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10 September 2013

Ref: 32297 – Burringham Road, Scunthorpe Ecological Assessment – Rev 0

Dear George,

Burringham Road, Scunthorpe – Ecological Assessment

Please find below information following the ecological survey carried out by an ecologist within RSK, in connection the Burringham Road project. This letter sets out the survey approach, findings and suggested actions to allow the proposed works to comply with relevant wildlife legislation.

Methods

RSK previously undertook a Phase 1 Habitat Survey of the above site in February 2007. The purpose of this repeat survey on 5th September 2013 was to establish any changes in the value of the site and verify the previous conclusions. The survey covered all land within the red line boundary of the site as well as a 30 m buffer beyond the site boundary.

The Phase 1 Habitat Survey is the most widely-used UK methodology for cataloguing and mapping wildlife habitat resources over extensive areas. The extended Phase 1 protocol is used for formal Environmental Impact Assessment and other ecological surveys relating to the planning process. Target Notes describe habitats and ecological features of interest. The methodology for this survey follows guidance given in the *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: A technique for environmental audit* (JNCC, 2003).

Results

In general the composition of the site has not changed since the Phase 1 survey carried out in February 2007. The site still consists predominantly of rough grassland with a boundary of scrub and shrubs and neighbouring gardens.

The bramble scrub around the site boundary is suitable for breeding birds.

The site is still considered to be of low ecological value.

Conclusions

The site has not changed since the original Phase 1 survey in February 2007. The site remains of low ecological value with the areas of bramble scrub along the site boundary being the only areas of suitable bird breeding habitat.

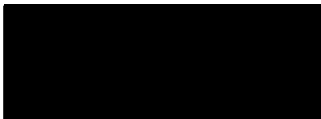




To ensure compliance with legislation protecting nesting birds, removal of vegetation that might be used by nesting birds should only be carried out outside the nesting season (March to August inclusive). If this is not possible, then the vegetation should be checked for nests immediately prior to removal. If nests are found, they must be retained until the young have fledged. If these simple measures are implemented, then there will be no impacts on nesting birds.

We hope you find this assessment useful. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on 01928 728 122 or email wholden@rsk.co.uk

Yours sincerely,



Will Holden
Senior Consultant

**ALLOTMENTS,
SCUNTHORPE**

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL SECTION	
28 AUG 2012	
DATE RECEIVED	
Referred To	


**Ecological
Assessment Report**

**Prepared for GVA
Grimley**


February 2007

RSK GENERAL NOTES

Project No: P40273
Title: Allotments, Scunthorpe
Ecological and Landscape Assessment Report
Client: GVA Grimley
Issue Date: February 2007
Issuing Office: Helsby

Authorised by:  Project Manager

Date: 29/10/07

Authorised by:  Project QA Rep

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Where any data supplied by the client or from other sources have been used it has been assumed that the information is correct. No responsibility can be accepted by RSK for inaccuracies in the data supplied by any other party. The conclusions and recommendations in this report are based on the assumption that all relevant information has been supplied by those bodies from whom it was requested.

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Where field investigations have been carried out these have been restricted to a level of detail required to achieve the stated objectives of the work.

This work has been undertaken in accordance with the Quality Management System of RSK Environment Ltd.

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1 INTRODUCTION

RSK Environment Ltd has been commissioned by GVA Grimley to conduct an ecological appraisal of a former allotment site at the rear of Burringham Road, Scunthorpe. The assessment involved a desk-based assessment and site survey undertaken on 24th November 2006 comprising a Phase 1 Habitat and Preliminary Protected Species Surveys.

Tom Smith of RSK Environment Ltd undertook the ecological assessment. Tom is a full member of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM).

1.1 Objectives

The objectives of the ecological assessment was to:

- Obtain detailed baseline information on the current habitats and ecological features in and around the site;
- Identify the presence or potential presence of any protected species whose disturbance may require consent under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981* (as amended) or the *Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations, 1994*;
- Identify any species or habitats which may require special mitigation during the works;
- Identify potential habitat enhancement opportunities for the brook; and
- Identify any further, specialist surveys that may be required.

1.2 Site Context

The allotment site occupies an area of land approximately 2.5 ha situated within an urban setting to the rear of residential properties along Burringham Road, Scunthorpe. The site, situated at National Grid Reference SE 886 085 is bordered by housing on all sides.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Desk-based Assessment

This report has been compiled by means of a desk-based study to include a review of readily available information in addition to consultations with relevant statutory and non-statutory organisations and utilising readily available information.

- Natural England;
- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust;
- Lincolnshire Bat Group;
- North Lincolnshire Council; and
- Lincolnshire Badger Group.

2.2 Field Surveys

A Phase 1 Habitat Survey was carried out for the site using the standard survey methodology (Nature Conservancy Council, 1990). All habitats were surveyed and recorded onto a base plan and any habitats that were considered to be of potential interest to nature conservation were recorded through the use of target notes and animal notes (see Appendix A).

2.3 Limitations

It has not been the aim of this survey to record every species present on the site, as one survey acts as a snap-shot, recording only those species which are present at the time or whose presence can be indicated through field signs such as feeding remains, droppings or places used for shelter or foraging. This evidence has been used to draw conclusions about the flora and fauna and provide an assessment of their ecological and nature conservation value. Where it is suspected that species of nature conservation importance have the potential to be present, further detailed surveys have been advised.

It must be noted that the surveys were carried out in November, which is a sub-optimal season for surveying herbaceous species.

3 ECOLOGY

3.1 Desk-based Assessment

Information obtained from the Government Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website indicates that the site is not covered by any international or national environmental designations.

Responses from the relevant consultees revealed that:

- The site is not covered by any international, national or local wildlife designations. In addition, the site is not covered by any planning designations within the North Lincolnshire Local Plan, adopted May 2003;
- The Wildlife Trust hold no data for the site or near surroundings;
- There are 4 current Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and 1 replacement TPO in close proximity to the site. These include the following:
 - No. 73 – (formerly No. 71, updated to No. 73 in March 2004) Collection of 22 trees at the rear of properties on Roman Way;
 - No. 54 – Collection of 328 individual trees and 2 groups of trees within properties to the west of Willoughby Road;
 - No 53 – Collection of 377 individual trees and 2 groups of trees within the gardens of properties to the south and west of the site. Seven of these trees are within gardens along the southern boundary of the site; and
 - No 52 – Collection of 252 individual trees and 2 groups of trees within the gardens of properties to the south west of the site.
- Information supplied by the Lincolnshire Bat Group indicates that bats have been recorded in the area but not specifically on site, although this is most likely down to under recording. Two known roosts are present approximately 1.5km south and 1km west of the site and species known in the area include brown long-eared, noctule, pipistrelles and whiskered/brandt's;

3.2 Phase 1 Habitat Survey

The survey was undertaken on the 24th November 2006. Weather conditions were generally mild and overcast with occasional light rain. A Phase 1 Habitat Map is provided in Appendix B.

3.2.1 Flora

The majority of the site comprises rank unmanaged grassland that has developed since allotment gardening ceased. The site was noted during the field survey to be used by a number of dog walkers. Species diversity is limited with species including dandelion (*Taraxacum agg.*), buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), nettles (*Urtica dioica*) and clover (*Trifolium sp.*). No water features or wetland habitat was noted during the field survey.

The site is bordered on all sides by houses and associated boundary features including walls and fences. Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) scrub together with garden escape shrubs are beginning to develop along these boundaries. Boundary species include privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*), hedge bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*), lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*), willows (*Salix sp.*), poplars (*Populus sp.*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), rose (*Rosa sp.*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and berberis (*Berberis sp.*). No mature shrubs or trees are present on the site although a number of trees are present within adjoining gardens and do 'overhang' the site.

3.2.2 *Fauna*

No trees are present on the site, which have the potential to be used by bat species.

A suspected fox den was observed within bramble scrub at the western boundary of the site. Access was restricted due to the density of bramble although given the urban setting and the presence of a fox scat in close proximity it is unlikely to be a badger sett.

3.3 **Ecological Evaluation**

The site currently comprises species poor grassland, which has either developed naturally since the allotments ceased or was seeded. Bramble scrub, occasional garden escape and trees are present in isolated patches around the periphery.

In the absence of any protected or notable species or habitat the site is considered to be of only limited value. In addition, the open nature of the site and lack of shrubs and trees, limits nesting opportunities for birds.

4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In general the site is of little ecological value due to the limited diversity of grassland, which has developed following the cessation of allotments. Limited value can be attributed to developing scrub around the boundary of the site although many species are garden escapes and of the cultivated varieties.

There is great opportunity to enhance the site following construction through the planting of various shrubs and flowering plants. This will have the benefit of providing food and shelter for a variety of species. Recommendations are given below which should be considered for inclusion within the development to improve the site for local wildlife.

Trees

Trees should be provided which should include fruiting species listed below that will provide food for bird species.

- Pear – *Pyrus* species;
- Apple - *Malus* species;
- Hawthorn – *Crataegus* species;
- Rowan/whitebeam - *Sorbus* species;
- Wild Cherry - *Prunus avium*; and
- Bird Cherry - *Prunus padus*.

Birds

To allow development, it may be necessary to remove the trees and scrub across the site boundaries. Should removal be needed then careful timing will be required to avoid disturbance to any active nests in use or being built during the bird-breeding season (typically March to July), an offence under regulation 1(1)(b) of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981*. It is therefore advisable that should vegetation removal be required, it should be removed prior to the breeding season.

The gardens upon completion could provide valuable feeding areas for birds, however at present there is limited resources for nest locations. It is therefore recommended that nest boxes for birds should be positioned within the gardens upon completion.

Shrubs

There is great opportunity to enhance the site following development through the planting of various shrubs and flowering plants. This will have the benefit of providing food and shelter for a variety of species. Planting should comprise native species where possible although more formal shrub species could still prove valuable. Species that should be used in the planting scheme include:

- *Berberis* species;
- *Cotoneaster* species;
- *Hebe* species;

- Lavendula species;
- Potentilla species; and
- Viburnum species.

Bat Boxes

Bat boxes should be provided to provide roost locations at the site. As a minimum, five boxes should be provided and advice sought upon the positioning.

Hedgerow

Consideration should be given to providing a hedgerow along the boundary of the site. This would enhance the value of this boundary feature in addition to providing screening existing houses. Species used should include but not be limited to.

- Hazel – (*Corylus avellana*);
- Hawthorn – (*Crataegus monogyna*);
- Privet – (*Ligustrum vulgare*);
- Holly – (*Ilex aquifolium*);
- Rose – (*Rosa sp.*); and
- Hornbeam – (*Carpinus Betulus*).

REFERENCES

Nature Conservancy Council, 1990. *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey – a technique for environmental audits*. NCC, Peterborough

www.magic.gov.uk

APPENDIX A

Botanical Target notes (TN)

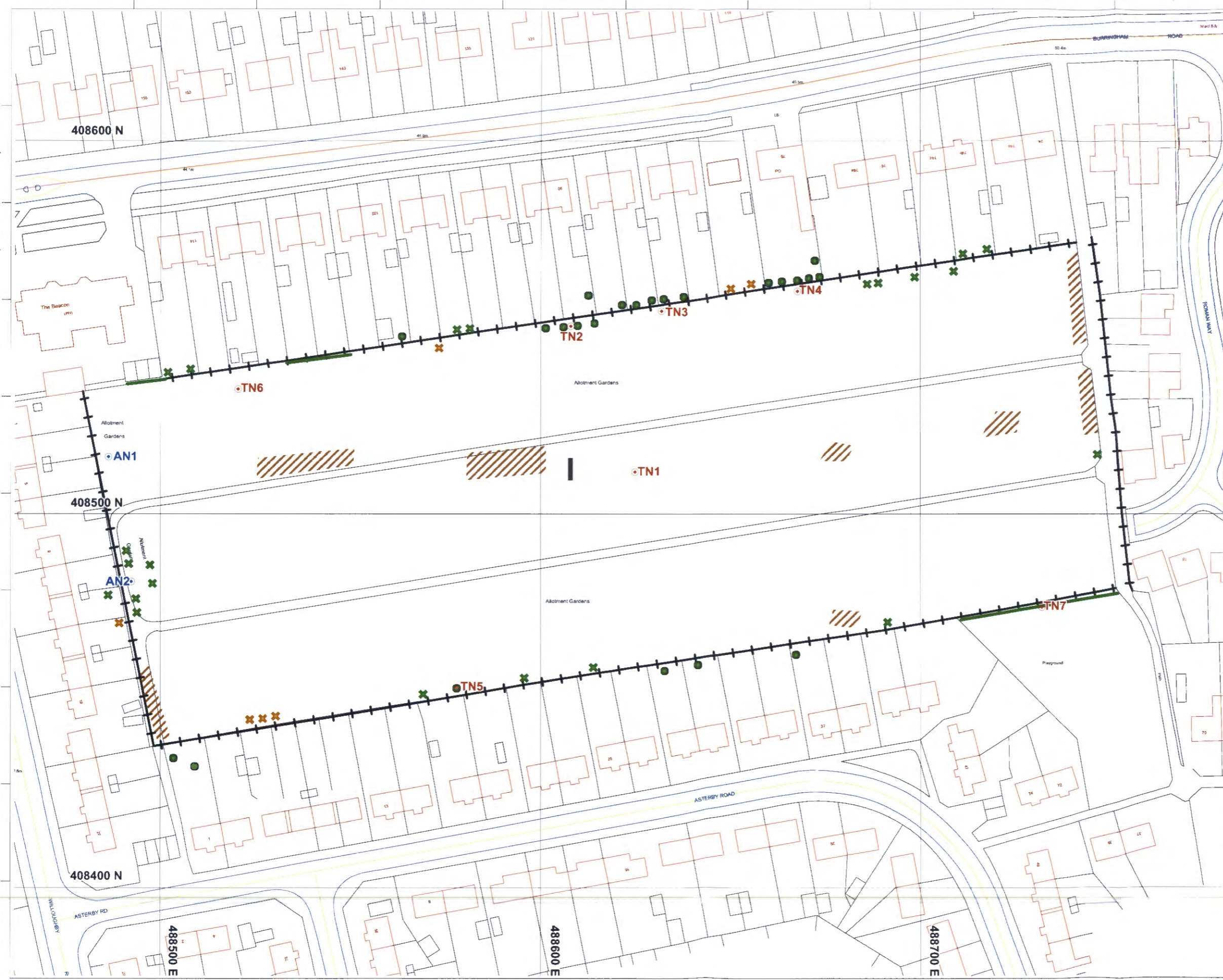
- TN1 – Rough unmanaged grassland with some bramble and tall ruderal growth around the boundaries. Species include clover, dock, buttercup, rose, bramble, hawthorn, dandelion and nettles.
- TN2 – Willows at site boundary approximately 5m tall. Have been managed by cutting historically.
- TN3 – Poplars in garden adjacent to the site which are overhanging.
- TN4 – Row of mature (20m) Lombardy poplars in garden adjoining the site.
- TN5 – Immature ash tree.
- TN6 – Two sections of privet dominated hedgerow bordering the site.
- TN7 – Well managed hedgerow within playground bordering the site. Species include hawthorn and elder.

Animal Target notes (TN)

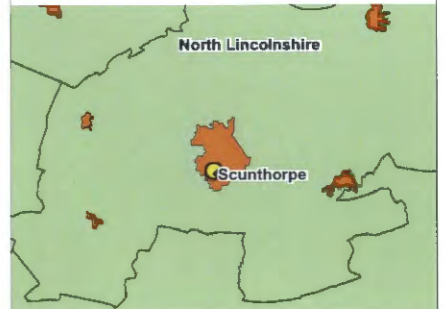
- AN1 – Fox scat within the grassland.
- AN2 – A suspected fox den within dense bramble scrub. Access was limited due to density of the scrub although the urban setting and presence of fox scat in close proximity indicates this species.

APPENDIX B

Phase 1 Habitat Map



- Scattered Tree
- ✕ Scattered Scrub
- ✕ Scattered Introduced Scrub
- Target Note
- Animal Note
- | Improved Grassland
- Hedgerow
- Fence
- ▨ Tall Ruderal



Rev	Date	Description	Dm	Chk	App
00	22.01.07	First Draft	CS	TS	WH

Allotments, Scunthorpe

TITLE: Phase 1 Habitat Map

SCALE: 1:1,000 REV 00