

22nd June 2023



By Email

Re: 21107 The Grove, Westgate – Condition 4 - Non-native Species Eradication Plan

Corylus Ecology has been instructed to provide a method statement for Condition 4 for planning permission F/TH/21/1948 at the Grove, Westgate.

Condition 4 of the planning permission states:

Prior to the commencement of works (including site clearance), a non-native species eradication plan will be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the local planning authority, detailing the containment, control and removal of Spanish Bluebell on-site. The measures will be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

As such please find below the Non-Native Species Eradication Plan

Non-Native Species Eradication Plan

During the ecological assessments undertaken of The Grove, Westgate-on-sea in Kent, hereinafter referred to as 'the Site'.

Spanish bluebells *Hyacinthoids hispanica* were identified within the Site, these were located within an area of scrub and garden brash and a firepit located at the Site's south-west corner.

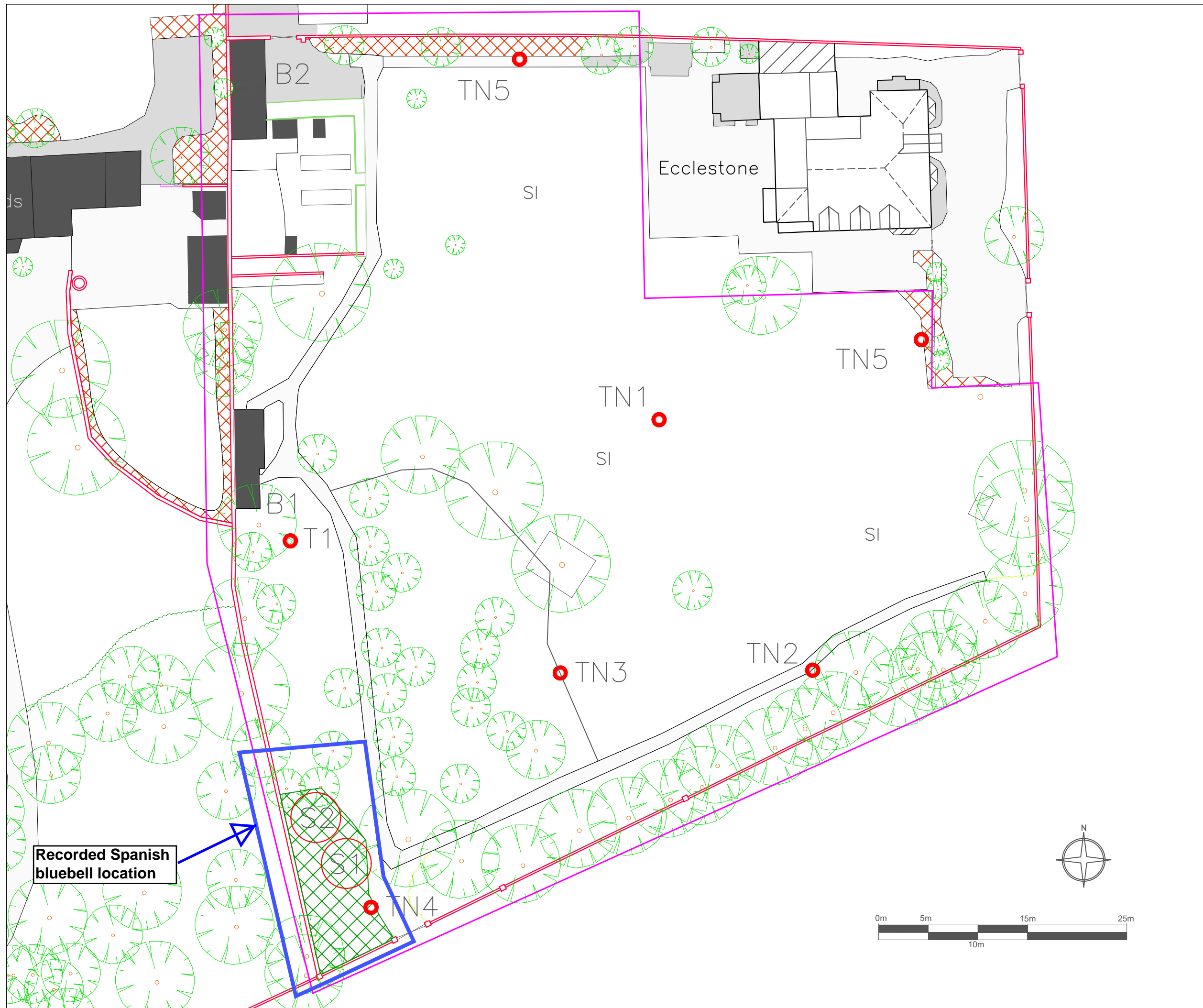
Figure 1 below shows the location of the Spanish bluebells identified.

















Unit A3, Speldhurst Business Park, Went Farm, Langton Rd., Speldhurst, Kent TN3 0NR
Telephone: 01892 861868 E-mail: info@corylus-ecology.co.uk

Director: H G Wrigley (née Lucking) BSc. MIEEM, BES

Corylus Ecology Ltd Registered in England No 5005553 Registered Office: Henwood House, Henwood, Ashford Kent TN24 8DH

VAT Reg No. 862 2486 14



- Key
-  Site Survey Area
 -  Tree
 -  Dense Scrub
 -  Scattered Scrub
 -  Semi-Improved Grassland
 -  Tall Ruderal
 -  Spoil
 -  Introduced Shrub
 -  Species Poor Hedge
 -  Fence
 -  Wall
 -  Building
 -  Hard Standing
 -  Target Note 1
 -  Building
 -  Ridge Line

revision	description	date	checked by

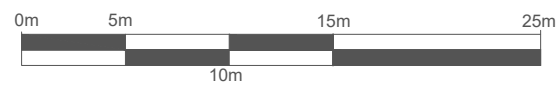
Corylus Ecology Ltd, Unit A3, Speldhurst Business Park, Went Farm, Langton Road, Speldhurst, Kent TN3 0NR
 Ecology is the trading name of Corylus Ecology Ltd registered in England, No 5005553, Registered Office: Herwood House, Herwood, Ashford, Kent TN24 8DH



Project:
 21107 Four, The Grove, Westgate

Title:
 Spanish Bluebell location Plan

status		drawing no. Figure 1		
scale	size	date	drawn	checked
NTS	A3	06.12.2021	AW	BD
CAD filename Figure_1.dwg				



Recorded Spanish bluebell location

Identification

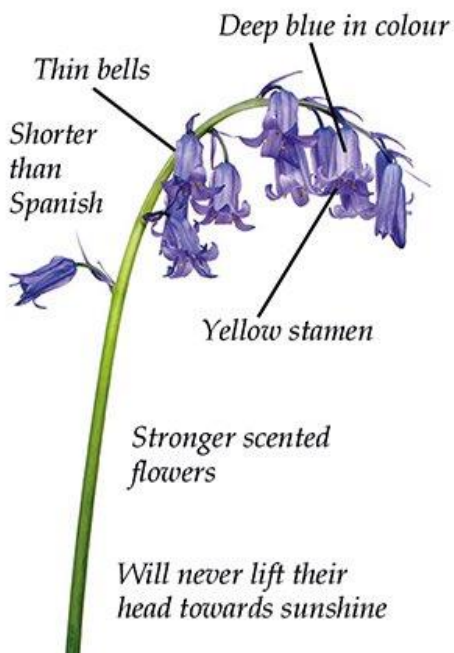
- A medium size perennial herb with white spherical bulbs. The narrow tough green leaves grow 20 to 50cm in length. Each bulb produces 4-8 leaves, these tend to be erect prior to flowering, spreading and falling over later in the season.
- The plant flowers from April to early June, flowers are lilac to blue in colour and are bell shaped, flaring out or curling back slightly towards the tips. The flowers are generally unscented.
- Anthers are blue in colour compared to the creamy white anther of native bluebell.
- All above ground vegetation dies back once the plant has seeded making identification in late summer and winter difficult.

Figure showing how to identify Spanish bluebells.

Wild English

Flowers are on one side of the stem giving it the drooping look

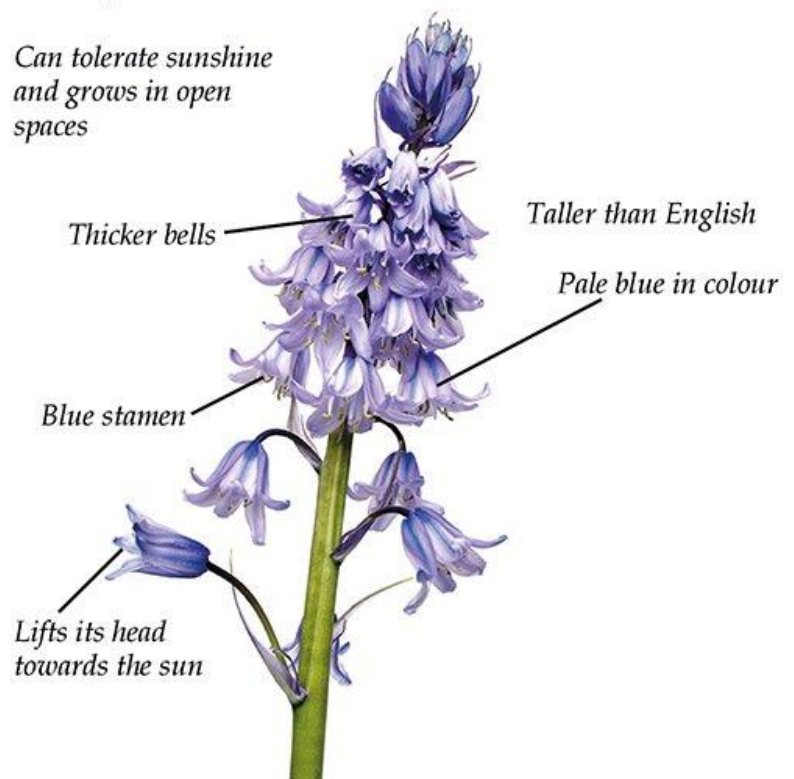
Prefers partial shade and rarely found growing in open spaces



Spanish

Flowers are found all around the stem and not just on one side

Can tolerate sunshine and grows in open spaces



Unit A3, Speldhurst Business Park, Went Farm, Langton Rd., Speldhurst, Kent TN3 0NR
Telephone: 01892 861868 E-mail: info@corylus-ecology.co.uk

Director: H G Wrigley (née Lucking) BSc. MIEEM, BES

Corylus Ecology Ltd Registered in England No 5005553 Registered Office: Henwood House, Henwood, Ashford Kent TN24 8DH

VAT Reg No. 862 2486 14

Legal Status

- Spanish bluebells are on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) which means it is an offence to plant or cause these species to grow in the wild.
- Offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 can result in possible fines and prison sentences.
- It is not an offence to have Spanish bluebells or the hybrids on your land and you do not need to notify anyone on its presence.
- Soils containing the plant are classified as controlled waste and should be disposed of at licensed landfill.
- Spanish bluebell is a non-native species with widespread distribution over much of the UK and is thought to have been accidentally introduced to the wild from gardens.
- The plant spreads readily by seed and by underground runners which produce new bulbs.
- This species can hybridise with our native bluebell changing native population genetics.
- Both the Spanish bluebell and the hybrids are displacing native bluebells in their natural range.

Control Methods

A specialist invasive weed company should be consulted and employed if required to deal with the eradication of the Spanish bluebells in order to correctly identify the species within the site and provide the specialist control and disposal methods as soils containing the plant are classified as controlled waste and should be disposed of at licensed landfill. Regarding methods for eradication two methods are detailed below.

Mechanical Control

- The plants and bulbs can be mechanically excavated and removed although care should be taken to remove all of the plant material as missed bulbs have the potential to propagate new colonies. The best time to undertake mechanical control is early spring before the plant starts flowering. Bulbs can survive garden composting.
- Waste materials containing the Spanish bluebells are considered 'controlled' waste and must be disposed of appropriately.

Unit A3, Speldhurst Business Park, Went Farm, Langton Rd., Speldhurst, Kent TN3 0NR
Telephone: 01892 861868 E-mail: info@corylus-ecology.co.uk

Director: H G Wrigley (née Lucking) BSc. MIEEM, BES

Corylus Ecology Ltd Registered in England No 5005553 Registered Office: Henwood House, Henwood, Ashford Kent TN24 8DH

VAT Reg No. 862 2486 14

Chemical Control

- Bluebells are resistant to many herbicides commonly used in the garden. Applications of herbicide are best made after the plant has flowered, flower heads should be cut to prevent the formation of seed. Repeat applications will be required to deplete the soil seed bank.

Alexander Watkinson
Senior Ecologist

Kent office 01892 861868

Unit A3, Speldhurst Business Park, Went Farm, Langton Rd., Speldhurst, Kent TN3 0NR
Telephone: 01892 861868 E-mail: info@corylus-ecology.co.uk

Director: H G Wrigley (née Lucking) BSc. MIEEM, BES

Corylus Ecology Ltd Registered in England No 5005553 Registered Office: Henwood House, Henwood, Ashford Kent TN24 8DH

VAT Reg No. 862 2486 14