



Biodiversity Net Gain Short Report

Site Location	Southernwood, Tile barn, Woolton Hill, Newbury, RG20 9UZ
Grid ref'	SU 43398 61817
Planning ref'	N/A
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Verification	Paul Diamond RHS Cert (Hort), BSc (Hons), MSc; MCIEEM; MArborA; Associate Member of the Landscape Institute
This version	1
Proposed Works	Erection of 2 dwelling following the demolition of the existing dwelling.
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Introduction

This short report is based on a survey of the site carried out by an Ecological Surveys Ltd surveyor on 03/11/2023.

It is understood that a separate 'Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Bats)' survey was carried out by Urban Tree Experts in April 2023 (ref: SPH/ET/PEA-23/21.03) and then further Bat Emergence Surveys in June 2023 (SPH/ESR-23/12.06). This survey initially found evidence of bat roosting (Brown Long-eared bats). Further surveys did not find any emerging bats.

Given the lack of semi-natural habitats on site to be impacted (residential garden and non-native hedge) the PEA carried out by Urban Tree Experts is considered to be sufficient and no further in-depth surveys / reports are required. However, local policy in Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council requires a 10% Net Gain to be achieved post development through the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric. This report covers that aspect of the development.

A calculation has been made of the pre- and post- development area and linear habitat units showing a >10% gain achieved in both unit types. This is provided within the separate metric excel document. Pre-development condition sheets are also provided separately. An indicative post-development condition sheet has been provided as an idea of what condition criteria are to be met to achieve the desired conditions for post-development habitats within the metric. However, it is essential to note that this is not definitive and ultimately the aim is to reach the stated condition, rather than a specific criterion within the condition assessment sheet.

This report briefly outlines the habitats present on site alongside the pre- and post- development plans used to calculate areas.



Brief Summary of Habitats Buildings



House to be demolished.

A single dwelling exists on site. This will be lost to make way for the proposed development. No assessment was made by Ecological Surveys Ltd. as this was already covered by Urban Tree Consultants. Refer to the relevant PEA and Bat Emergence Survey reports.

Vegetated Garden



Overview of the residential garden.

The site is predominantly composed of a relatively wooded residential garden. This is composed of a number of low value sub-habitats, including non-native shrubs, amenity grassland, and bare ground. This habitat has negligible potential to support protected species and is categorised by the biodiversity metric as being 'low' distinctiveness habitat with 'N/A' condition by default. This habitat will be partially retained.



Urban Trees



A selection of trees present on site.

As per the Statutory Biodiversity Net Gain Metric User Guide (draft), the most recent version at the time of the report, all trees of greater than 'medium' size (being greater than 350mm DBH) must be included separately within the metric. In total, eight trees meeting this definition exist within the site boundary. This includes T1, T27, T29, T30, T31, T33, T34, and T35. These trees are of various condition, predominantly due to different levels of maturity (and microhabitats typically associated with this) and pruning regimes. All trees on site are to be retained and protected.



Non-native and ornamental hedgerow

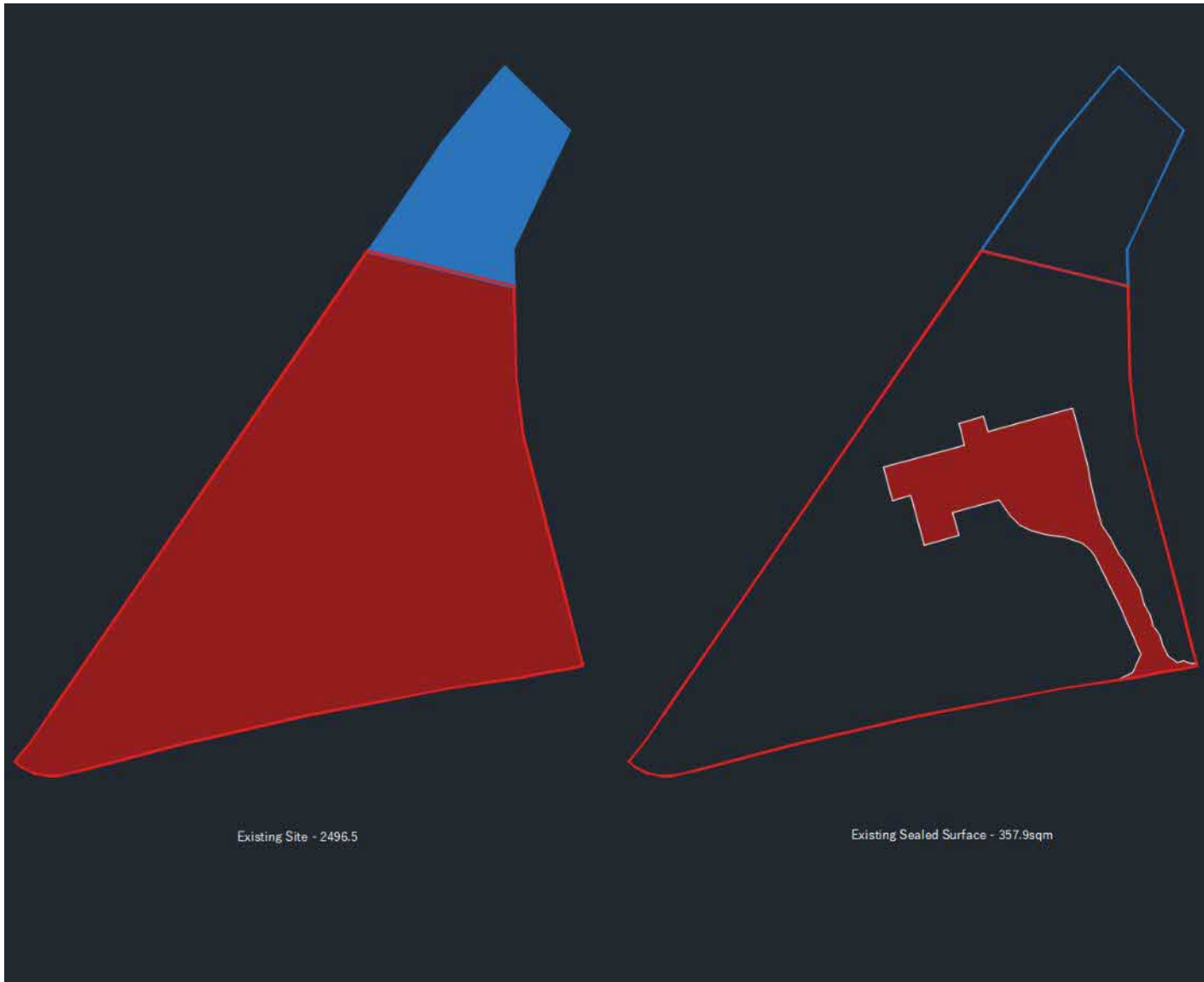


Predominantly cherry laurel hedge along the southern boundary

The southern boundary of the site is composed of a non-native ornamental hedge. This is predominantly cherry laurel with some rhododendron also present. This habitat is classified as being 'Very Low' distinctiveness and is therefore automatically in 'Poor' condition. Part of this will be removed to make way for a new entrance drive. All remaining boundaries are composed of fences.



Pre-Development Plan





Post-Development Plan

