

Anne Hargreaves
Avison Young
1st Floor
City Point
29 King Street
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RE: Biodiversity Enhancements
SITE: Whitworth Community High School, Rochdale

Dear Anne,

Further to the Biodiversity Impacts Assessment calculation, please find below the rationale behind the calculation and a note on the biodiversity enhancements that are proposed.

Background

The initial Phase 1 Habitat Survey was undertaken by an ecologist (Jenny Gibson) from The Environment Partnership (TEP) on 26th August 2020.

This identified a small number of poor quality habitats on the site, these comprising the school buildings, hardstanding (car parks and play areas), mown amenity grass (the playing fields), patches of tall ruderal vegetation, a small allotment bed, and a very small number of scattered trees.

Although there are areas of broadleaved woodland around some of the boundaries, these all lie outside the perimeter fence.

Similarly, there are small watercourse along parts of the school boundaries, these also lying outside of the site.

The Phase 1 map is shown overleaf (Fig. 1).

Habitat calculation

The Environment Bank's biodiversity impact calculator has been used to assess the value of the existing habitats pre-works, and the predicted value of the site to wildlife post-works.

The loss of habitat has been scored as 0.82 units. Given the proposed landscaping scheme (Ref. Site-wide Masterplan in Fig. 2), there will be a significant net gain in the biodiversity value of the habitats amounting to 1.61 units, or approximately 49%. These enhancements are outlined below.

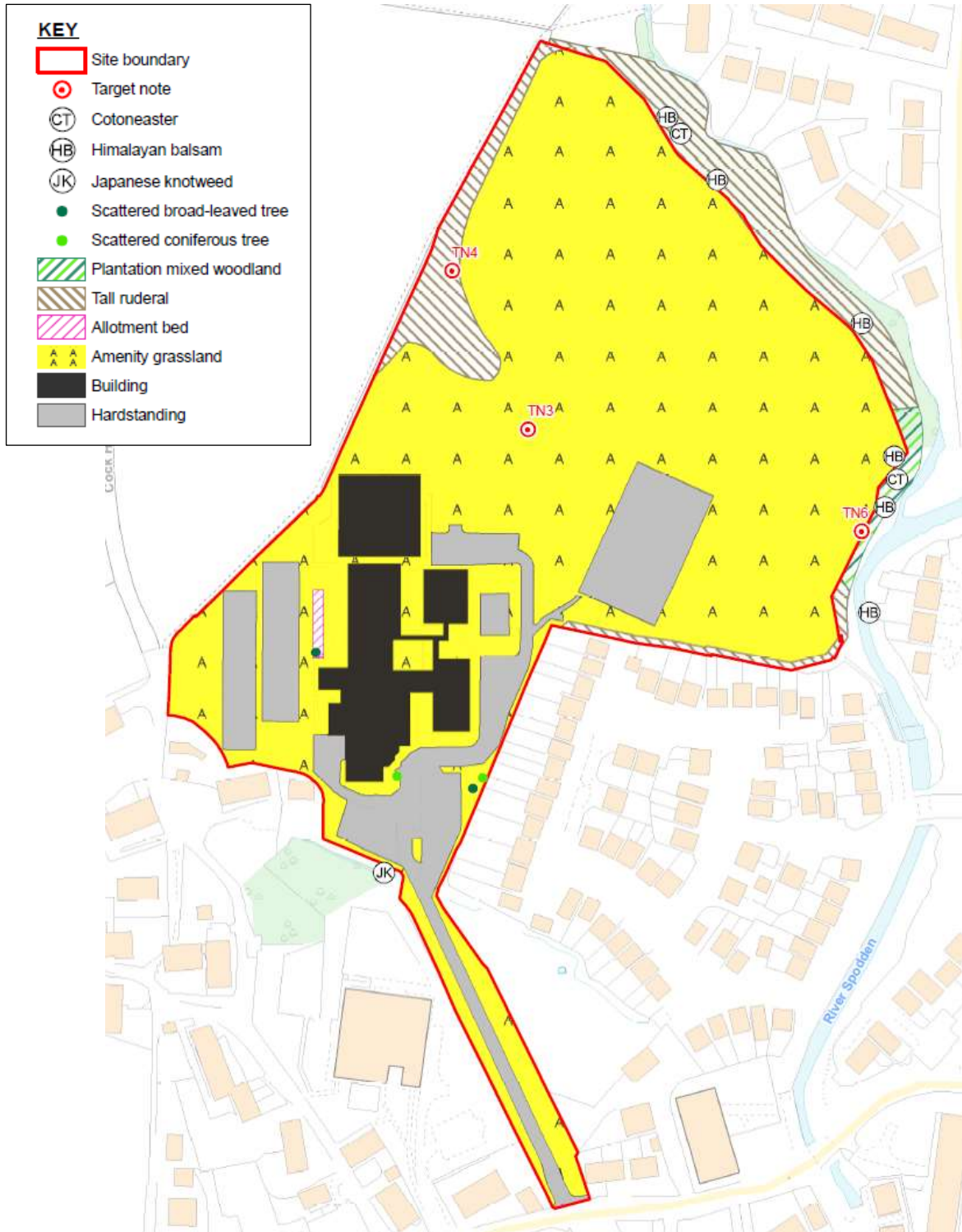


Fig. 1 Phase 1 Habitat Map (TEP)



Fig. 2 Site-wide Masterplan

Biodiversity enhancements

As part of the landscaping scheme, the following biodiversity enhancements are proposed:

- New orchard planting using traditional/local varieties of fruit trees, including Orchard Apples and Pears;
- Native and non-native species trees planting – approximately 86 trees of at least 12 species;
- Swales sown with WFG2 Flowering Meadow mix, supplemented by WF10 Cornfield Annuals seed mix, to significantly diversify the botanical interest of the sward;
- Planting of introduced shrubs, grasses and flowers (27 species) to create, colour, shape and form to attract insects such as butterflies, moths, bees and hoverflies;
- Green roof created on the new teaching block.

I am contactable with any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Andy



Andy Warren **BSc (Hons), MA (LM), Tech Cert (Arbor A), MCIEEM, TechArborA**
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