germanica*)
- A wildflower garden will be established adjacent to the hedge and invertebrate box to enhance foraging resources and support local pollinator populations.
 - Some locally native species include:
 - Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*)
 - Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*)
 - Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*)
 - Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)
 - Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)
 - Wild Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*)
 - Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*)
 - Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*)
 - Hedge Woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*)
 - Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*)

4. Biodiversity Enhancement and Landscaping Plan:

- A landscape plan has been developed to detail the layout of tree planting, garden features, and biodiversity enhancements, ensuring seamless integration with the overall design of the development.

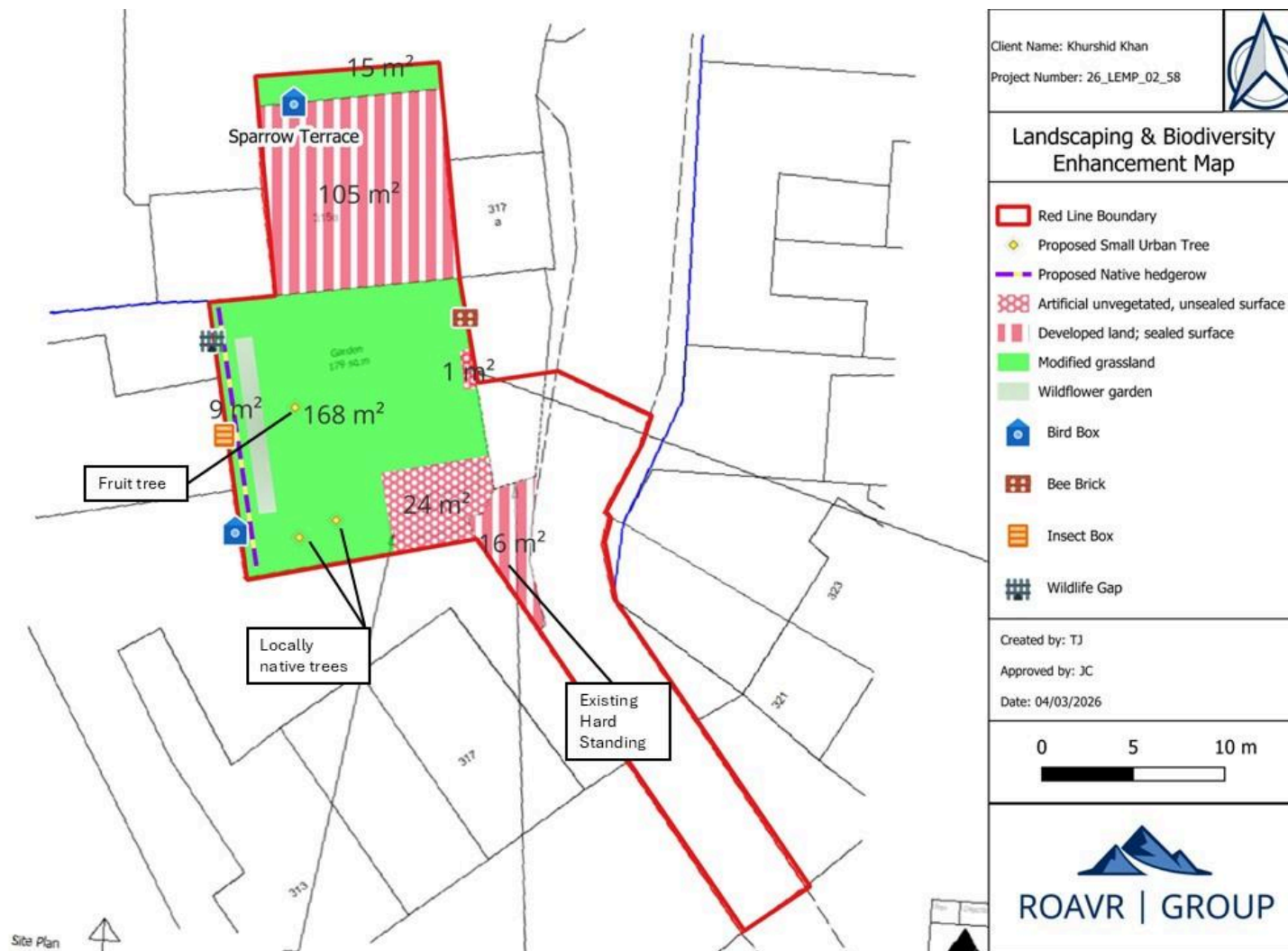


Figure A4.4.1: Biodiversity Enhancement and Landscaping Plan

5. Maintenance

- All soft landscaping and biodiversity enhancements shall be clearly identified and retained for the lifetime of the development, subject to an agreed maintenance regime.
- Any plants that are removed, die, or become damaged shall be replaced with specimens of the same species and size within the next planting season.

5. Conclusion

- The implementation of biodiversity enhancement features, including sparrow terraces, bird boxes, bee bricks, and invertebrate boxes, will contribute to the ecological value of the proposed residential development.
- These measures should be incorporated into the construction process at appropriate stages to maximise their effectiveness in supporting local wildlife.
- This plan outlines the key measures to enhance biodiversity within the development while providing guidance on the installation of biodiversity features.
- Collaboration with relevant stakeholders, ecologists, and landscape professionals will ensure the successful integration of these enhancements into the proposed new building, thus complying with both local and national planning policy.