BNG Habitat Management & Monitoring Plan

Land East of Stroudwood Lane

Ecosupport Ltd
K4 Keppel,
Daedalus Park,
Lee-on-the-Solent
PO13 9FX

info@ecosupport.co.uk

VAT: 228 4314 18

ecosupport

Report	Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment, Management and Monitoring Plan
Site Name	Land East of Stroudwood Lane
Author(s)	Laura Chidlow MSci (Hons) & Darla Brown BSc (Hons)
Checked by	Darrelle Moffat BES (Hons) PGCert ACIEEM
Client	Mr & Mrs Wyre
Date of Issue	Revised: March 2025
Status	***Final***

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 4

1.0 INTRODUCTION 5

1.1 BACKGROUND 5
1.2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION 5
1.3 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS 6

2.0 METHODOLOGY 7

2.1 HABITAT ASSESSMENT 7
2.2 HABITAT DISTINCTIVENESS 7
2.3 HABITAT CONDITION 7
2.4 STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE 7
2.5 MITIGATION HIERARCHY 8
2.6 LIMITATIONS 8

3.0 EXISTING HABITATS AND DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS 9

3.1 BASELINE HABITATS 9
3.1.1 Tall forbs (secondary habitat code of 16, under g4) 9
3.1.2 Modified grassland (g4) 10
3.1.3 Bramble scrub (h3d) 10
3.1.4 Developed land; sealed surface (u1b) 11
3.1.5 Buildings (u1b5) 11
3.1.6 Artificial unvegetated; Unsealed surface (u1c) 12
3.1.7 Native Hedgerow (h2a) 13
3.1.8 Line of Trees (secondary code 33, under w1g) 14
3.2 BASELINE CONDITION ASSESSMENT 14

4.0 PROPOSED CREATED HABITATS & NET GAIN ASSESSMENT 17

4.1 ON-SITE PROPOSALS 17
4.1.1 Non-Linear and Linear Habitats 17
4.2 METRIC CALCULATION 21
4.3 MITIGATION HIERARCHY 21

5.0 HABITAT MANAGEMENT 23

5.1 PROTECTION OF RETAINED HABITATS 23
5.2 MODIFIED GRASSLAND 23
5.2.1 Proposed Planting 23
5.2.2 Management 23
5.3 INDIVIDUAL (URBAN) TREES 24
5.3.1 Proposed Planting 24
5.3.2 Management 24
5.3.2.1 Mycorrhizal Treatment 24
5.3.2.2 Weed Management 24
5.3.2.3 Pruning 24
5.3.2.4 Replacement 24

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

5.4 NATIVE HEDGEROW **24**
5.4.1 Proposed Planting *24*
5.4.2 Retained / Planted Hedgerow Management *25*
5.5 COMPLIANCE CHECK **25**
5.6 SAFEGUARDING **26**
5.7 POST-CONSTRUCTION HABITAT CREATION **26**
5.8 MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES **26**
5.9 YEARS 2 – 30 MANAGEMENT / MONITORING TABLE **30**
6.0 REFERENCES **33**
7.0 APPENDIX **34**

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ecosupport Ltd. were commissioned by Mr & Mrs Wyre to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment at 'Land East of Stroudwood Lane' and detail the results of this assessment within a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan. This is to satisfy the statutory requirements for developers to deliver a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) of at least 10% and ensure that habitats for wildlife are left in a measurably better state than they were before the development.

The purpose of this BNG assessment is to quantify the biodiversity value of the site prior to its development and the predicted value post-development. This is measured in biodiversity units, calculated according to the habitats present based on their size, distinctiveness and condition. This enables the quantitative calculation of the predicted change in biodiversity value as a result of the proposed development, with the objective of achieving a net gain in biodiversity.

The on-site condition assessment undertaken on the 12th of December 2024 was carried out in line with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 1 (DEFRA, 2024) and the Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation tool (DEFRA, 2024) was used to calculate biodiversity losses and gains.

Following the incorporation of the above measures into the DEFRA Statutory Biodiversity Metric, ***on-site there is a net gain of +11.48% in area habitats (or +0.04 habitat units) and the trading rules are satisfied*** (**Fig 10**). Furthermore, ***on-site there is a net gain of +38.34% in linear habitats (or +0.10 hedgerow units) and the trading rules are satisfied*** (**Fig 10**). As the targeted 10% net gain has been achieved for both area and linear habitats, no additional measures are required in regard to achieving biodiversity net gain on-site.

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Ecosupport Ltd. were commissioned by Mr & Mrs Wyre to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment at 'Land East of Stroudwood Lane' and detail the results of this assessment within a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan.

The purpose of the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment is to quantify the biodiversity value of the site prior to its development, and the predicted value post-development. This is measured in biodiversity units, calculated according to the habitats present based on their size, distinctiveness and condition. This enables the quantitative calculation of the predicted change in biodiversity value as a result of the proposed development, with the objective of achieving a net gain in biodiversity.

This report will also address how habitats will be enhanced and created to achieve a net gain in biodiversity units and how these habitats will be managed and monitored for at least 30 years. The following points will be covered (DEFRA, 2023):

- How off-site gains and / or significant on-site enhancements will be managed, taking into account any legal restrictions and requirements (including additionality),
- When and how habitats will be monitored,
- When and how monitoring results will be reported,
- When and how management proposals will be reviewed,
- How habitats will be restored if the management plan is not working.

This report should be read in conjunction with the associated Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Ecosupport Ltd., 2025)

1.2 Site Location and Description

The site comprises of an open barn on hardstanding ground, with sections of tall forbs upon a large manure pile located at Stroudwood Lane, Southampton, SO32 1HG (centred on OS grid reference SU 51444 19625) (**Fig 1**). The western boundary of the site is bound by Stroudwood Lane, the northern and eastern boundaries of the site are bound by grazed grassland. Finally, the southern boundary is bound by further grassland and a residential dwelling.

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

Figure 1. Aerial image of the site with red-line boundary (Google Satellite, 2024).

1.3 Development Proposals

It is understood that the proposals entail the demolition and replacement of the current barn with associated access, parking, and landscaping. (**Fig 2**)

Figure 2. Proposed plan for Land East of Stroudwood Lane, Southampton (Plan A, 2024. Drawing no. A24B95(2.0)102 rev C4).

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

2.0 METHODOLOGY

The methodology for the assessment follows the Natural England Statutory Biodiversity Metric habitat condition assessment protocols and uses the Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation tool to calculate biodiversity losses and gains (DEFRA, 2023b).

2.1 Habitat Assessment

Habitats' on-site pre-development were identified in accordance with the categories specified for a UK Habitats survey using Habitat Definitions Version 2.0 (UKHab Ltd., 2023). This was chosen as an appropriate habitat categorisation system as it fits within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation. The habitat definitions used were based on those identified during a site walkover undertaken on the 12th of December 2024 by Ecosupport Ltd.

A condition assessment was carried out on site by Darla Brown BSc (Hons), Project Ecologist, assisted by Grace Roberts MSci and Laura Chidlow MSci (Hons), Assistant Ecologists with Ecosupport on the 12th of December 2024. This was carried out in line with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 1 (DEFRA, 2024). The area of identified habitats is calculated in hectares (ha), ignoring linear features or ditches (the area is measured to the centre line of such features). The length of linear features is measured separately in kilometres (km). The dominant habitat type was selected, according to those defined by UKHab Ltd (2023). Where there was disparity between the UK classification for habitat type and those present within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculator tool, this was noted within the condition assessment tables.

2.2 Habitat Distinctiveness

Each habitat was assigned a score for distinctiveness, according to the Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculator tool (DEFRA, 2024). This ranged from Poor - High for most habitats, or Not Applicable (e.g. Developed Land – Sealed Surface). Using the tool, habitats were assigned a score based on their distinctiveness.

2.3 Habitat Condition

The condition of each habitat was assessed following criteria set out in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 1 (DEFRA, 2024), which includes detailed assessment criteria for different habitats. Full results of the condition assessments can be found within **Section 3.0**. The condition of each habitat was assessed individually on site but, where the condition was found to be the same across several parcels, these were grouped together.

2.4 Strategic Significance

Each habitat was assigned a strategic significance in line with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (DEFRA, 2024). The site does not lie within any protected areas or local strategy and / or they were of little ecological value These have been listed as 'area not in local strategy' because it is not considered that they contribute to the value of the ecological network. Notwithstanding this, the hedgerow does not fall within the local strategy, however has been categorised as 'location ecologically desirable bit not in the local strategy' due to the nearby presence of Hazel Dormice (Ecosupport, 2024).

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

2.5 Mitigation Hierarchy

The proposed development has been designed to follow the biodiversity gain hierarchy as described in paragraph 186 (a) of the National Planning Policy Framework (DLUHC) which sets out a list of priority actions when achieving a net gain on site:

- avoiding adverse effects of the development on onsite habitat with a habitat distinctiveness score, applied in the biodiversity metric, equal to or higher than six;
- so far as those adverse effects cannot be avoided, mitigating those effects;
- so far as those adverse effects cannot be mitigated, habitat enhancement of onsite habitat;
- so far as there cannot be that enhancement, creation of onsite habitat;
- so far as there cannot be that creation, the availability of registered offsite biodiversity gain;
- so far as that offsite habitat enhancement cannot be secured, purchasing biodiversity credits.

2.6 Limitations

There were not considered to be any significant limitations on the results of the habitat survey with all areas of the site accessible. Although the survey was taken outside the optimum timing for the identification of botanical interest species, it is considered that the majority of species present could be suitability identified; this was therefore not considered to represent a significant limitation to the overall assessment.

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

3.0 EXISTING HABITATS AND DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The habitats on site were categorised according to UK Hab Ltd. Habitat Definitions Version 2.0 (2023) as listed below (please refer to the **Baseline Habitats map appended** for information on the locations of these habitats on site):

- Tall forbs (secondary habitat code 16 under g4)
- Modified grassland (g4)
- Developed land; sealed surface (u1b)
- Artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface (u1c)
- Buildings (u1b5)
- Bramble scrub (h3d)
- Native hedgerow (h2a)
- Line of trees (secondary code 33 under w1g)

3.1 Baseline Habitats

3.1.1 Tall forbs (secondary habitat code of 16, under g4)

The majority of the site comprised of unmanaged tall forbs (secondary habitat code 16, under primary code g4 – modified grassland) (**Fig 3**). A smaller section of this grassland was located on flat ground along the southern and eastern boundaries; however, the larger parcel of this habitat is grown atop rubble mounds and a mound of horse waste. As this does not fall into any UKHabs category and the land is primarily an overgrowth of tall ruderal (mainly Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*)), it was therefore considered to fall within the definition of tall forbs.

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

Figure 3. View of the Tall Forbs (secondary code 16, under g4) habitat on-site with a closer image showing the rubble mound (taken December 2024).

3.1.2 Modified grassland (g4)

An area of modified grassland (g4) forms a slim stretch of land behind the stable block to the east and south of the site. Species noted included Perennial Rye Grass (*Lolium perenne*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Rush (*Juncus effusus*), Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Dandelion (*Taraxacum agg.*), Cut-leaved Crane's-bill (*Geranium dissectum*), Broadleaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Cleavers (*Galium aparine*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*).

3.1.3 Bramble scrub (h3d)

A section of unmanaged Bramble scrub was located along the site's northern boundary (**Fig 4**).

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

Figure 4. View of the bramble scrub (h3d) habitat on the northern site boundary (taken December 2024).

3.1.4 Developed land; sealed surface (u1b)

A section of uneven, hardstanding made up the site access and parcel of land in front of the barn on site (**Fig 5**).

Figure 5. View of the hardstanding in front of the barn at the south of the site, looking east (taken December 2024).

3.1.5 Buildings (u1b5)

The only building located on site was a rectangular barn, supported by metal beams, which was situated to the southeast corner of the site (**Fig 5**) (**Fig 6**).

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

Figure 6. View of the barn on site (taken December 2024).

3.1.6 Artificial unvegetated; Unsealed surface (u1c)

A small parcel of land situated north of the barn was primarily made up of uneven loose gravel with no vegetation (**Fig 7**). Therefore, it was considered to fall under the category of artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface.

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

Figure 7. View of the section of unvegetated, unsealed surface habitat to the north of the barn, looking south-east (taken December, 2024).

3.1.7 Native Hedgerow (h2a)

Two linear features were identified on site, one of which was a section of managed hedgerow, situated along the western boundary of the site adjacent to Stroudwood Lane (**Fig 8**). The habitat is composed entirely of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) with Ivy (*Hedera helix*).

Figure 8. Hedgerow along the western boundary of the site, looking north (taken December 2024).

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

3.1.8 Line of Trees (secondary code 33, under w1g)

The final habitat, and second linear feature, identified on site was a line of trees in the northwestern corner bound by Stroudwood Lane and the wider environment to the north (**Fig 9**). The identified species included Willow (*Salix sp.*) covered in Ivy (*Hedera helix*), and a low quantity of Dogrose (*Rosa canina*). As line of trees falls under a secondary habitat code, this habitat has been listed under primary code w1g for other broadleaved woodland within the accompanying Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Ecosupport, 2025).

Figure 9. View of the line of trees in the northwestern corner of the site, facing northeast (secondary code 33, under w1g) (taken December 2024).

3.2 Baseline Condition Assessment

The following tables provide detail as to the condition assessments undertaken of the non-linear (**Table 1**) and linear (**Table 2**) habitats present on site with reference to the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 1 (Defra, 2024).

NB. Bramble scrub, developed land; sealed surface, and artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface habitats do not require a condition assessment as it has a predetermined condition of 'Condition Assessment N/A' under current guidance within the statutory metric.

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

Table 1. Existing non-linear habitats present on site including details as to their condition and the condition assessment criteria that have been met / failed as per the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 1 (Defra, 2024).

Habitat Type	Area (ha)	Condition	Condition Assessment Notes	Strategic Significance	Parcel Reference - Location Notes
Sparsely vegetated land (tall forbs)	0.119	Poor	Both of these habitat parcels are comprised of tall forbs with less than 25% cover of bracken, scrub, and trees, with an absence of invasive non-native plant species. The primary species did match that of the UKHab description, yet it wasn't consistently present across the habitat, and vegetation cover exceeded 50%. Specifically, the sparsely vegetated land failed essential criteria A and D.	Area not in local strategy.	G1 & G2
Developed land; sealed surface	0.099	N/A - Other	No condition assessment is required as per The Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation tool (DEFRA, 2024).	Area not in local strategy.	B1 & DL1
Bramble scrub	0.023	N/A – Other	No condition assessment is required as per The Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation tool (DEFRA, 2024).	Area not in local strategy.	S1
Modified grassland	0.009	Poor	This habitat comprised of a small strip of modified grassland with <6 vascular plant species per m^2 and lacked a varied sward height. Furthermore, physical damage exceeds over 5% of the grassland through frequent anthropogenic and horse use. Specifically, the modified grassland failed essential criteria A, B, and D.	Area not in local strategy.	MG1

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

Table 2. Existing linear habitats present on site including details as to their condition and the condition assessment criteria that have been met / failed as per the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 1 (Defra, 2024).

Habitat Type	Length (km)	Condition	Condition Assessment Notes	Strategic Significance	Parcel Reference - Location Notes
Native Hedgerow	0.049	Poor	The hedgerow was 0.49km in length and <1.5m in height and width along its length. No gap was noted at the hedge base or along the canopy. The hedgerow did not support a strip of undisturbed ground >1m in width with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of its length (adjacent to a road). No species indicative of nutrient enrichment exceeded 20% of this area. There were no invasive species present, however the hedgerow was observed to have some damage resulting from human activities (rubbish was present with recent hedgerow management evident). Specifically, criteria B1, B2, D1 and D2 were met.	Location ecologically desirable but not in the local strategy.	H1
Line of Trees	0.036	Poor	The line of trees was 0.36km in length and >1.5m in height along its length with a continuous canopy. All tree species present were native willow with ivy forming an ecological niche for vertebrates and invertebrates. Notwithstanding this the trees were subject to adverse impacts and anthropogenic disturbance on both sides of the treeline. Specifically, criteria A, B, and C were met.	Area not in local strategy.	W1

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

4.0 PROPOSED CREATED HABITATS & NET GAIN ASSESSMENT

4.1 On-Site Proposals

Following consultation with Mr & Mrs Wyre, in order to minimise the loss of biodiversity on site, the following habitats are being retained and created (please refer to the **Post-Development Layout appended.** Tables have been provided as appropriate to indicate the targeted condition for each of the habitat types and which criteria will need to be met in order to achieve the desired condition.

Section 5.0 details the proposed planting and ongoing management required to ensure the stated condition criteria are met for each habitat type.

NB. Should planting and management prescriptions need altering slightly when drawing up the detailed landscape strategy, this will first be approved by an ecologist to ensure the recommendations are in line with the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment.

4.1.1 Non-Linear and Linear Habitats

Table 3 indicates those habitats due to be retained and created on site with details provided, where appropriate, as to how the necessary condition criteria will be met.

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

Table 3. Non-linear and linear habitats to be retained and created on site including details as to the condition assessment criteria that must be met in order to achieve the targeted condition (the necessary planting and management required to achieve the stated condition criteria is detailed in **Section 5.0)**

Habitat Type	Action	Area (ha/km)	Target Condition	Condition Assessment Notes	Strategic Significance	Parcel Reference - Location Notes
Non-linear habitats						
Bramble Scrub	Retained	0.023	Condition Assessment N/A	No condition assessment is required as per The Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation tool (DEFRA, 2024).	Area not in local strategy	S1
Modified Grassland	Created	0.0034	Good	Modified grassland of good condition will be created in line with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 1 (DEFRA, 2024). A minimum of six criteria will be targeted for achievement with management implemented to create an area of species rich grassland, minimise cover of scrub, bracken, and invasive species, minimise damage to the grassland and ensure there are few areas of bare ground.	Area not in local strategy.	MG2
Individual Trees (Urban)	Created	0.0448	Moderate	11 No. urban trees of moderate condition will be created in line with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 1 (Defra, 2024). Specifically, criteria B, D and F will be targeted for achievement with appropriate management implemented to prevent adverse impacts to health and maintain a continuous canopy. Trees will be planted within suitable green space areas where at least 20% of the canopy will over sail vegetation beneath. Where possible planted trees will comprise of native species to achieve criteria A.	Area not in local strategy.	MG2 – Located at the east of the site

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

Artificial unvegetated; Unsealed surface	Created	0.12	N/A - Other	No condition assessment is required as per The Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation tool (DEFRA, 2024).	Area not in local strategy.	US2
Developed Land; Sealed Surface	Created	0.038	N/A – Other	No condition assessment is required as per The Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation tool (DEFRA, 2024).	Area not in local strategy.	N/A – Constructed building within the development site
Developed Land; Sealed Surface	Created	0.059	N/A – Other	No condition assessment is required as per The Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation tool (DEFRA, 2024).	Area not in local strategy.	N/A – In front of the new building forming access and parking
Linear habitats						
Native Hedgerow	Retained	0.049	Poor	Native hedgerow along the western site boundary to be protected and retained during works and post-development. The management regime will continue as existing, and as such, there will be no impact to the existing condition of the native hedgerow.	Location ecologically desirable but not in the local strategy.	H1

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

Line of Trees	Retained	0.036	Moderate	The line of trees at the north-west of the site will be protected and retained during works and post-development. The management regime will continue as existing, and as such, there will be no impact to the existing condition of the line of trees.	Area not in local strategy.	W1
Native Hedgerow	Created	0.051	Poor	Native hedgerows of poor condition will be created in line with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 1 (Defra, 2023b). Specifically, criteria A2, B1, B2, D1 and D2 will be targeted for achievement with management implemented to maintain a width of at least 1.5m, limit horizontal and vertical gaps within the hedgerow, remove invasive species and prevent damage.	Area not in local strategy.	H2

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

4.2 Metric Calculation

Following the incorporation of the above measures into the DEFRA Statutory Biodiversity Metric, ***on-site there is a net gain of +11.48% in area habitats (or +0.04 habitat units) and the trading rules are satisfied*** (**Fig 10**). Furthermore, ***on-site there is a net gain of +38.34% in linear habitats (or +0.10 hedgerow units) and the trading rules are satisfied*** (**Fig 10**). As the targeted 10% net gain has been achieved for both area and linear habitats, no additional measures are required in regard to achieving biodiversity net gain on-site.

Figure 10. Screenshot of the 'headline results' output from the BNG assessment undertaken for the site using the DEFRA Statutory Biodiversity Metric.

FINAL RESULTS		
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	0.04
	Hedgerow units	0.10
	Watercourse units	0.00
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	11.48%
	Hedgerow units	38.34%
	Watercourse units	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓	

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit
Habitat units	10.00%	0.35	0.38	0.00
Hedgerow units	10.00%	0.26	0.28	0.00
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00

4.3 Mitigation Hierarchy

The proposed habitat retention and creation described in the above sections follow the Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy as detailed within paragraph 186 (a) of the National Planning Policy Framework (DLUHC, 2023). The below sections cover each of the elements of the hierarchy and how we have sought to address them in this scheme:

- **Avoid:** The habitats of the highest value have, where possible, been retained, and will be enhanced and restored as necessary. This includes the line of trees on-site as well as the native hedgerow and bramble scrub. Further habitats could not be retained, due to the specific needs of the development as the artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface. .

- **Mitigate:** In order to mitigate the loss of tall forbs growing over the horse manure on site, an area of modified grassland will be created which will have an improved condition and diversity to the previous grassland type, managed as a wildflower border. Furthermore, extensive tree planting has been proposed across the site to enhance the net gain further and compensate for the initial loss.

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

- **Offset:** As the proposed development results in a +10% net gain overall for biodiversity, there is no need to offset. Therefore, the Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy has been followed when addressing the BNG requirements for the site.

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

5.0 HABITAT MANAGEMENT

This section provides an outline of the habitat management prescriptions required to retain and create the proposed habitats within the site and meet the desired condition criteria for the purposes of delivering biodiversity net gain.

While a detailed landscape scheme is not yet available, the below sections have been prepared in conjunction with Holmcote Estates, to ensure that management recommendations are achievable and consistent with the site's character. Should the provision of a detailed landscape scheme be conditioned in the future, the information within the below sections will be used to inform the landscape strategy to ensure it remains consistent with the Biodiversity Net Gain assessment.

5.1 Protection of Retained Habitats

All of the habitats to be retained or enhanced will be protected from damage during the works. The bramble scrub, hedgerow, and line of trees will be fenced using Heras fencing or similar to prevent access by machinery.

No vehicles will enter the protective ring fencing, and no materials will be stored within their circumference. All protective fencing must be in place prior to any construction machinery arriving on site, before any works on site get underway, and will remain in place until all work is completed. It is important to note that any equipment used to remove / treat invasive species (if they have colonised) much be immediately washed and treated, with the invasive species properly disposed of, to prevent spread to the remainder of the site.

5.2 Modified Grassland

5.2.1 Proposed Planting

The parcel of modified grassland (Parcel Reference: G3) will be seeded with a suitable wildflower mix such as Emorsgate EH1 – Hedgerow Mixture. This comprises of wild flowers and grasses that are semi-shade tolerant such as Lesser Burdock (*Arctium minus*), Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*), Hedge Bedstraw (*Galium album*), Meadow Crane's-bill (*Geranium pratense*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), and Crested Dog's Tail. The sowing of these seeds will be completed either during the Spring (March-May) or the late Summer (August-October) when the temperatures are warm, and the ground is dry. The seed must be surface sown at an even distribution throughout the entire landscaped area.

5.2.2 Management

It is expected that the modified grassland area will be managed regularly with some areas left to grow longer and other areas mown more frequently.

First year management: The species within this seed mixture are perennial and will be slow to germinate and grow, often not flowering within the first growing season. Often, there will be a flush of annual weeds from the soil in the first growing season, this can be controlled by repeated mowing.

During the first year, the created grassland area must be regularly maintained to a height of 40-60mm every 12 weeks (or more frequently as needed) to prevent the establishment of weeds and develop a good sward structure. All arisings must be taken from site to prevent the addition of too many nutrients into the soil. Any perennial weeds such as docks must be dug out.

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

Management Once Established: Once the seed is established after the first year, it is expected that the grassland area will be left to grow longer, and mowing will also be relaxed in various areas from late June for 4-8 weeks to encourage floral diversity. Mowing can also be suspended earlier in the year to allow for species such as cowslips to flower. Targeted scrub, bracken, and invasive plant removal should also be carried out as needed to prevent encroachment into the grassland.

5.3 Individual (Urban) Trees

5.3.1 Proposed Planting

A total of 11 No. trees will be planted across the site. Recommended species planting includes Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Hazel *(Corylus avellana)*, Oak (*Quercus robur*), Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*), Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), or Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*). Weeding will be undertaken around the base of the trees in all years. Trees that are fruiting will not be cut to ensure the formation of fruiting bodies.

Planting will be carried out in the first year. The best time to plant is late autumn and it is recommended to avoid freezing temperatures or heat. Rootgrow or Bonemeal will be applied to the new plants to encourage healthy root growth.

5.3.2 Management

5.3.2.1 Mycorrhizal Treatment

To ensure a successful establishment of the newly planted trees, it is recommended that mycorrhizal treatment to the tree roots is conducted **during the planting**, this would reduce the risk of tree mortality and increase the long-term tolerance of these trees to periods of drought or adverse soil conditions thus ensuring a higher chance of successful long-term establishment.

5.3.2.2 Weed Management

All newly planted trees must have a 1-metre exclusion zone whereby weeds are routinely and proactively removed for the **first 2 – 3 years**. Bark mulch is recommended around each tree and will act as an effective management method to also supress weed colonisation.

5.3.2.3 Pruning

The trees will be subject to light pruning as required in October to ensure that they are developing healthy growth forms (but pruning will not be extensive enough to restrict expected canopy or height for their species).

5.3.2.4 Replacement

Any plants that are removed, die or become seriously damaged or defective shall be replaced like for like in the next planting season.

5.4 Native Hedgerow

5.4.1 Proposed Planting

Areas of new hedgerow planting are proposed around the site to bolster the screening and improve the hedgerow habitat on site for invertebrates, birds and bats. It is recommended that the ground is

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

prepared by digging a strip approximately 60 – 90 cm in width. All weeds present in the soil are to be removed during soil preparation.

It is recommended that the new hedgerow will comprise of one (or multiple) of the following species: European Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Common Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), and / or Guelder-rose (*Viburnum opulus*).

5.4.2 Retained / Planted Hedgerow Management

To enable a successful outcome, future management of the retained and planted hedgerows will require on going management works. This will include monitoring, prescriptive tasks and implementation of necessary works. The Hedgerow Management and Wildlife (Barr et al., undated) document outlines three important factors in how hedgerows are managed that affect resident mammal population (and have therefore formed the basis of the recommendations in this section):

1. The type and amount of food available within the hedgerow. Favourable conditions being a large invertebrate population or prolific annual seed and berry crop.
2. The vegetation structure and composition of the hedgerow. For instance, a dense, herb- rich basal layer or a continuous line of hedgerow trees is preferred by several species.
3. The continuity and connectivity of the hedge within the landscape. For instance, a hedgerow that connects patches of small farm woodlands will have greater value as a corridor for the dispersal of mammals.

The more favourable approach to managing hedgerows for the benefits of small mammals is to encourage minimal interference and ensure when there is any cutting, it does so after autumn fruiting (so late winter is preferable). The key points of the management prescriptions will therefore be as follows (adopting recommendations as outlined within Bright and MacPherson 2002):

- Hedgerows will be trimmed within years 1 – 3 to maintain shape, form, and encourage dense growth.
- Hedgerow transplants, if used, will be watered fortnightly throughout the summer between years 1 – 2.
- Shrub guards will be checked bi-annually.
- Hedgerows along the boundaries will be cut every other year in winter.
- Hedgerows within the development will be cut yearly. The native mixed species hedgerow will be cut in February.
- Coppicing or laying should be used to manage an of the hedgerows on site which become gappy or spars.
- If the size of the hedgerow needs to be reduced, avoid cutting the top and cut one side.
- The) hedgerows will be managed to a height of between 1.2 – 2m .

5.5 Compliance Check

A compliance visit will be completed by a suitably qualified ecologist once the construction phase of the development has been completed. The check will be conducted annually for the first 5 years post-completion, and every 5-years thereafter until year 30. The compliance check will be carried out during a suitable time of year and in suitable weather conditions. The ecologist will check the condition of all of the habitats on site to assess if they have been achieved and make an assessment if any

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

recommended changes are required to management.

On completion of the visit, a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) monitoring report will be compiled, including the following:

- Assessment of habitats against the objectives defined in this management plan;
- Any presence of target species noted during the compliance check;
- Date stamped photographic evidence taken from fixed monitoring points, of which will be the central point of each land parcel per habitat type as listed in **Section 4.0,** during the first compliance check after the construction phase;
- Detailed site notes including a condition assessment for each habitat type listed in **Section 4.0** (where appropriate) using the condition criteria within the Technical Annex 1 (DEFRA, 2024);
- Detailed specific recommendations on management actions to promote growth and establishment of target species / habitats including timescales for undertaking actions (if required) and marked site plans to show the actions;
- Management of the above recommended actions must be carried out in the next phase and report of any details;
- Each BNG monitoring report will be written up in accordance with the BNG Habitat Monitoring Report template provided by Natural England (2023) and will be sent to the LPA.

5.6 Safeguarding

The developer and project manager will be responsible for briefing all site personnel of the ecological sensitivities of the site and implementing the habitat retention, creation and management measures outlined within **Sections 4.0 & 5.0**. If any protected species are encountered during the construction works, it will be the responsibility of the project manager to cease works and immediately contact an ecologist for advice.

5.7 Post-Construction Habitat Creation

Table 4 below depicts the indicative timings associated with the habitat creation and enhancements to be undertaken after all construction works on site have been completed. This is considered to be year 1 of the management plan. For those activities that can be undertaken at any time of year, the earliest possible time is recommended.

5.8 Management Responsibilities

Holmcote Estates will assume responsibility for the management and maintenance of the newly created and enhanced habitats. When required, responsibility will include ensuring all management works are completed and qualified ecologists, arborists or landscape managers are contracted, etc. If the land is to be transferred, the new landlords shall bear responsibility for the management and maintenance of habitats within their curtilage. If not, the responsibility shall remain with Holmcote Estates. All management works as described above will need to be secured by a Section 106 agreement for the site that will legally oblige Holmcote Estates or other agreed party to carry out the works. An annual management timeline of all habitats has been provided in **Table 5** and management works should continue in perpetuity.

A formal review process will be implemented when objectives and management recommendations are not reached / roles and responsibilities are not fulfilled as agreed. The details of this formal review

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

process are as below:

- A suitably qualified ecologist will visit the site to conduct the compliance check (detailed in **Section 5.5**);
- The compliance check will include the write up and submission of a BNG Habitat Monitoring report;
- The ecologist will review the success for BNG that the previous recommendations or management actions have for the target species / habitats;
- The project manager is contacted by the ecologist and is informed of the recommendations or management actions which have not been fulfilled to identify what or who is responsible;
- The BNG Habitat Monitoring report will include a section addressing any raised issues identified during the compliance check;
- The BNG Habitat Monitoring report is submitted to the LPA for review and comment.

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

Table 4. Schedule of habitat retention, enhancement and creation works to be carried out in first year (as per **Sections 4.0 and 5.0**).

General Activity	Specific Activity	Dates / Timing	Description
Habitat Retention (**Section 5.1**)	Installation of Heras fencing for protection	Anytime (pre-commencement)	• Heras fencing to be erected around the north-eastern boundary hedgerow and line of trees to prevent these areas from being damaged during works.
Habitat Creation Modified Grassland (**Section 5.2)**	Creation of grassland	Ideally Autumn or Spring	• Establish the 'modified grassland through sowing of Emorsgate EL1 – Flowering Lawn Mixture.
Habitat Creation Individual Trees (**Sections 5.3**)	Planting	Late Autumn	• Plant a mix of native and non-native tree species. • Apply Rootgrow or Bonemeal to encourage healthy root growth. • Apply Mycorrhizal treatment to the tree roots.
	Year 1 Management	Routinely as required	• Remove weeds from a 1m exclusion zone around each newly planted tree. • Apply mulch around the base of the tree as required.
Habitat Creation Native Hedgerow (**Sections 5.4**)	Planting	Late Autumn	• Plant with native shrub species.
	Invasive Species Removal	Routinely where required	• Invasive species will generally be removed by a combination of cutting back and removal of cut material from the site, followed by treatment of stumps, roots or regrowth using an approved systemic herbicide (such as glyphosate).
	Year 1 Management	Late September – October	• Begin 3 year cutting cycle in which a portion of the hedges on site are cut in the first year, another portion in the second year and no cutting in the third year. • Use hand tools and avoid the use of flails.
	Year 1 Monitoring	Late Winter – Early Spring	• Hedgerows will be inspected by a suitably experienced ecologist to assess the general health of the hedgerow.

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

			• Remedial action will be taken as necessary. • Any plants that are removed, die or become seriously damaged will be replaced like-for-like in the next planting season.

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

5.9 Years 2 – 30 Management / Monitoring Table

Once the initial works covering the first year of management / monitoring have been completed as outlined in **Table 4**, the longer-term management objectives for the ecological features on-site will need to be implemented (which have been outlined in detail in the above sections). **Table 5** below provides an overview of the actions required and the timings of when they should be complete (covering years 2– 30 post-construction).

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

Table 5. Schedule of monitoring and management in Years 2 – 30 for all habitats (as per **Sections 4.0 and 5.0**).

General Activity	Specific Activity	Dates / Timing	Description
Modified Grassland (**Section 5.2**)	Years 2-30 Management	Routinely as required	• Within more formal sections of modified grassland, control annual weed growth by regular mowing to a height of 40-60mm every 3-4 weeks throughout the first year to minimise competition and weed seed production. • Leave some areas longer in order to maintain flowering diversity, mowing will be relaxed in various areas from late June for 4-8 weeks.
Individual Trees (**Section 5.3)**	Weed management	Routinely as required	• Remove weeds from a 1m area around the base of the trees for the first 2-3 years.
	Pruning	October	• The trees will be subject to light pruning as required in October to ensure that they are developing healthy growth forms
	Replacement	As needed	• Any plants that are removed, die or become seriously damaged shall be replaced like-for-like in the next planting season.
Native Hedgerow (**Sections 5.4**)	Years 2-30 Management	Late September – October	• Continue the 3 year cutting cycle. • A proportion of hedges (at least 30%) should wherever possible be left to grow for 7-10 years. • Maintain a height of 1.2-2m wherever possible. • Use hand tools and avoid the use of flails. • Use coppicing or laying to fill gaps. • If hedgerow size needs to be reduced (e.g. in more formal areas), avoid cutting the top and cut only one side.
	Monitoring	Late Winter – Early Spring	• Suitably qualified ecologist will assess the health of the hedgerow and recommend any necessary remedial action

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

	Invasive species removal	Routinely where required	• Invasive species will generally be removed by a combination of cutting back and removal of cut material from the site, followed by treatment of stumps, roots or regrowth using an approved systemic herbicide (such as glyphosate).
	Replacement planting	Late Autumn ideally, in suitable weather (for planting) Late September – October (for coppicing/laying)	• Removed, dead or damaged specimens will be replaced like for like in the next planting season. • Coppicing / laying will be used to gap up / thicken any thin hedgerows.
Compliance Check (**Section 5.5**)	Monitoring report	Annually for the first 5 years, then every 5 years until year 30 Must be conducted during a suitable time of year and weather conditions	• A report will be produced detailing assessment of habitats against criteria stipulated in Section 4.0 and any necessary remedial actions or adjustments to ongoing management. • The report will be submitted to the LPA. • Any necessary actions must then be completed prior to the next compliance check.

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

6.0 REFERENCES

DEFRA (2023) *Creating a habitat management and monitoring plan for biodiversity net gain.* Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/creating-a-habitat-management-and-monitoring-plan-for-biodiversity-net-gain

DEFRA (2024) *Statutory Biodiversity Metric Tools and Guides.* Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides

DLUHC (2023) National Planning Policy Framework. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2

Ecosupport (2025). Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. *Land East of Stroudwood Lane* (January, 2025).

Emorsgate Seeds (2024) *EH1 Hedgerow Mixutre. Available at:* https://wildseed.co.uk/product/mixtures/complete-mixtures/special-habitat-mixtures/hedgerow-mixture/

Natural England (2023) *BNG Habitat Monitoring Report Template.* Available at: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5813530037846016

Natural England (2023) BM 4.0 – Technical Annex 1 – Condition Assessment Sheets. Available at: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5850908674228224

UKHab Ltd. (2023). The *UK Habitat Classification – Version 2.0.*

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

7.0 APPENDIX

Appendix A – BNG Baseline Habitats Map
Appendix B – BNG Post-Development Layout

Ecosupport Ltd K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park, Daedalus Drive, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9FX
T: 01329 832841 info@ecosupport.co.uk www.ecosupport.co.uk

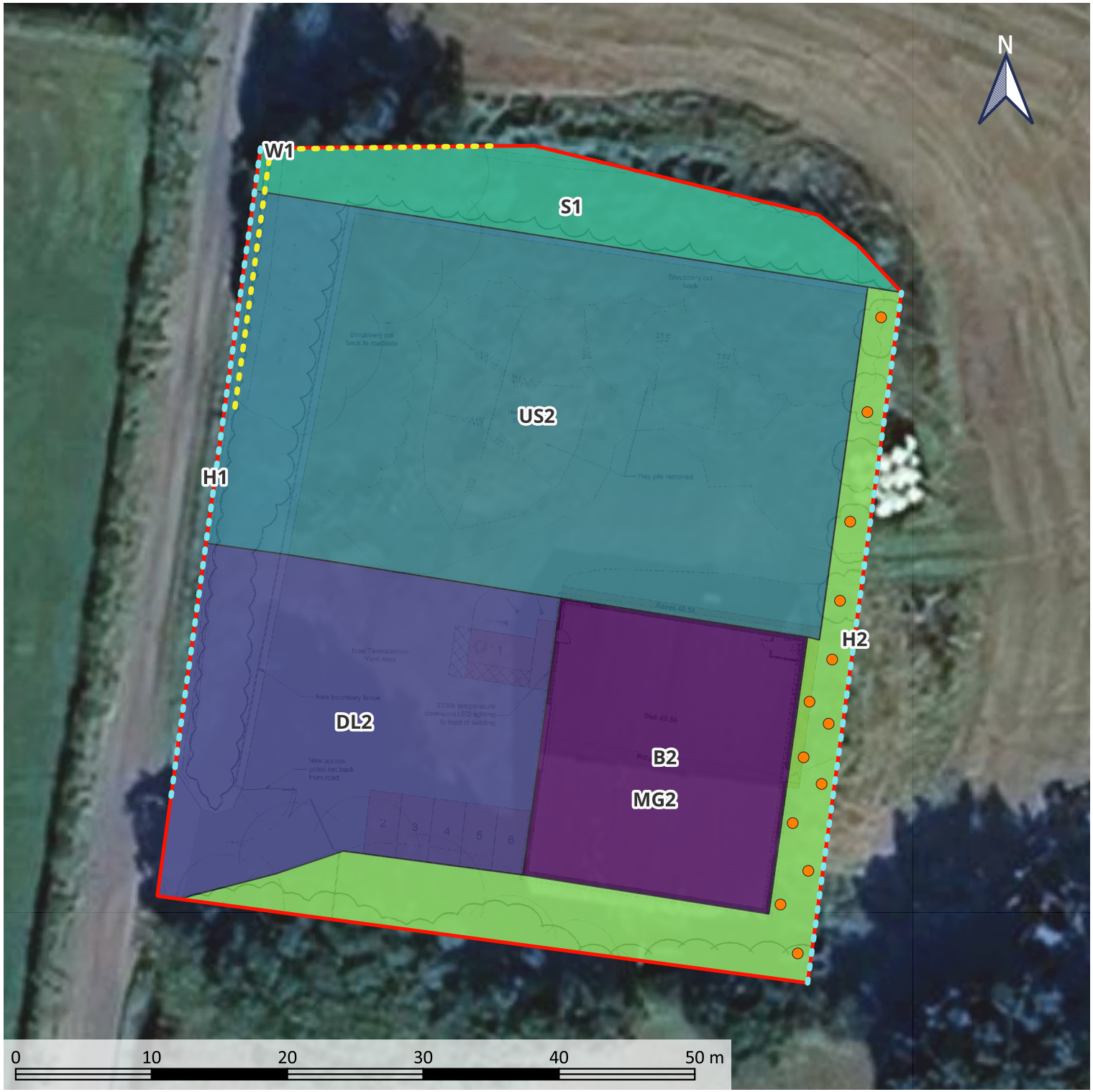
Legend

- Site Boundary
- Tall Ruderal
- Modified Grassland
- Bramble Scrub
- Artificial Unvegetated; Unsealed Surface
- Developed Land; Sealed Surface
- Building
- Native Hedegrow
- Line of Trees

ecosupport
K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park
Daedalus Drive
Lee on the Solent, PO13 9FX
E: info@ecosupport.co.uk
T: 01329 832 841

Map	BNG Baseline Habitats Map
Site	Land East of Stroudwood Lane
Client	Holmcote Estate
Date	24/03/2025

© This map is the copyright of Ecosupport Ltd.
Any unauthorised reproduction or usage by any person is prohibited.



Legend

- Site Boundary
- Modified Grassland
- Bramble Scrub
- Artificial Unvegetated; Unsealed Surface
- Developed Land; Sealed Surface
- Building
- Native Hedegrow
- Line of Trees
- Individual Trees

ecosupport

K4 Keppel, Daedalus Park
Daedalus Drive
Lee on the Solent, PO13 9FX
E: info@ecosupport.co.uk
T: 01329 832 841

Map	BNG Post-Development Layout
Site	Land East of Stroudwood Lane
Client	Holmcote Estate
Date	24/03/2025

© This map is the copyright of Ecosupport Ltd.
Any unauthorised reproduction or usage by any person is prohibited.