

# Leeds Edible Enterprise Hub



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# Who are we?

- This project is at a very early stage, and came about due to a need to link together local food/environmental projects in Leeds at a physical base.
- We are representing a network of local people who are interested in developing livelihoods around sustainable enterprise. Within this network there is a vast amount of expertise, knowledge and experience.
- We have a background in food growing projects including development of local food networks
- In the future we believe that a significant proportion of our needs, including food, can be met by local enterprise within the city, and we want to support that vision.
- Examples of groups within our network: Edible Cities, Heartwood Coppice Workers Co op, Hungry Fungi, LPN, Permaculture Association, Bardon Grange (Leeds Uni union), Leeds Community Bakery, Leeds Urban Harvest, Peddlers Arms

# Targeted Site

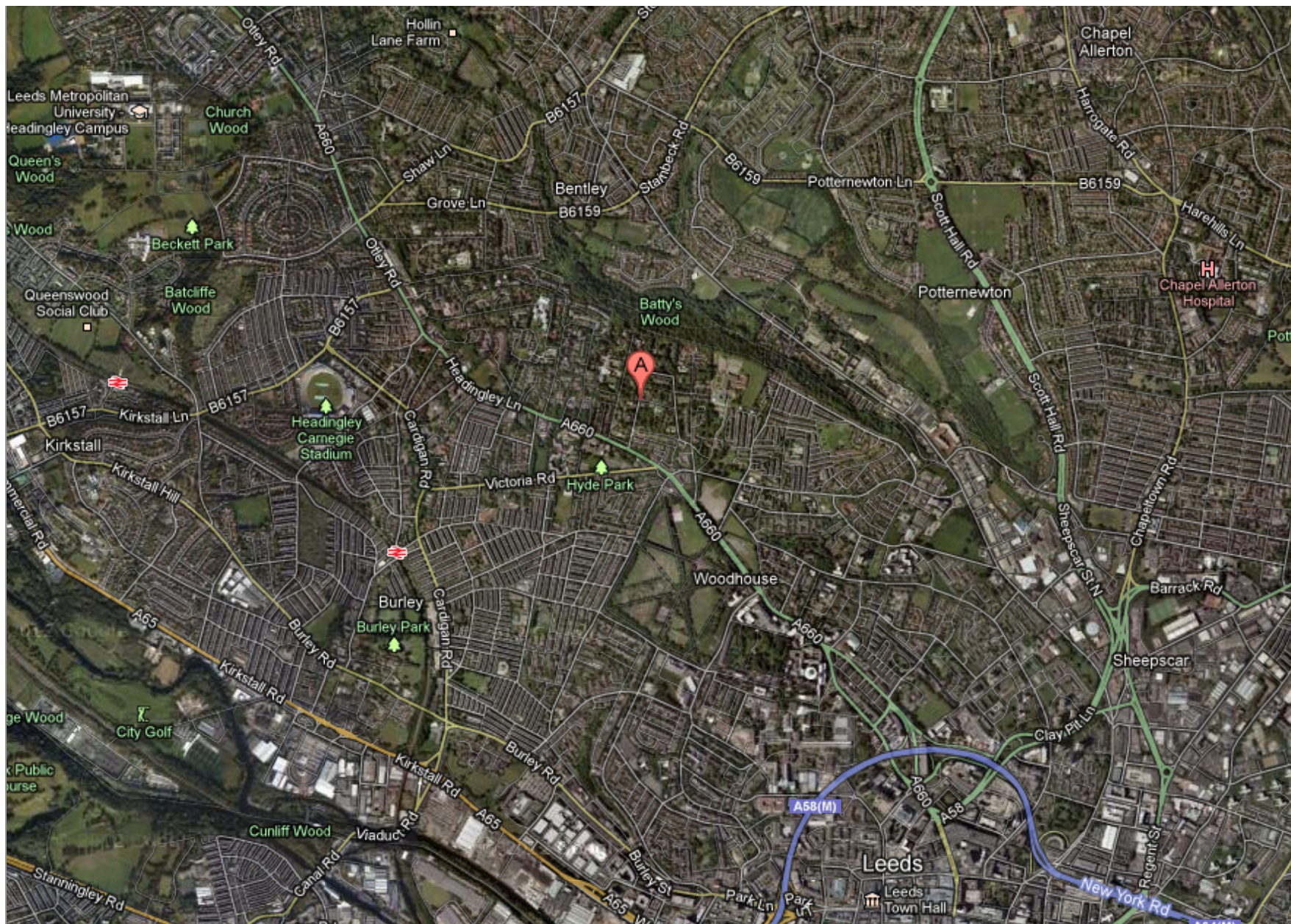
## Grosvenor Mount – LS6

- Owned by Leeds University for a number of decades
- Was used for biology research, now empty (for over a year)
- Very central location – good for access to customers and volunteers
- $\frac{1}{4}$  acre of south facing land with glasshouses in good condition covering approximate 20%
- High bio diversity including lots of unusual tree and plant species
- University want to sell and are applying for planning permission for 8 houses. Site is in a conservation area
- Possible strong support from local community who are opposing the planning proposal.











# Our vision

An enterprise hub providing a base for local environmental projects-.  
Sharing tools, knowledge, skills, experience and people power.

Market garden

Garden Centre

Educational resource

Office, storage, growing space for local projects

All of these aspects will feed in to and support each other



# Income

**Food Growing Enterprise** – producing high value crops for sale. (eg salad, herbs mushrooms.) Estimated revenue of £20-£30k on this site.





## **Garden Centre**

Plant nursery, plant production

Selling local produce – charcoal, firewood, bean poles.

High value crops produced on site,

Plants, compost (made on site)



## **Educational resource**

Workshops delivered on site.

Academic links – research facility for universities.

Volunteering opportunities. Placements.

## **Income from tenants-**

office, meeting room and storage space rental



# Costs and support needed

- Organisation – social enterprise / workers coop
- Funding for feasibility study.
- Seed capital / Set up costs – Infrastructure, eg. Irrigation, access, creation of office / workshop space (uni furniture)
- Initial rent costs until revenue builds up.
- Volunteer expenses. Staff wages
- Access to land – University, Leeds City Council
- Delivery partners – Research investment
- Business support – community enterprise hub, successful project supporting and advising.

# Potential Benefits

- Provide a local food supply chain. (Unique in this area)
- More innovation and enterprise
- More jobs
- Stronger local economy, support local businesses
- Increased bio diversity
- Improved physical and mental health of local people.
- (Open days, events, volunteering opportunities, gardening groups and local organic food)
- Vital link between student communities and long term residents
- Academic research will strengthen sustainable agriculture





# Case Studies

**Organic Lea / Hawkwood Nursery.** [www.organiclea.org.uk](http://www.organiclea.org.uk) - Large project based at transformed council owned glasshouses.

**Tree Station** [www.treestation.co.uk](http://www.treestation.co.uk) - acts as a hub for broad range of wood related activities – woodland management, arboricultural works, wood fuels, timber and related products.

**Hulme Garden Centre** [www.hulmegardencentre.org.uk](http://www.hulmegardencentre.org.uk) - Garden Centre and volunteer, education and training hub.

**Biospheric Foundation** [www.biosphericfoundation.com](http://www.biosphericfoundation.com) - There are a range of projects developing around food, energy and waste – shared workspace for urban research, box scheme, urban farm.

**Growing Communities** [www.growingcommunities.org](http://www.growingcommunities.org) - Community led alternatives to current damaging food system. Patchwork Farm, Market Gardens and Box Scheme.

**Manchester Veg People** - [vegpeople.org.uk](http://vegpeople.org.uk)

**Unicorn** [unicorn-grocery.co.uk/](http://unicorn-grocery.co.uk/)