



**OUTLINE**

**BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN REPORT**

**FOR**

**FLAMBEAU EUROPLAST, THANET, KENT**

<b>Date of report</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2024
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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Corylus Ecology has carried out ecological surveys in relation to the proposed development Flambeau EuroPlast, Thanet, Kent hereinafter referred to as 'the Site'. The proposals include the construction of up to 118 residential units as well as flat units with associated hard and soft landscaping to include new access route into the Site from the north.
- 1.2 Within the design of the proposals for the Site, measures to mitigate the effects of the development and enhance areas of the Site for biodiversity have been provided. However, the scale of the proposed mitigation and enhancements need to be assessed against the predicted effects of the development in order to assess whether there will be a net gain in biodiversity.
- 1.3 The Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric approach to quantifying biodiversity net gain, which was issued in November 2023 (Natural England 2023) and developed in relation to biodiversity offsetting, has been used to assess the level of biodiversity gain within the proposals. The metric has been designed to provide a method of measuring whether proposed compensation for biodiversity loss can result in an overall biodiversity gain.
- 1.4 The metric calculates the value of habitat currently present within the Site in 'biodiversity units' and then calculates the level of biodiversity gain post-development, based on the habitat types being created, restored and/or managed. The metric uses a variety of multipliers depending on how long habitats are expected to take to develop and the level of difficulty in developing those habitats.
- 1.5 The key principles of the updated Defra biodiversity metric are:
- **The metric does not change policy or the protection afforded to biodiversity:** existing levels of protection afforded to protected species and to habitats are not affected by the use of this metric.
  - **The metric sits within a decision framework based on the mitigation hierarchy:** it informs decision-making where application of the mitigation hierarchy and good practice principles have concluded that compensation for habitat losses is justified.
  - **The metric is a proxy for biodiversity:** while it is underpinned by ecological evidence, the metric is only a proxy for biodiversity and has been kept deliberately simple to make it of practical use.
  - **The metric focuses on widespread species and typical habitats:** it is a suitable proxy for widespread species found in typical examples of different habitats. Scarce and protected species are likely to need separate consideration to the biodiversity metric.

- **The metric recognises the importance of place and connectivity:** it seeks to enhance biodiversity in the locality of impacts, so far as possible, as well as contributing to wider ecological networks by creating more, bigger, better and joined areas for biodiversity.

- **The metric informs decisions:** decisions and management interventions need to take account of expert ecological advice and not just the biodiversity unit outputs of the metric. The historic or landscape significance of a habitat, and relevant planning policies, are also relevant.

### **Policy and legislation background**

#### *National biodiversity net gain policy*

1.6 Existing Government policy for England on biodiversity net gain is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2021). Paragraph 8 states: *“Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives)”*. One of these is an environmental objective: *“to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.”*

1.7 Section 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is considered particularly relevant. In paragraph 174 the following statement is made:

*“Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by*

- *“protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan)”;*
- *“minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.”*

1.8 Paragraph 180 of the NPPF states that:

*“When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:*

- *“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;*
- *“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...”*

*Local planning policy*

- 1.9 Thanet District Council's Development Framework Core Strategy Development Plan Document was adopted in August 2020. Within this Policy SP30 - Biodiversity and Geodiversity Assets is relevant to biodiversity net gain:

*“Development proposals will, where appropriate, be required to make a positive contribution to the conservation, enhancement and management of biodiversity and geodiversity assets resulting in a net gain for biodiversity assets through the following measures: 1) the restoration / enhancement of existing habitats, 2) the creation of wildlife habitats where appropriate, by including opportunities for increasing biodiversity in the design of new development 3) the creation of linkages between sites to create local and regional ecological networks, 4) the enhancement of significant features of nature conservation value on development sites, 5) protect and enhance valued soils, 6) mitigating against the loss of farmland bird habitats. Sites should be assessed for the potential presence of biodiversity assets and protected species. For sites where important biodiversity assets, including protected species and habitats including SPA functional land, or other notable species, may be affected, an ecological assessment will be required to assess the impact of the proposed development on the relevant species or habitats. Planning permission will not be granted for development if it results in significant harm to biodiversity and geodiversity assets, which cannot be adequately mitigated or as a last resort compensated for, to the satisfaction of the appropriate authority.”*

*“Biodiversity Net Gain: is an approach to development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before. Where a development has an impact on biodiversity it encourages developers to provide an increase in appropriate natural habitat and ecological features over and above that being affected.”*

*Environment Act 2021*

- 1.10 As a result of the newly granted Environment Act 2021, schedule 14 makes provision for conditions to secure the biodiversity gain objective.

Paragraph 2 sets out the biodiversity gain objective as:

- (1) *The biodiversity gain objective is met in relation to development for which planning permission is granted if the biodiversity value attributable to the development exceeds the pre-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat by at least the relevant percentage.*
- (2) *The biodiversity value attributable to the development is the total of—*
  - (a) *the post-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat,*

*(b) the biodiversity value, in relation to the development, of any registered offsite biodiversity gain allocated to the development, and*

*(c) the biodiversity value of any biodiversity credits purchased for the development.*

*(3) The relevant percentage is 10%.*

*(4) The Secretary of State may by regulations amend this paragraph so as to change the relevant percentage.*

## 2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 The Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric is considered to be the national standard and is therefore appropriate to apply to the Site. There is no existing locally derived biodiversity metric that can be applied. The biodiversity net gain assessment method is based on the information contained in the User Guide that accompanies the Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric (Natural England, 2023).

2.2 The on-site habitats have been categorised following the standard 'UK Habitats Classification Version 2.01' (UK Hab Ltd, 2023) with a Phase 1 Habitat Survey completed in April 2023.

### *Calculation of pre-development ecological value*

2.3 The information obtained from the habitat survey, the calculation of areas/lengths and the condition of the habitats are used as inputs to the Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculator. The calculator outputs the pre-development biodiversity value expressed as the number of biodiversity units.

2.4 To calculate the number of Biodiversity Units the MS Excel spreadsheet has been pre-populated with a series of formulae that take account of the following factors:

- Extent: The area or length of the habitat. Hedgerows, tree lines and rivers are recorded by measured length (km), whilst habitats such as grassland and woodland are measured in area (ha);
- Distinctiveness Score: An automatic ranking of the habitat based on a combination of its listed conservation status and its value to wildlife as a habitat (expressed as very high, high, medium, low or very low);
- Condition Score: A score (as per Table 1) is automatically attributed to the inputted Condition;

Table 1: Metric score for different habitat conditions.

Description of condition	Metric score
N/A	0
Poor	1
Fairly Poor	1.5
Moderate	2
Fairly Good	2.5
Good	3

- Strategic Significance: Whether the habitat is located in a preferred location for local biodiversity and environmental objectives, such as Nature Recovery Areas or areas identified in local Biodiversity Action Plans.

2.5 The condition score was determined using the technical guidance that accompanies the calculator. This provides information relating to specific criteria for each condition score. The formulae translate extent,



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habitat distinctiveness, habitat condition and strategic significance into a score which is presented in biodiversity units. The calculation tool separates areas into units for habitats, hedgerows and rivers.

#### *Calculation of Post-development Biodiversity Value*

- 2.6 The proposed post-development land uses and associated habitat types that are set out in the: Outline Proposed Site Plan, dated January 2024 and provided by CDP Architecture Ltd, have been used as inputs to the calculator. The calculator has been pre-populated with a series of formulae that calculate the post-development biodiversity value, again expressed as the number of biodiversity units. This has specific scores and timeframes for creating the various habitats.
- 2.7 The figure for the net unit change in biodiversity value (net gain or loss) is automatically calculated by subtracting the Site's pre-development value in biodiversity units from the post-development value that is the sum of the values for the retained, created and enhanced habitats on the Site. A net percentage change is also then automatically calculated to provide a more comparable figure between the baseline units and the post-intervention units. Biodiversity units for habitats, hedgerows and rivers are all calculated independently with separate units provided for each.

#### *Assumptions and Limitations*

- 2.8 It should be noted that the Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric is based on habitats only and it does not take account of any required species actions, such as those for legally protected species.
- 2.9 The assessment does not give credit (in terms of a score or biodiversity units) to any actions that are taken as part of the development that add particular features to the Site, such as the provision of bird nesting boxes, that enhance the potential of the Site to support particular species. Such measures fall outside the scope of the metric.
- 2.10 The naming of natural and man-made features can differ between this document and documents prepared by other technical specialists.

### 3.0 SITE DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Site is set in an urban environment within the Ramsgate, Kent located 850m to the west of Ramsgate train station. The OS grid reference at Site centre is TR 36318 65546. The Site is divided into two district areas with the eastern section dominated by a large warehouse and hardstanding and the western sections dominated by colonising grassland, scrub and tall ruderal habitats. The total area of the Site is approximately 3.3ha. The wider surrounding area is dominated by urban development with industrial land and carparking to the west, Manston Road to the north and east and a railway line and housing to the south.
- 3.2 The proposals include the construction of up to 118 residential units as well as flat units with associated hard and soft landscaping to include new access route into the Site from the north.
- 3.3 The habitat types were identified during the Phase 1 Habitat Survey (Corylus Ecology, April 2023) These have been measured, along with the landscape and proposals plan, on AutoCAD, scaled and matched to ensure accuracy. All measures were taken from these plans and the habitats are shown on Figure 1.

#### *Protected Species Mitigation and Habitat Enhancements*

- 3.4 The mitigation and enhancement proposals are based on the presence of habitats and species within the Site which have been identified as being affected or potentially affected by the proposals. As a result, the design process has attempted to protect the areas of highest ecological interest and enhance them where possible:
- Areas of mixed scrub will be retained along the northern, eastern and western boundaries of the Site.
  - New individual rural, native feature trees to be planted across the Site.
  - New native mixed scrub will be planted across the boundaries of Site.
  - The landscape planting around the properties will include beneficial ornamental shrub species and herbaceous planting which will provide a rich source of nectar for pollinators.
  - A new mixed species native hedge will be planted within the Site.

## 4.0 BIODIVERSITY METRIC CALCULATION

### 4.1 Summary

4.1.1 The headline results of the metric calculation are shown in Appendix 1 and the attached metric spreadsheet / calculation tool should be considered alongside this report. The distinctiveness bands for the habitats are based on an assessment of their features, including consideration of species richness and rarity, and are in preassigned bands ranging from very low (scoring 0) for habitats with little or no value, to very high (scoring 8) for priority habitats that are highly threatened, internationally scarce and require conservation action.

### 4.2 Baseline Units

4.2.1 Table 2 below shows the habitat types within the Site and the condition they have been scored during assessment on Site. The Defra metric is currently subject to consultation and changes may be made.

*Table 2 - Site Habitat Baseline*

<b>Metric Habitat</b>	<b>Species list / description</b>	<b>Condition and Justification of score</b>
Urban – Developed Land; Sealed Surface	Surrounding the building and leading into the western section of the Site is hardstanding formed from tarmac and concrete.	N/A - Other
Bare earth	Within the centre of the western section of the Site and leading to the east is an area of bare earth where vehicle movements have taken place.	Poor
Grassland - Modified Grassland	There are multiple small sections of managed amenity grassland across the eastern section of the Site. The species within the grassland are common for the habitat type, dominated by grasses such as perennial rye grass with herb species present such as white clover and ribwort plantain.	Poor Grassland fails criteria A having below 6-8 species per m <sup>2</sup> and as such can only achieve Poor. Also fails on sward height.
Sparsely Vegetated Land – Ruderal / Ephemeral	The western edge of the western section of the Site is formed by an earth bund overgrown by tall ruderal habitat. The species here are dominated by creeping thistle and common nettle.	Moderate The vegetation scores moderately as it fails at having a varies habitat structure with the habitat type being uniform.
Sparsely Vegetated Land – Ruderal /	The western section of the Site has large areas of short ephemeral habitat which supports bristly ox-tongue, ox-eye daisy, ribwort plantain, yarrow, creeping thistle and common nettle.	Moderate The vegetation scores moderately as it fails at

Ephemeral		having a varies habitat structure with the habitat type being uniform.
Urban – Introduced Shrub	Across the Site and within the centre of the western section of the Site there areas of planted and self-sown ornamental and introduced planting.	N/A - Other
Heathland and Scrub – Mixed scrub	The northern boundary of the western section, TN3a is formed by a bank covered by dense scrub. The species are dominated by rowan, hawthorn, garden privet, cotoneaster and dog rose.	Poor  The habitat fails criteria 1 has less than 80% of the scrub is native. It only passes criteria 2 having a range of ages.
Heathland and Scrub – Mixed scrub	The northern, eastern and southern boundaries of the Site of formed by dense scrub dominated by hawthorn with an understorey of ground ivy, teasel, cleavers, Alexander's, ivy, common nettle and bramble.	Moderate  The habitat fails on not having a well developed edge and no glades or clearing, passes all others.
Heathland and Scrub – Mixed scrub	The western section of the Site is dominated by scattered scrub. The species here are dominated by hawthorn, dogwood and buddleia.	Poor  The habitat is dominated by a single species with over 75% of the cover. Also fails having a diverse age range, well developed edges and glades.
Hedge – Line of Trees	Within the centre of the Site to the south of B1 is a line mature Leyland cypress trees south, with an understorey bedstraw, alexanders, fennel and ox-eye daisy.	Poor  Fails all criteria other than having a continuous canopy cover.

4.2.2 The distinctiveness and connectivity scores of each of the above habitats, their strategic significance and their resulting baseline habitat unit scores are shown in Table 3 below. The overall biodiversity unit score for the existing Site (pre-development) is **6.56 habitat units** and **0.16 hedgerow units**

*Table 3 - Site Habitat Baseline Scores*

Habitat type	Distinctiveness Score	Condition Score	Strategic significance	Habitat Units
Urban – Developed Land; Sealed Surface	Very Low	N/A	Not in Local Strategy	0.00
Urban - Bare Ground	Low	Poor	Not in Local Strategy	0.48
Grassland - Modified Grassland	Low	Poor	Not in Local Strategy	0.30
Sparsely Vegetated Land – Ruderal	Low	Moderate	Not in Local Strategy	1.24
Sparsely Vegetated Land – Ephemeral	Low	Moderate	Not in Local Strategy	0.12
Urban – Introduced Shrub	Low	N/A	Not in Local Strategy	0.10
Heathland and Scrub – Mixed Scrub	Medium	Poor	Not in Local Strategy	1.84
Heathland and Scrub – Mixed Scrub	Medium	Moderate	Not in Local Strategy	0.76
Heathland and Scrub – Mixed Scrub	Medium	Poor	Not in Local Strategy	1.74
<b>Total habitat units</b>				<b>6.56</b>
Hedge – Tree Line	Low	Good	Not in Local Strategy	0.16
<b>Total hedge units</b>				<b>0.16</b>

### 4.3 Post intervention

4.3.1 Post intervention the following onsite habitat retention (for details see Section 5) have been calculated:

- The area of scrub forming the north-eastern boundary of the Site TN3a will be retained.
- The area of scrub forming the northern and western boundary of the Site TN3b will be retained and enhanced by the removal of not native species, management and the planting of native species.

4.3.2 The following onsite habitat / hedgerow creation has been calculated:

- Urban: Developed land / sealed surface (buildings and hardstanding).
- Urban: Vegetated garden – private garden space
- Urban: Introduced shrub - The landscape planting around the properties will include beneficial ornamental shrub species and herbaceous planting which will provide a rich source of nectar for pollinators.
- Heathland and shrub: mixed scrub - New native mixed scrub will be planted across the boundaries Site to a moderate condition.

- 
- Grassland: Modified grassland – Managed grassland across the Site such as verges and house fronts, this will be to a poor condition.
  - Individual trees: Urban trees - New individual rural, native feature trees to be planted across the Site. These will be to a moderate condition.
  - Hedges: Native hedgerow - A new mixed species native hedge will be planted along the boundaries of the Site. These will be to a moderate condition.

4.3.2 The onsite habitat enhancement and creation results in an increase of **1.45 habitat units**, which results in there being a total **8.01** units post-development, equating a **22.03% net gain**.

4.3.3 The proposed hedgerow planting results in an increase of **0.17 hedgerow units** post-development, equating a **109.21% net gain**. Therefore over 20% net gain has been achieved.

4.3.4 The **trading rules of the metric are satisfied**.

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## 5.0 HABITAT CREATION, ENHANCEMENT AND MONITORING

### 5.1 Overview

- 5.1.1 A critical part of the biodiversity metric is the need for monitoring: this will involve an assessment of the condition of the habitats within the Site to determine whether the desired condition of the habitats has been achieved and therefore whether biodiversity gain has been achieved post-development.
- 5.1.2 The monitoring at the Site will require the following specific targets to be met and will be carried out over a 5-year period. The proposed habitat enhancements, creation and monitoring are set out below.

### 5.2 Onsite Habitat Creation

#### *Mixed Scrub Creation*

- 5.2.1 Scrub habitat is proposed across the Site with areas along the southern, eastern and western edges of the Site. The metric calculates that it will take ten years to reach the target condition of 'Moderate'. This will be achieved by planting a number of native scrub species, such as hazel *Corylus avellana*, spindle *Euonymus europaeus*, rowan, beech, hawthorn, common alder, field maple blackthorn and hawthorn. Once established, the scrub will be occasionally managed to ensure it does not become over-mature and to maintain the mosaic of scrub and more open areas. The scrub will be monitored in years one, two and five post-development and any suggestions for management will be followed. Following this, it will be managed every one to two years outside the bird breeding period.
- 5.2.2 Managed grassland habitat across the Site is proposed across the Site. The metric calculates that it will take one year to reach the target condition of 'Poor'. This will be achieved by management (single cut in late summer/early autumn) along with the overseeding of the areas with Emorsgate EL1 Flowering lawn mix to increase the species diversity within these areas that can cope with a higher sward and lower management.

#### *Landscape Planting Creation*

- 5.2.3 Borders of landscape planting are proposed around the new dwellings of the scheme. Wildlife beneficial ornamental and shrub planting around the apartment blocks allow some visual softening to the built area. The metric calculates that it will take one year for this planting to establish. Flowering plants should be made available for as long as possible through the year by planting a combination of plants which flower during spring, summer and late summer. Species such as lavenders, roses, heathers, guelder rose, dog rose and holly have been suggested in the landscape plan. The landscape planting will not require monitoring and can be managed as and when required.

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### *Hedgerow Creation*

- 5.2.4 Approximately 100m of native hedgerows are to be planted along the boundaries of the development. The metric calculates that it will take five years to reach the target condition of 'moderate'. A mixture of native species will be planted in the hedgerows such as hazel, hornbeam, blackthorn, beech and field maple. This will be cut twice a year to a minimum height of 200mm.
- 5.2.5 The progress of the hedgerows will be monitored in the same years alongside the scrub year one, post-development. Once established, the hedgerow vegetation will be managed infrequently (every two to three years) outside the bird breeding period.

## **5.4 Monitoring**

- 5.4.1 Monitoring of all habitats created and enhanced will be required at regular intervals suggested at least at years 1, 2 and 5. The monitoring will assess whether the habitats have been created and assess the condition of those habitat using the same condition scores as used at the time of the assessment.



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## 6.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric has been used to quantify the biodiversity net gain for the proposed proposals at Flambeau Europlast, Thanet, Kent
- 6.2 The onsite habitat retention and creation results in an increase of **1.45 habitat units**, which results in there being a total **8.01** units post-development, equating a **22.03% net gain** in habitat.
- 6.3 The proposed hedgerow planting results in an increase of **0.17 hedgerow units** post-development, equating a **109.21% net gain**. Therefore over 20% net gain has been achieved.
- 6.4 The **trading rules of the metric are satisfied**.

## REFERENCES

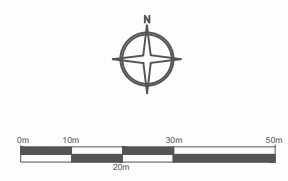
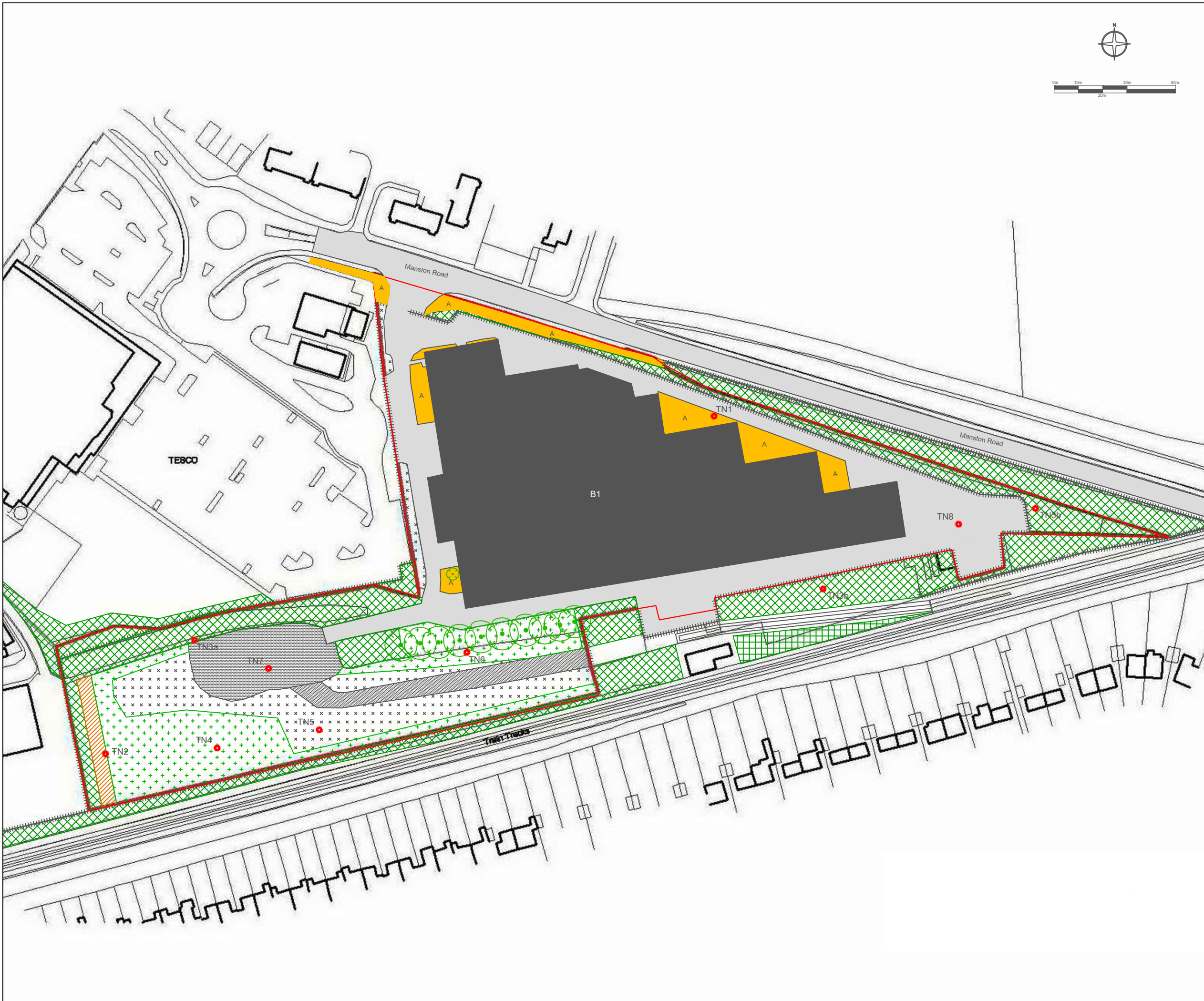
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- Key**
- Site Survey Area
  - Tree
  - Dense Scrub
  - Scattered Scrub
  - Tall Ruderal
  - A Amenity Grassland
  - Ephemeral
  - Species Poor Hedge
  - Fence
  - Building
  - Hard Standing
  - Bare Ground
  - TN1 Target Note 1

revision	description	date	checked by

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**Project:**  
 23044 Flambeau EuroPlast, Thanet

**Title:**  
 Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan

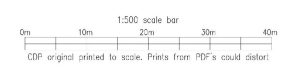
status		drawing no. <b>Figure 1</b>		
scale	size	date	drawn	checked
NTS	A3	03.05.2023	AW	JP
CAD filename Figure_1.dwg				



- Key
- Site Survey Area
  - Reptile Mitigation Area (Retained and enhanced mixed scrub) - Moderate Condition
  - Created Mixed Scrub - Moderate Condition
  - Retained Mixed scrub
  - Hardstanding
  - Buildings
  - Urban Trees - Moderate Condition
  - Gardens
  - Modified Grassland - Poor Condition

Proposed Site Plan 1:500

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Project:  
 23044 Flambeau EuroPlast,  
 Thanet

Title:  
 Post Development Plan

status		drawing no. <b>Figure 2</b>		
scale	size	date	drawn	checked
NTS	A3	01.03.2024	AW	BW
CAD filename Figure_1.dwg				

## Appendix 1 – Headline Results

Flambeau Europlast		Return to results menu	
Headline Results			
Scroll down for final results <a href="#">▲</a>			
On-site baseline	Habitat units	6.56	
	Hedgerow units	0.16	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	8.01	
	Hedgerow units	0.33	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	1.45	22.03%
	Hedgerow units	0.17	109.21%
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%
Off-site baseline	Habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.00	0.00%
	Hedgerow 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	1.45
	Hedgerow units	0.17
	Watercourse units	0.00
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	Habitat units	0.00
	Hedgerow 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	1.45
	Hedgerow units	0.17
	Watercourse units	0.00
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	22.03%
	Hedgerow units	109.21%
	Watercourse units	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓	

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit
Habitat units	10.00%	6.56	7.22	0.00
Hedgerow units	10.00%	0.16	0.18	0.00
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00

No additional area habitat units required to meet target ✓  
 No additional hedgerow units required to meet target ✓  
 No additional watercourse units required to meet target ✓

Appendix 2 - Habitats Condition Scores

Scrub Condition Assessment

Target note	Condition assessment criteria					Result	Score
	1	2	3	4	5		
The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description (where in its natural range) at least 75% of scrub is native. There are at least three native woody species. No single species comprises more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i> , sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> or hick <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , which can be up to 100% cover).	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran) shrubs are all present.	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and species indicative of suboptimal condition make up less than 5% of ground cover.	The scrub has a well-developed edge with continued scrub and tall grassland and/or swards present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.			
TH2a	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	1	Poor
TH2b	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	3	Moderate
TH2c	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	2	Poor

Passes 0 of 5 criteria	Poor (1)
Passes 1 of 5 criteria	Poor (1)
Passes 2 of 5 criteria	Poor (1)
Passes 3 of 5 criteria	Poor (1)
Passes 4 of 5 criteria	Poor (1)
Passes 5 of 5 criteria	Poor (1)

Ruderal Condition Assessment

Target note	UK Hab Habitat type	1	2	3	Results	Score
		Vegetation structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed. A single structural habitat component or vegetation type does not account for more than 80% of the total habitat area.	The habitat parcel contains different plant species that are beneficial for wildlife, for example flowering species providing nectar resources for a range of invertebrates at different times of year.	Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and others which are the detriment of native wildlife (using professional judgement) cover less than 5% of the total vegetated area.  Note - to achieve Good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).		
TH2	Ruderal	No	Yes	Yes	2	Moderate
TH2	Ephemeral	No	Yes	Yes	2	Moderate

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Score
Passes 3 of 3 criteria	Good (3)
Passes 2 of 3 criteria	Moderate (2)
Passes 0 or 1 criteria	Poor (1)

Grassland Habitat (low distinctiveness)

Condition Assessment Criteria	TH2a	Criterion passed (Yes or No) TH2a	Criterion passed (Yes or No) TH2b
A There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m <sup>2</sup> present, including at least 2 forbs (these may include those listed in Footnote 1). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition. Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 1 or more of these characteristic species per m <sup>2</sup> (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet.	Yes	Yes	Yes
B Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	Yes	Yes	Yes
C Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as sycamore <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> spp. may be present). Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Yes	Yes	Yes
D Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	Yes	Yes	Yes
E Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens)?	Yes	Yes	Yes
F Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	Yes	Yes	Yes
G There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species <sup>3</sup> (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA).	Yes	Yes	Yes

Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved %/7
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)	
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)	
Passes 3 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	

Treeline Condition Assessment

Treeline Ref number	UK Hab Habitat type	1	2	3	4	5	Score	Condition	Condition Score
		Abs more than 70% of trees are native species	Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide.	Are or more trees have crown features and a natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates, such as presence of standing and attached deadwood, cavities, ivy or hollow bark.	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 (including grazing). Where veteran trees are present, root protection areas should follow standing advice.	At least 50% of the trees are in a healthy condition (based on veteran features valuable for wildlife are included 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.			
TL1	Tree Line	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	2	Poor	

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Score
Passes 5 of 5 criteria	Good (3)
Passes 3 or 4 of criteria	Moderate (2)
Passes 0 - 2 criteria	Poor (1)