

17 ECOLOGY

The site currently predominantly comprises of poor semi-improved grassland, hedgerows, trees, scrub, tall ruderal and limited hardstanding.

Ecology surveys are underway with focus on the potential use of the site by breeding birds, foraging bats and reptiles.

The constraints to development will be the removal of habitats considered suitable for protected species.

In anticipating presence, successful mitigation will include the following as a minimum:

- Retaining and protecting existing trees and hedgerows on or immediately adjacent to site;
- Design lighting to avoid overspill of adjacent builds, trees with roost potential and bat foraging links (linear vegetative features);
- Avoiding bird breeding seasons for clearance;
- Creation of grassland meadows,
- Biodiversity Net Gain;
- Provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space to mitigate impacts to sites of international importance.

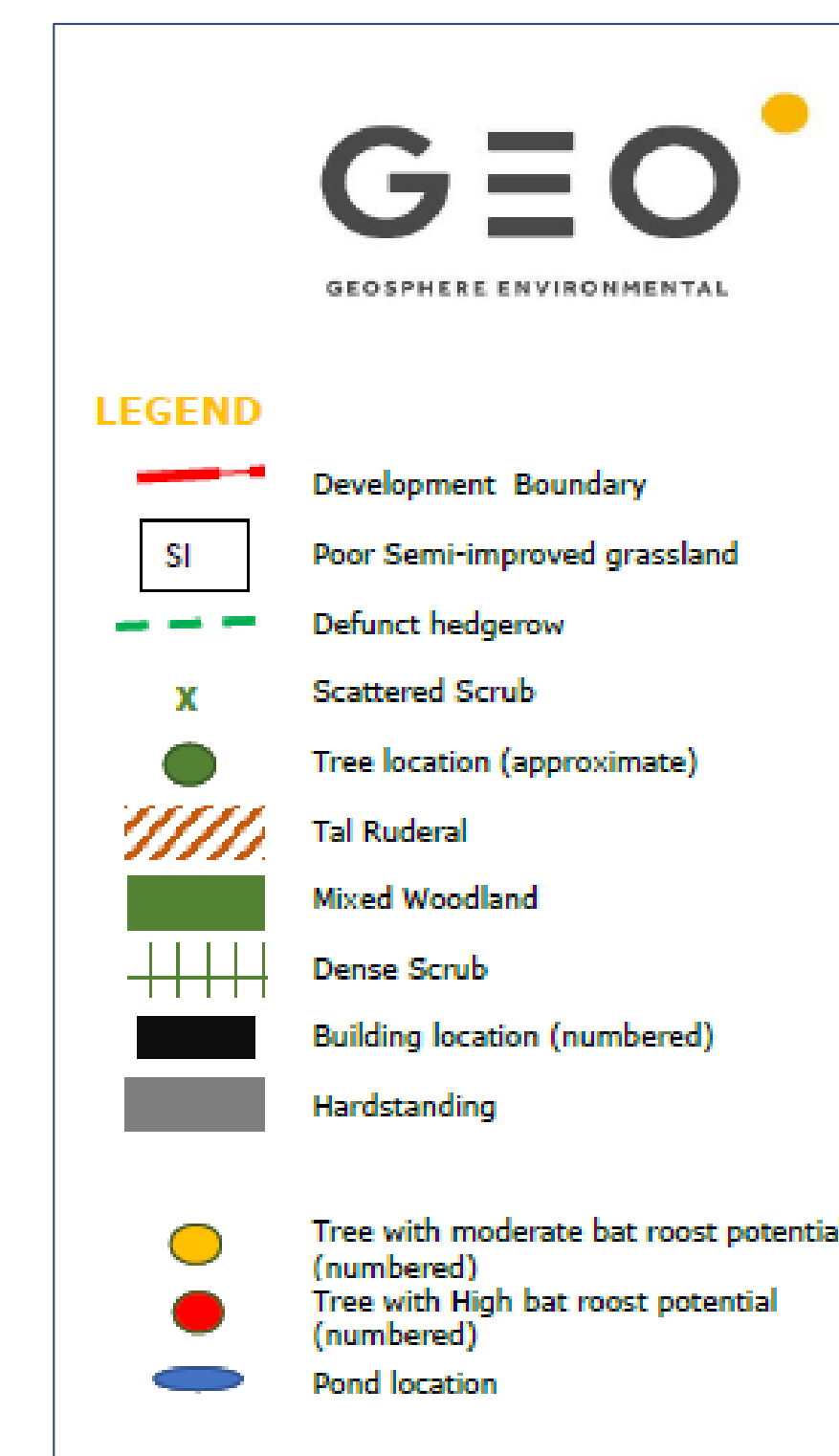


Figure 11: Phase 1 Habitat Plan