



BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN REPORT

ROPLEY
BOTLEY ROAD
WEST END
SOUTHAMPTON
SO30 3HA

OCTOBER 2024

ON BEHALF OF BPS DESIGN CONSULTANTS LTD



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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report, prepared by LC Ecological Services Limited (LCES), was undertaken to assess the net changes in biodiversity value resulting from the proposed development at Ropley, Botley Road, West End, Southampton, SO30 3HA, central Ordnance Survey grid reference: SU 47467 14363. The proposals are for the modification of the existing dwelling, and construction of a further two dwellings with associated infrastructure and gardens.
- 1.2 The Biodiversity Net Gain score has been determined for the draft development plans for the site, and this does not meet the required minimum 10% net gain. As it stands, the proposed development would result in an overall loss of biodiversity value, amounting to - **-44.67% habitat units (-0.31 units), and a net gain of +2.47% (-0.00001) hedgerow units.**
- 1.3 The minimum target of 10% has not been achieved, therefore, an off-site area will be required, or third-party habitat credits will need to be purchased to ensure the development reaches the Biodiversity Net Gain requirements. The site requires 0.38 habitat units and 0.67 linear units to achieve a 10% net gain on-site.
- 1.4 To ensure the habitats created reach their target condition, a Biodiversity Net Gain Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan will be created and implemented.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Project brief

- 2.1 This Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report, prepared by LC Ecological Services Limited (LCES), was undertaken to assess the net changes in biodiversity value resulting from the proposed development at Ropley, Botley Road, West End, Southampton, SO30 3HA, central Ordnance Survey grid reference: SU 47467 14363. The proposals are for the modification of the existing dwelling and construction of a further two dwellings with associated infrastructure and gardens. The location of the site is shown in appendix I.
- 2.2 The BNG score for the project has been determined based on the proposed development for the site which comprises three dwellings, hardstanding, and soft landscaping in the of vegetated garden at this final design stage.

Preparation of Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

- 2.3 This assessment was undertaken using the statutory DEFRA biodiversity metric calculation tool (DEFRA, 2023).

Purpose of the report

- 2.4 The purpose of this report is to outline the following:
- To identify the net percentage change in biodiversity value on site resulting from the current design proposals.
 - To propose potential solutions to meet the mandatory minimum 10% BNG value in accordance with national planning legislation.
 - To demonstrate that any biodiversity net gain commitment can be obtained with reasonable and viable habitat creation which can be maintained in the long term.

3.0 LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 Chapter 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2023) ‘*Conserving and enhancing the natural environment*’ sets out the Government’s policies on biodiversity, landscape, and geological conservation. Relevant paragraphs within this chapter include:

- **Paragraph 180:** Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:
 - i. protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils
 - ii. recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland.
 - iii. minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures; and
 - iv. preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability.
- **Paragraph 181:** Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national, and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.
- **Paragraph 185:** To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:
 - a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national, and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration, or creation; and
 - b) promote the conservation, restoration, and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.
- **Paragraph 186:** When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

- a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused.
 - b) development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest.
 - c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons⁶⁷ and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and
 - d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.
- **Paragraph 187:** The following should be given the same protection as habitats sites:
 - a) potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation.
 - b) listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and
 - c) sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

3.2 From 12th February 2024, delivery of 10% Biodiversity Net Gain became mandatory for most developments, through the Environment Act 2021. Small developments were required to achieve this net gain from 2nd April 2024. Current regulations and guidance have been included here for context (DLUHC, 2023):

- **The Environment Act 2021 (Commencement No.8 and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2024:** Establishes the official start date for the mandatory requirement of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for most types of new planning applications in England. It also outlines transitional provisions to ensure a smooth transition from the existing system to the new BNG requirement.

- **The Biodiversity Net Gain Requirements (Exemptions) Regulations 2024:** Specifies categories of development that are exempt from the BNG requirement, such as projects deemed to have minimal impact on biodiversity. This regulation aims to ensure that BNG is focused on developments that have a significant impact on the natural environment.
- **The Biodiversity Gain (Town and Country Planning) (Modifications and Amendments) (England) Regulations 2024:** Amends existing planning regulations to incorporate provisions related to BNG, including requirements for planning applications, Biodiversity Gain Plans, and phased developments. This regulation aims to streamline the delivery of BNG and ensure it is effectively integrated into the planning process.

4.0 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Study Area

- 4.1 The application area is located around central Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference SU 47467 14363. The proposed site layout plan for the development proposals is included in appendix II.

Sources of information

- 4.2 A baseline botanical assessment was undertaken in accordance with the UK Habitat Classification methodology (UKHab, 2023). The habitat assessment was conducted on the 13th of February 2024 by ecologist Anna Dolby of Arbtech Consulting Ltd.
- 4.3 The habitat survey recorded the habitat types across the site with a record made of the vegetation and plant species recorded in each area. The baseline habitat map of the site is provided in appendix III.
- 4.4 The habitats recorded on site were transposed into a digital map using QGIS coordinate referencing system OSGB 1936/ British National Grid.
- 4.5 Habitats recorded on site were measured using the derived areas (Ellisoidal – EPSG 7001) and habitat areas are provided in hectares. Linear features were measured using the derived length (Ellisoidal – EPSG 7001) and the measurements provided in kilometres.

Assessment Process

- 4.6 The BNG assessment was undertaken in accordance with the CIRA *Biodiversity Net Gain – Good Practice Principles for Developments* (CIRA, 2019).
- 4.7 To undertake the BNG assessment the habitat classification notes obtained from the baseline botanical assessment were input into the BNG metric calculator following the technical data provided in the appendices of the calculator tool.
- 4.8 The condition of the habitat types was assigned in accordance with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical supplement (Natural England, 2024).
- 4.9 The level of mitigation applied was in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy outlined in table 11.5 of the *Biodiversity Net Gain – Good Practice Principles for Developments* (CIRA, 2019), and has been provided below:

Any combination of these factors might apply	
Does the habitat affected have high biodiversity value?	When a project affects rare habitats, creating new areas of the habitat is often required to ensure no reduction in cover. This only applies after strict application of the mitigation hierarchy, and does not apply to irreplaceable habitat or statutory designated sites. Enhancing existing habitats that should have high biodiversity value, but that are currently degraded, could generate valuable benefits for biodiversity.
Does the habitat affected provide a critical ecological function?	When a project affects critical ecological functions, creating new habitat that provides equivalent or better ecological functions is often required to ensure no reduction in provision of the function.
Do stakeholders or local policies prioritise enhancements in the habitat over increasing its coverage?	Enhancing existing habitats could contribute to this priority.
Alternatively, do stakeholders or local policies prioritise increases in habitat cover?	Creating new habitat could be most appropriate.
Is provision of green space a priority issue locally?	Projects that achieve BNG by enhancing habitats elsewhere, although resulting in a loss of green space, can cause significant negative consequences locally.
Are existing habitats at risk from future threats and/or under continued decline?	Enhance habitat to secure its long-term future, eg by making habitat more resilient to other pressures, such as the effects of climate change. Also protect habitats in decline from declining further (also known as averted loss).

Limitations

- 4.10 Whilst every effort has been made to accurately map the habitats on site there may be discrepancies associated with the projected coordinate reference system. However, the National Grid transformation is considered to be the most accurate with an accuracy level of less than 1 metre.
- 4.11 The baseline habitat survey was undertaken in February which is a sub-optimal time in the year to undertake botanical surveys. The optimal months are May to July when most of the flora is apparent. Due to the sub-optimal timing of the habitat / botanical assessment, there is potential that some plant species may have been missed.
- 4.12 The condition assessment and BNG calculations have been based on data provided by Arbtech as detailed in the report dated 2024.

5.0 BASELINE

Habitats

- 5.1 The site is located in the urban location of West End, Southampton. The site supports a dwelling with a driveway, gardens, an ornamental pond, scattered trees, ornamental hedgerows, tree lines, and some bramble scrub.
- 5.2 The baseline value of the site has been determined from the following habitats:
- Urban, developed land sealed surface, Buildings (u1b5 – condition not applicable)
 - Urban, developed land sealed, Other developed land (u1b6 – condition not applicable)
 - Urban, artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface (u1c – condition not applicable)
 - Urban – sparsely vegetated land, vegetated garden, (u1f, 628, 521– condition not applicable)
 - River and lakes, standing, open water and canal, other standing water – ornamental pond (r1g, 46 – moderate condition)
 - Heathland and shrubs, bramble scrub (h3d – condition not applicable)
 - Individual trees, urban trees (32 – moderate)
 - Heathland and shrubs, hedgerow, non-native and ornamental hedgerow (h2b – poor condition)
 - Tree line (u1f, 33 – moderate condition)

u1b5 Buildings (condition score not applicable)

- 5.3 One residential dwelling is present on the site. The main building is a two-storey dwelling with a single storey garage attached. One greenhouse and a dog kennel are located to the south of the house and have been unused for some time.

u1b6 Other developed land (condition score not applicable)

- 5.4 An area of sealed developed land is located between the house and the main road forming a driveway that consists of paving stones. Further paving stones are also located around the building.

u1c Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface (condition score not applicable)

- 5.5 An area of artificial, unvegetated unsealed surface is in the north of the site. It extended from the paving stones and is used for parking cars. This area had been left unmanaged, with perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), and broadleaved herbs colonising the surface such as dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* agg.).

Urban –suburban mosaic of developed and natural surface, vegetated garden, (u1d 628, 521 (condition score not applicable)

- 5.6 The majority of the site is made up of an unmanaged vegetated garden. The grassland recorded was tussocky. It is dominant with perennial rye-grass and ground-ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*). Some scattered ornamental shrubs were also present in the vegetated garden as well as light scattered bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) scrub.

r1g Other standing water, 46 (poor condition score)

- 5.7 A small man-made ornamental pond is present just south of the main dwelling. The pond is approximately 2m² in size. The pond was surrounded by stones and ground ivy with some ornamental grasses in the pond.

h3d Bramble scrub (condition score not applicable)

- 5.8 Patches of dense scrub were present in the south-eastern part of the site. The scrub was dominated by bramble with occasional ivy (*Hedera helix*) and butterfly-bush (*Buddleia davidii*).

Urban trees (moderate condition score)

- 5.9 There were several scattered trees present by the dwelling and by the scrub edges, most of which were young self-seeded trees. Species included crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*), alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), yew (*Taxus baccata*), goat willow (*Salix caprea*), Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), plum (*Prunus domestica*) and Cypress (*Cupressus* sp.). The majority of the scattered trees present were Lawson cypress.

h2b Non-native and ornamental hedgerow (poor condition)

- 5.10 Three ornamental hedgerows are present on site. Each hedgerow appears to be unmanaged with different heights. The tallest areas are over two metres high and the shortest are approximately 0.5 metres. Native species were present within the two hedgerows however, they were recorded in less than 80% of the hedgerows. Species recorded included dominant bramble, scarlet firethorn (*Pyracantha coccinea*), Lawson's Cypress, (*Chamacyparis lawsoniana*), abundant cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), laurustinus (*Viburnum tinus*), frequent ivy, yew (*Taxus baccata*), occasional holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and rare occurrences of topiarist hebe (*Veronica topiaria*).

w1g, 33 Line of trees (poor condition score)

5.11 There were two tree lines located on the eastern boundary of the site. These were composed of dominant Cypress (*Cypressus* spp.) and abundant Norway spruce. The trees were supporting ivy.

Permanent impacts

Broad habitats

Distinctiveness loss

5.12 There will be a loss of very low urban habitats which is equivalent to 0 biodiversity units.

5.13 There will be a loss in low distinctiveness habitat from the overall loss of 0.09 biodiversity units from vegetated gardens and ornamental ponds: 0 units. An area of vegetated garden will be created following the development equivalent of 0.08 units. Therefore, there is an overall loss of 0.01 habitat units of low distinctiveness habitats.

5.14 Medium distinctiveness habitats will result in the overall loss of urban trees totals 0.29 biodiversity units, bramble scrub 0.12 biodiversity units. Mixed scrub, and urban trees will be planted as part of the development equivalent to 0.15 biodiversity units. Overall, there will be a net loss of 0.26 biodiversity units for moderate distinctiveness habitats. This loss will need to be replaced by units created in medium distinctiveness habitats or higher.

Hedgerow habitats

5.15 Very low distinctiveness habitats of ornamental hedgerows will be kept as part of the site development therefore, there will be no loss of very low distinctiveness linear habitats.

5.16 There will be a loss of part of the non-native tree line which is a low distinctiveness linear habitat. This equates to a loss of 0.06 biodiversity units of hedgerows of low distinctiveness linear habitats.

Summary

5.17 The baseline value of the site is 0.69 habitat units and 0.21 linear units.

6.0 BNG GOOD PRACTICE FOR PRINCIPLES FOR DEVELOPMENT

- 6.1 As part of the BNG process there are ten good practice principles that help to achieve BNG if they are followed. Each principle is described below and how the project has addressed each principle.

Apply the Mitigation Hierarchy

- 6.2 The design of the development has tried to utilise the mitigation hierarchy by avoidance to any adverse impacts on habitats and species on site.
- 6.3 Species recorded on site are considered to be of low ecological value, and no priority habitats were recorded.
- 6.4 The development has not resulted in any adverse impacts by following the mitigation hierarchy.

Avoid losing biodiversity that cannot be offset by gains elsewhere

- 6.5 Habitats which are considered ‘irreplaceable’ are those which would be technically difficult to recreate, replace, or restore once destroyed. Habitats such as ancient woodland and veteran trees are considered irreplaceable due to the time it takes to reach such condition. Irreplaceable habitat includes factors which contribute to the condition of that habitat including age, environmental context, achievability to recreate and its geographical position within the landscape.
- 6.6 The site does not support any habitats of principal importance.

Be inclusive and equitable

- 6.7 Discussion have been had and shared to demonstrate how the design can achieve a better outcome for BNG.

Address risks

- 6.8 All habitats have been calculated within the red line boundary, including habitats within the development footprint. No additional land for the construction phase and site compounds has been included within the calculator.
- 6.9 Habitats to be created will be done so by appointed contractors who have experience in habitat creation, with the guidance of the appointed ecologist.

Make a measurable Net Gain contribution

- 6.10 The proposed development has been measured against The Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The development has reduced its overall impact throughout the design of the scheme where possible, and off-site mitigation, through the purchase of third-party units will be purchased to ensure there will be a net gain in biodiversity.
- 6.11 The site, is currently unmanaged and habitats will be managed for people as well as biodiversity and will directly contribute towards nature conservation.

Achieving the best outcomes for biodiversity

- 6.12 The habitats on site include vegetated gardens which are important habitats supporting local bird and invertebrates.

Additional enhancements

- 6.13 As well as habitats being enhanced and created, measures including bat and bird boxes will be included. These however are not measurable as part of the BNG metric.

Create a Net Gain legacy

- 6.14 It is not possible to determine the long-term benefit to biodiversity as individual homeowners will manage the garden as they chose.

Optimise sustainability

- 6.15 The landscaping plan for the development aims to be as sustainable as possible and providing net gain on site in an environment which is subject to change and management depending on the homeowners.

Be transparent

- 6.16 Through the progression of the development the design team and client have all been made aware of the communications and outcomes of the BNG.

7.0 POST DEVELOPMENT HABITATS

- 7.1 The proposed habitats to be created and enhanced within the proposed development area have been outlined below in relation to the species composition. Management to target condition has not been outlined as a dedicated management plan will detail the habitat planting specification. The proposed habitats presented here have been summarised below.

Retained habitats

- 7.2 The ornamental hedgerows in the north of the site will be largely retained with a retained value of 0.05 units.
- 7.3 The tree line in the south of the site will be mostly lost. A 10-metre section of the southern boundary line of trees will be retained, with a retained value of 0.01 linear biodiversity units.

Created habitats – on site

Urban –Built developed land sealed surface – building

- 7.4 Two new dwellings will be constructed on-site. The created area measures 0.021 hectares and has a value of 0 biodiversity units.

Urban – developed, unvegetated land surface – hard standing

- 7.5 An area of developed unvegetated sealed surface measuring 0.052 hectares will be created to surround the buildings for vehicular access and parking. The area has a value of 0 biodiversity units.

Urban – built up areas and garden – vegetated garden

- 7.6 The rear of the new dwellings will be composed of a vegetated garden. This habitat measures 0.026 hectares and has a value of 0.05 biodiversity units.

Urban trees

- 7.7 Fifteen urban trees will be planted as part of the development. New tree planting defaults to small trees in poor condition. These have a value of 0.15 biodiversity units.

Habitat gain

- 7.8 The current proposed plans demonstrate a net loss of **-44.67% habitat units (-0.31 units), and a net gain of 2.47% (-0.00001 units) hedgerow units.**

Unit change

7.9 Figures 1 demonstrate the biodiversity unit change as a result of the proposals within the application for both habitats and linear features.

Figure 1: Headline results of statutory biodiversity metric

Headline Results		Return to results menu		
Scroll down for final results ▲				
On-site baseline	Habitat units	0.89		
	Hedgeprow units	0.14		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
On-site post-intervention (including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.38		
	Hedgeprow units	0.14		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
On-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	-0.51	-44.67%	
	Hedgeprow units	0.00	2.47%	
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%	
		On-site net gain is less than target set A		
		On-site net gain is less than target set A		
Off-site baseline	Habitat units	0.00		
	Hedgeprow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
Off-site post-intervention (including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.00		
	Hedgeprow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
Off-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.00	0.00%	
	Hedgeprow units	0.00	0.00%	
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%	
Combined net unit change (including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	-0.51		
	Hedgeprow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	Habitat units	0.00		
	Hedgeprow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
FINAL RESULTS				
Total net unit change (including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	-0.51		
	Hedgeprow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
Total net % change (including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	-44.67%	Total net gain achieved is less than target set A	
	Hedgeprow units	2.47%	Total net gain achieved is less than target set A	
	Watercourse units	0.00%		
Trading rules satisfied?	No - Check Trading Summaries ▲			
Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit
Habitat units	10.00%	0.89	0.76	0.30
Hedgeprow units	10.00%	0.14	0.15	0.01
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00
No additional watercourse units required to meet target				

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The following recommendations will reduce the overall net loss of the habitats on site:
- The urban trees currently located around the sites could be retained to reduce the loss of baseline units.
 - Further small size standard urban trees could be included in the design in open green spaces only. These trees should be of native stock and could include species such as whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*), small-leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*), field maple (*Acer campestre*) and pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*).
 - A native hedgerow could be planted along the eastern boundary of the site to compensate for the loss of native hedgerows on site.

9.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1 As such the proposed development will achieve a predicted loss of **-44.67% habitat units (-0.31 units), and a net gain of 2.47% (-0.00001 units) hedgerow units.**
- 9.2 The minimum target of 10% has not been achieved, therefore, an off-site area will be required, or third-party habitat credits will need to be purchased to ensure the development reaches the Biodiversity Net Gain requirements. The site requires 0.75habitat units and 0.13 linear units to achieve a 10% net gain on site.
- 9.3 Biodiversity credits can be purchased from trading platforms such as Environment Bank (www.environmentbank.com) to offset habitat losses and secure the required 10% net gain.
- 9.4 To ensure the habitats created reach their target condition, a Biodiversity Net Gain Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan will be created and implemented.

10.0 REFERENCES

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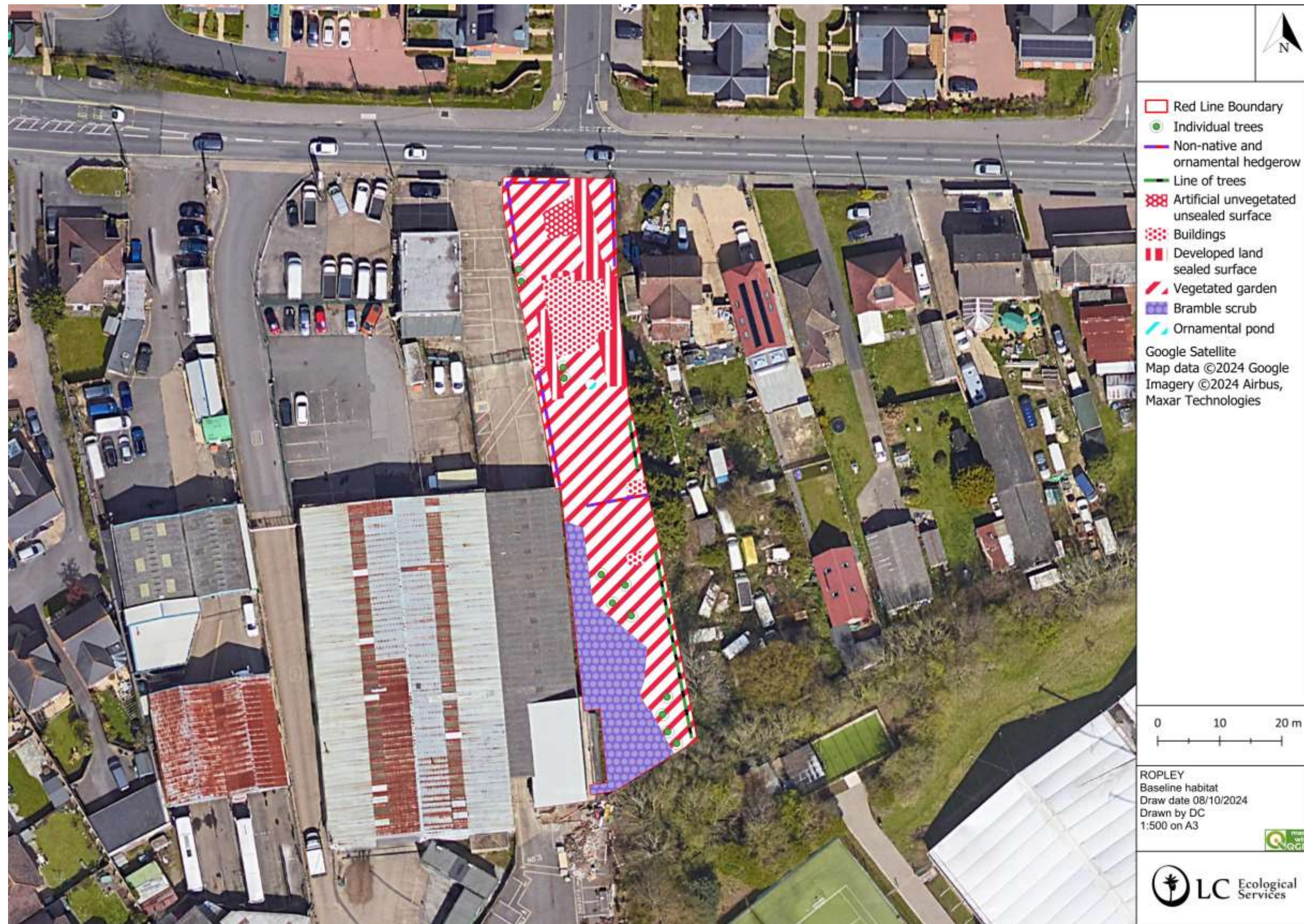
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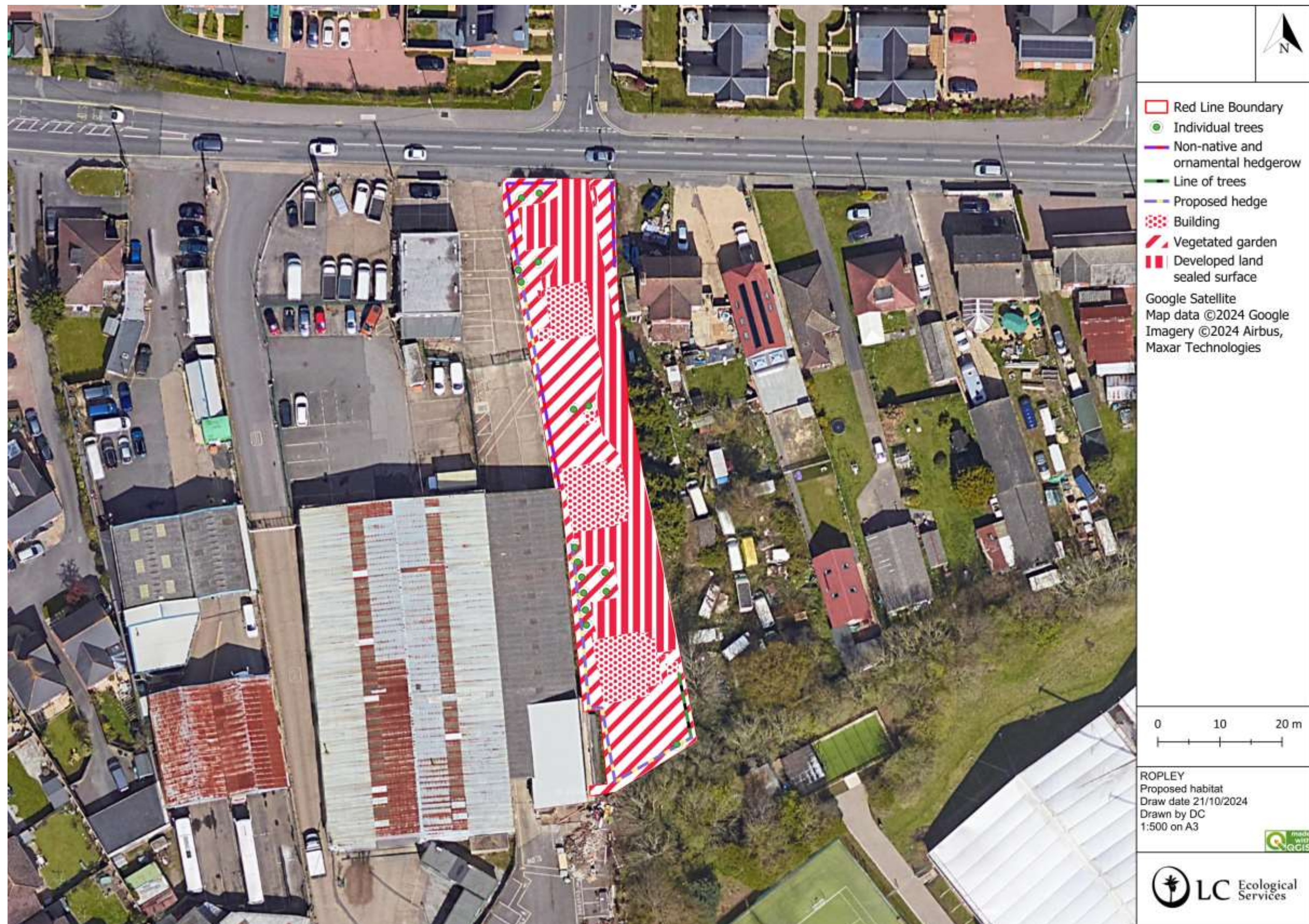
APPENDIX II: PROPOSED PLANS



APPENDIX III: BASELINE HABITAT SURVEY MAP



APPENDIX IV: PROPOSED HABITATS PLAN



APPENDIX V: HABITAT CONDITION ASSESSMENTS (BASELINE)

Condition assessment for the ornamental pond

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed Yes or No	Notes (such as justifications
Core Criteria - applicable to all ponds (woodland1 and non-woodland):			
A	The pond is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution. Turbidity is acceptable if the pond is grazed by livestock.	No	The pond has moderate turbidity.
B	There is semi-natural habitat (moderate distinctiveness or above) completely surrounding the pond, for at least 10 m from the pond edge for its entire perimeter.	No	There is some vegetated garden but also some artificial sealed habitat (hard standing and buildings) within the 10 metre perimeter.
C	Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed Lemna spp. or filamentous algae.	Yes	No duckweed or filamentous algae was recorded.
D	The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, e.g. agricultural ditches or artificial pipework.	Yes	The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies.
E	Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams, pumps or pipework.	Yes	No pump or pipework was recorded.
F	There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species.	Yes	No invasive species were recorded.
G			
Additional Criteria - must be assessed for all non-woodland ponds:			
H	Emergent, submerged or floating plants (excluding duckweed) cover at least 50% of the pond area which is less than 3 m deep.	No	The pond has less than 50% cover of emergent, submerged or floating plants.

I	The pond surface is no more than 50% shaded by adjacent trees and scrub.	Yes	Not more than 50% of the pond is shaded.
Results for non-woodland ponds which require assessment of 9 criteria			
Passes 9 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 6 to 8 criteria	Moderate (2)		
Passes 5 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	Yes	
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			
Footnote 1 - A woodland pond will be surrounded on all sides by woodland habitat. Footnote 2 - This excludes natural dams such as those created by Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i>. Footnote 3 - Any species included on the Water Framework Directive (WFD) UKTAG GB High Impact Species List should be absent: WFD UKTAG (2021) <i>Classification of aquatic alien species according to their level of impact</i> [online]. Available from: UKTAG classification of alien species working paper v8.pdf (wfd-uk.org) • Frequently occurring non-native plant species include water fern <i>Azolla filiculoides</i>, Australian swamp stonecrop <i>Crassula helmsii</i>, parrot's feather <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>, floating pennywort <i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i> and Japanese knotweed <i>Reynoutria japonica</i>, giant hogweed <i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i> (on the bank). • Frequently occurring non-native animals include signal crayfish <i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i>, zebra mussels <i>Dreissena polymorpha</i>, killer shrimp <i>Dikerogammarus villosus</i>, demon shrimp <i>Dikerogammarus haemobaphes</i>, carp <i>Cyprinus carpio</i>. Footnote 4 - If the pond is seasonal (as in, it dries out in most summers) then emergent species alone are likely to be found.			

Condition assessment for the urban trees on site

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species)	No	The trees are mostly cypress spp. and spruce spp. which are not native species.
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion)	No	The trees are scattered and thus the canopy is not continuous
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature)	Yes	More than 50% of the trees were mature.
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Yes	No evidence of adverse impacts or regular pruning was observed.
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood cavities, ivy or loose bark,	No	No ecological niche features were observed.
F	More than 20% of tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath	Yes	There is more than 20% vegetation cover under the trees as these are situated in a vegetated garden.
Number of criteria passed		3	
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	Yes	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		

Condition assessment for the lines of trees on site

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	At least 70% of trees are native species.	No	The trees were not native. These are composed of Lawson cypress and
B	Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide.	Yes	The tree canopy was continuous in both tree lines.
C	One or more trees has veteran features and or natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates, such as presence of standing and attached deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	No veteran features or natural ecological niches were present.
D	There is an undisturbed naturally-vegetated strip of at least 6 m on both sides to protect the line of trees from farming and other human activities (excluding grazing). Where veteran trees are present, root protection areas should follow standing advice ² .	No	There was some vegetation, as being urban vegetated garden with some developed ground within, and it is managed regularly: disturbed
E	At least 95% of the trees are in a healthy condition (deadwood or veteran features valuable for wildlife are excluded from this). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	Yes	The trees were judged to be in healthy condition.
Number of criteria passed			
Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/✓	
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)		

Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	Yes	
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			
Footnotes			
Footnote 1 – DEFRA (2007) <i>Hedgerow Survey Handbook: A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK</i> . 2nd ed [online]. Defra, London. PB1195. Available from: Hedgerow Survey Handbook (publishing.service.gov.uk).			
Footnote 2 – Where ancient and veteran trees are present, see gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from:			
Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk)			
and:			
Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)			