

Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy

Demolition of Ponds Buildings, Trawsfynydd Site, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd

A Report To: Mitie PLC obo Magnox Ltd
Report Number: RT-MME-162265 Rev C
Date: 14/03/2024



Quality Assurance

Date	Version	Author	Checked by	Approved by
05/02/2024	Final	Kate Statham MSc Senior Ecological Consultant	Chris Walsh MSc Natural Capital Solutions Leader	Sophie Skeys MCIEEM Principal Ecological Consultant
14/03/2024	Rev A	Kate Statham MSc Senior Ecological Consultant	Chris Walsh MSc Natural Capital Solutions Leader	Sophie Skeys MCIEEM Principal Ecological Consultant
22/03/2024	Rev B	Chris Walsh MSc Natural Capital Solutions Leader		Sophie Skeys MCIEEM Principal Ecological Consultant
26/03/2024	Rev C	Chris Walsh MSc Natural Capital Solutions Leader		Sophie Skeys MCIEEM Principal Ecological Consultant

Declaration of Compliance

This study has been undertaken in accordance with British Standard 42020:2013 "Biodiversity, Code of Practice for Planning and Development". The information which we have prepared is true, and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions.

Disclaimer

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1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background

In January 2024, Mitie PLC obo Magnox Ltd commissioned Middlemarch to produce a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy (BES) associated with demolition of the Ponds Buildings within the Trawsfynydd site. As the development requires a net benefit for biodiversity (NBB) and given the limited ecological opportunities on site, this document provides details of off-site enhancement in an area of woodland close to the site, on the eastern shore of Llyn Trawsfynydd.

Middlemarch has previously carried out the following work at the site:

- RT-MME-158580-01-02-Rev A (PEA Trawsfynydd);
- RT-MME-158580-02-02-Rev A (EBS Trawsfynydd); and,
- RT-MME-158580-03-02-Rev A (EcoLA Trawsfynydd).

In addition, Middlemarch has been commissioned to undertake the following relevant assessments:

- RT-MME-161010-EcoW-01, Land North of Coed Cae Du

The overall aim of the BES is to outline habitat retention, creation and management practices that will be undertaken in order to improve the value of the off-site enhancement area to biodiversity. The content of this document is guided by the key principles of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) and national and local planning policy and biodiversity targets. The report has the following structure:

- Chapter 2: Ecological Baseline and Summary of Impacts
- Chapter 3: Habitat Enhancement Proposals
- Chapter 4: Drawings

1.2 Site Description and Context

Table 1.1 provides a brief summary of the off site enhancement area and its surroundings.

Attribute	Description
Location	Llyn Trawsfynydd, Gwynedd, within Eryri National Park
National Grid Reference	SH 69816 38068
Site Area (ha)	2.10
Topography	Peninsula protruding westerly into Llyn Trawsfynydd, gently slopes up from northern shore with a steeper drop on the southern shore to the water
Land Cover (on site)	Acid oak woodland
Land Cover (site surrounds)	The peninsula has Llyn Trawsfynydd to the west and further areas of broadleaved woodland to the north, south and east, with upland fringe pasture in the wider local landscape

Table 1.1: Summary of Site and Surroundings

1.3 Summary of Proposals

It is understood that the proposed development consists of the complete demolition and infilling of the existing ponds buildings to surface level. The ponds buildings consist of build form within a larger area of sealed surface, within the main Magnox site. No terrestrial (natural or semi-natural) or aquatic habitats occur within the redline boundary of the demolition area.

2. Ecological Baseline and Summary of Impacts

This Chapter provides a summary of the ecological baseline of the off-site enhancement area, established during the ecological survey detailed in Section 1.1. It also provides a brief summary of the impacts of the proposed development in terms of loss of existing habitat.

2.1 Habitats

Habitats within the development site comprise hardstanding and buildings, with no vegetated surfaces or semi-natural habitat present.

During the Phase 1 Habitat Survey completed by Middlemarch on 25th January 2024¹, area TN1 was selected as most suitable to facilitate an offsite enhancement in support of the demolition of the pond's buildings. This is due both to its location (being the closest portion of the assessed area to the redline boundary of the demolition) and the suitability of the habitat to support the desired species-specific enhancements. The following habitat was identified on the off-site enhancement area TN1:

- Acid oak woodland

The woodland on the proposed off site compensation area was dominated by sessile oak *Quercus patraea*, with downy birch *Betula pubescens* the largest secondary component. The age structure of the canopy is generally homogenous, with all mature trees a similar life stage. The understorey comprised birch, young oak, holly *Ilex aquilifolium* and hazel *Corylus avellana*, although this component was noticeably sparser to the eastern end of the peninsula.

The ground layer was well-developed, with a mixture of woody and herbaceous species, including bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*, bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg, with occasional heather *Calluna vulgaris*. A variety of bryophytes alongside hard fern *Blechnum* spp, were present both at ground level and on the trees.

A small number of non-native shrubs were identified, including young spruce *Picea* spp., and Rhododendron *Rhododendron* spp., as well as isolated areas with accumulations of rubbish.

2.2 Protected/Notable Species

Based on the desk study exercise and survey works completed at the site to date by Middlemarch, the species or species groups deemed to be material considerations with regards to proposed development are as follows:

- Bats; and,
- Birds

¹ See Appendix 1: Ecological Walkover Survey RT-MME-161010-EcoW-01, Land North of Coed Cae Du

2.3 Summary of Impacts

The proposed development will result in a loss of buildings and hardstanding within the Magnox site. Whilst these habitats are of negligible ecological value, the development requires a net benefit for biodiversity. It is considered that this net benefit, or enhancement, is best delivered off site.

Chapter 3 details the proposals for the off-site enhancement area which will deliver a net benefit for biodiversity.

3. Habitat Enhancement Proposals

As an off-site enhancement area is being utilised to deliver net benefit for biodiversity for the scheme, all existing habitats within this area will be retained.

All of the canopy trees, particularly oak, are of a similar life stage and size, with none exceeding 60 cm diameter at breast height (DBH). All are in relatively good health with no veteran trees noted. Therefore, cavities, wounds and other defects, are not common on the peninsula, resulting in a limitation in roosting resource for bats and nesting resource for certain bird species.

Other resources required by these species groups, such as foraging and commuting habitat, and good habitat connectivity, are provided by the off-site enhancement area as well as adjacent environs. It is therefore proposed that enhancements are made to increase the roosting and nesting provision within the off-site enhancement area.

Detail regarding the proposed enhancements are proposed in Sections 3.1 and 3.2.

3.1 Bird Boxes



3.1.1 Proposed Enhancement

The bird boxes to be installed on site will benefit a range of species of high conservation priority. These include starling *Sturnus vulgaris* and house sparrow *Passer domesticus*, both Section 7 Priority Species² and RSPB Red Listed Species of Conservation Concern. The boxes will also be readily utilised by other tree nesting species, such as nuthatch *Sitta europaea*, blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus* and wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, an RSPB Amber Listed Species of Conservation Concern

Kestrel are also a Section 7 Priority species and RSPB Amber Listed Species of Conservation Concern, and can benefit from suitable nest boxes, as can tawny owl *Strix aluco*, another RSPB Amber Listed Species of Conservation Concern

The following bird boxes are proposed:

² Section 7 Species: Species of Principal Importance for the Purpose of Maintaining and Enhancing Biodiversity in relation to Wales

Bird Box	Notes	Bird Box Image
<p>Vivara Pro Seville WoodStone Nest Box*</p> <p>2 no. 28mm</p> <p>2 no. 32mm</p>	<p>Nestboxes are manufactured from WoodStone which is a mix of concrete and FSC certified wood fibres. These boxes will not rot away or deteriorate and are guaranteed for 10 years. This robust material safeguards against attacks from predators whilst also providing a well insulated interior with a more consistent internal temperature than an ordinary wooden box.</p> <p>These 28mm and 32mm hole nest boxes are suitable for blue tits, house sparrows, great tits, crested tits, nuthatches, coal tits and pied flycatchers.</p> <p>The nest box should be sited on a tree at a height of at least 1.5m using an aluminium nail or screw.</p> <p>External Dimensions: 31cm x 20cm x 20cm (H x W x L)</p> <p>Available at:</p> <p>https://www.nhbs.com/vivara-pro-seville-28mm-woodstone-nest-box</p> <p>https://www.nhbs.com/vivara-pro-seville-32mm-woodstone-nest-box</p>	
<p>Schwegler Kestrel Nest Box 28</p> <p>1 no.</p>	<p>Made using Schwegler wood-concrete, these boxes are durable, rot-proof and breathable and designed for a lifespan of 25 years.</p> <p>The nest box should be sited at the edge of the woodland at a minimum height of 3.5m (6-8m is optimal)</p> <p>External Dimensions: 36cm x 33cm x 45cm (H x W x D)</p> <p>Available at:</p> <p>https://www.nhbs.com/search?q=kestrel+box&qtview=173244</p>	


No. 30 Schwegler Tawny Owl Nest Box	<p>Made from hardwearing woodcrete, this box will not rot, leak, crack or warp and is designed to have a lifespan of 20-25 years.</p> <p>The nest box should be tree mounted at a height of 4-6m, ideally in the middle of the peninsula woodland, with entrance facing away from the prevailing wind, and with a clear flight path to the entrance.</p> <p>External Dimensions: 33cm x 34cm x 30cm (H x W x D)</p> <p>Available at: https://www.nhbs.com/search?q=tawny&qview=219775</p>	
<p>Notes: Images obtained from https://www.nhbs.com/</p> <p>*or suitable alternative depending on availability.</p>		

Table 3.1: Summary of Proposed Bird Nest Boxes

3.1.2 Maintenance and Future Management

An annual check should be made of all bird boxes to check for any damage or defects. These checks should be undertaken outside of the nesting season, ideally September to February, and old nesting material may be removed to reduce the parasite load in the boxes. Any boxes that are damaged beyond function should be replaced on a like for like basis.

3.2 Bat Boxes

3.2.1 Proposed Enhancement

The bat boxes to be installed on site will provide suitable roosting locations for crevice dwelling bat species, compensating for the limited availability of nature tree crevices/features. Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, soprano pipistrelle *P.pygmaeus*, brown long eared bat *Plecotus auritus* and noctule *Nyctalus noctula* are all Section 7 Priority species, as well as being afforded protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1984 (as amended) and Annex IV of the Habitats Directive³. All four species are present in the local area, with suitable foraging and commuting habitats available in the local landscape.

The following bat boxes are proposed:

³ Annex IV of the European Communities Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora. Animal and plant species of community interest in need of strict protection.


Bat Box	Notes	Bird Box Image
Vivara Pro Large Multi Chamber WoodStone Bat Box 6 no.	<p>This multi chambered bat box has a large internal space that can accommodate a colony of bats and is a fantastic all purpose box. It can be used as a summer roost, maternity roost or hibernation box during mild winters.</p> <p>The exterior and front panel of the box is constructed using woodstone. This material has excellent thermal properties that ensure the inside of the box will maintain a consistent temperature, is breathable which eliminates the issues with condensation, and has a long lifespan of up to 10 years.</p> <p>Located on trees, it is suitable for: Common pipistrelle, Nathusius's pipistrelle, Soprano pipistrelle, Common noctule, Leislers bat, Brown long-eared bat, and Natterer's bat. It should be fitted at a minimum height of 4m and on a south or south easterly elevation.</p> <p>External dimensions: 15cm x 27.5cm x 16cm</p> <p>Available at: https://www.nhbs.com/large-multi-chamber-woodstone-bat-box</p>	
Notes: Images obtained from https://www.nhbs.com/ *or suitable alternative depending on availability.		

Table 3.2: Summary of Proposed Bat Boxes

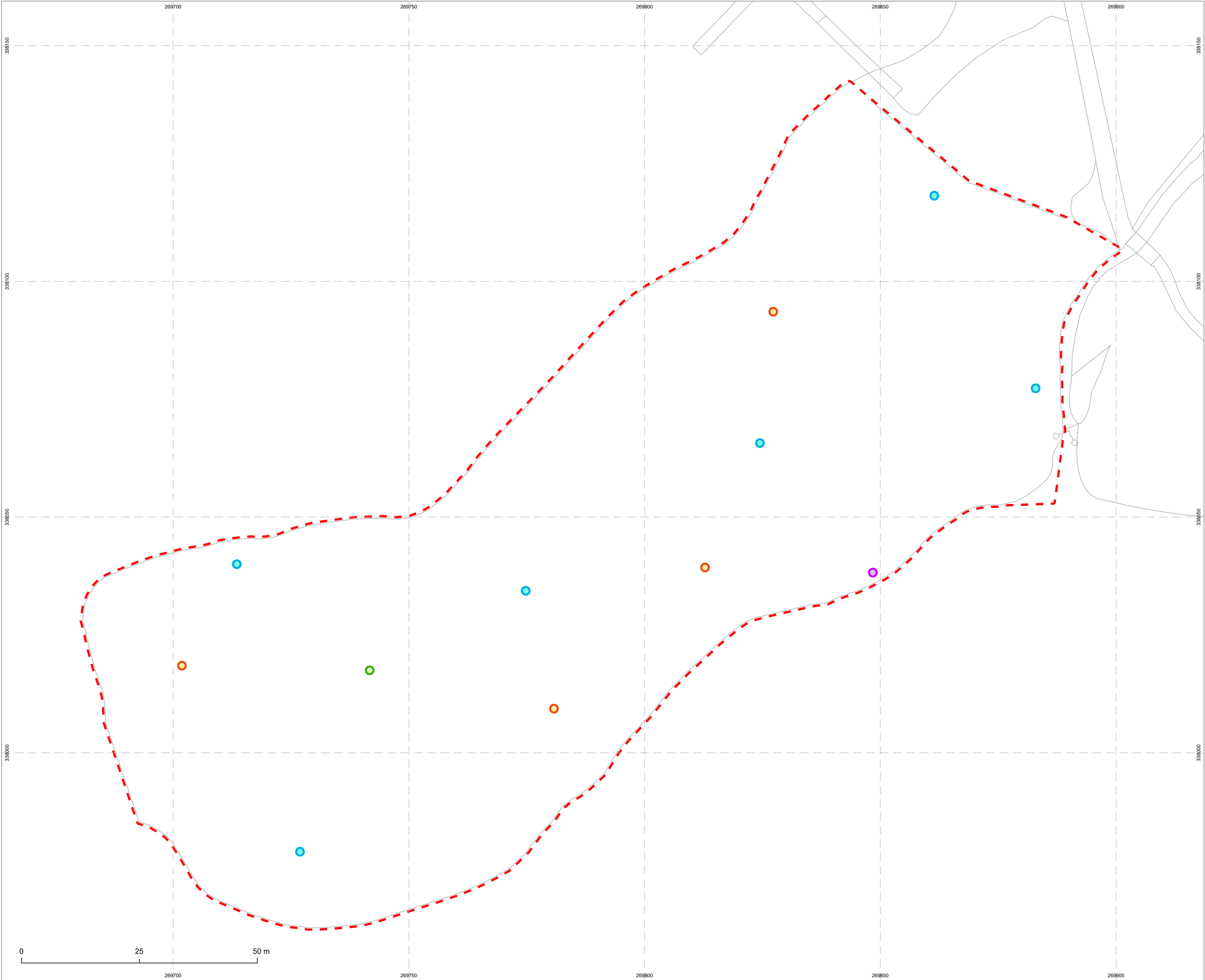
3.2.2 Maintenance and Future Management

An annual check should be made of all bat boxes to check for any damage or defects. These checks should be a visual check undertaken from the ground only. Any boxes that are damaged beyond function should be replaced on a like for like basis. Any checks inside the boxes must be conducted by a **licensed bat worker**.

4. Drawings

Drawing C162265-01 – Proposed Bat and Bird Box Scheme

Drawing C162265-02 – Location of Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy Area



C162265-01

Legend

Biodiversity enhancement strategy area boundary

Tawny owl box

Kestrel box

Vivara Pro bird box

Bat box

Project

Land North of Coed Cae Du

Drawing

Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy - Bat & Bird Box Plan

Client

Magnox

Drawing Number

C162265-01

Revision

00

Scale @ A3

1:750

Date

February 2024

Approved By

KS

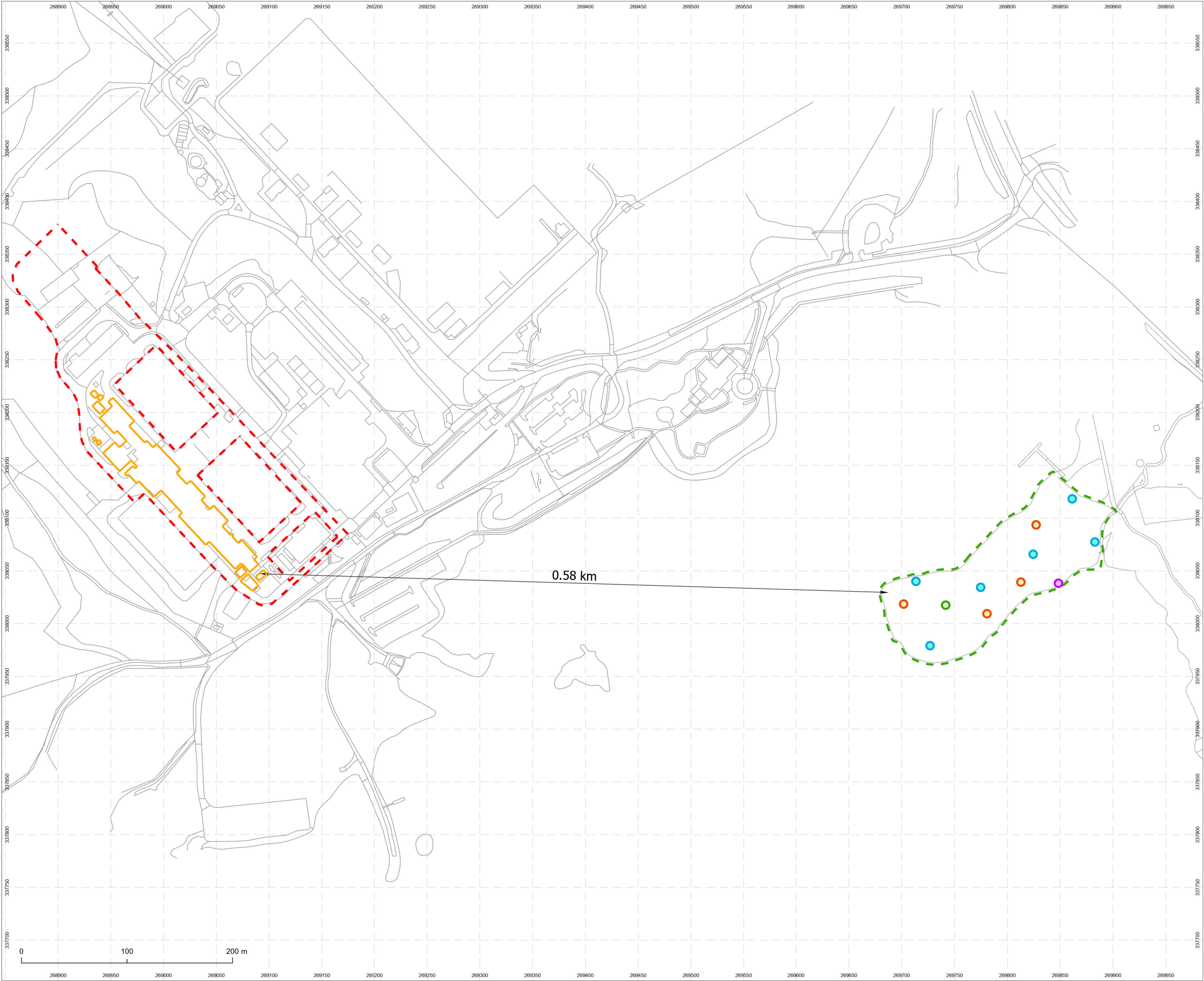
Drawn By

AW

MIDDLEMARCH

Triumph House, Birmingham Road, Allesley, Coventry CV5 9AZ
T:01676 525880
E:admin@middlemarch-environmental.com

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C162265-02

Legend

Development boundary

Biodiversity enhancement strategy area boundary

Tawny owl box

Kestrel box

Vivara Pro bird box

Bat box

Application boundary

Project

Land North of Coed Cae Du

Drawing

Location of Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy Area

Client

Magnox

Drawing Number

C162265-02

Revision

00

Scale @ A3

1:3,350

Date


March 2024

Approved By

CW

Drawn By

JR

MIDDLEMARCH

Triumph House, Birmingham Road, Allesley, Coventry CV5 9AZ
T:01676 525880
E:admin@middlemarch-environmental.com

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5. Appendix 1

RT-MME-161010-EcoW-01 Land North of Coed Cae Du

Ecological Walkover Survey

Project Information & Site Context

Site Name & Location	Land North of Coed Cae Du	Grid Reference	SH 69956 37946
Client Name	Mitie obo Magnox	Report Number	RT-MME-161010-EcoW-01
Site Area (ha)	7.38	Topography	Gently undulating, sloping west to the shoreline of Llyn Trawsfynydd
Project Background	Middlemarch was commissioned to undertake surveys of three separate sites in order to establish their ecological baseline and assess their suitability for enhancement. This information will feed into an overarching ecological Risk and Opportunities Masterplan (ROMp) for Magnox land holdings. In addition, the areas surveyed at Land North of Coed Cae Du were also assessed to determine the suitability of any part to facilitate the delivery of a Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme (see Report RT-MME-162265) to support the demolition of the existing 'Ponds Building' on Magnox Trawsfynydd.		
Summary of Proposals	There are no current development proposals for the site but works for ecological enhancement may be undertaken at a future date, dependant on the outcomes of the ROMp.		

Methods

Field Survey	An ecological walkover survey of the site was undertaken on 25 th January 2024 by Kate Statham MSc, Senior Ecological Consultant, during which the location and extent of all habitat types present within the site were noted. During the survey, a Habitat Condition Assessment was carried out to determine the ecological status of each habitat recorded. The condition assessment was undertaken using criteria published by Natural England (2023) ¹ , the details of which are presented in Appendix 1. The presence, or likely presence, of protected species within the site was also recorded.			
Weather Conditions	Temperature (°C)	Cloud Cover (%)	Wind Force (Beaufort)	Precipitation
	5	100	4	Heavy rain
Constraints	The survey was carried out in January. The recommended timeframe for completing Habitat Condition Assessments is April – October. It is possible that some plant species were entering a period of winter dormancy and so may have been under-recorded or underestimated, therefore impacting the result of certain condition criteria.			

Results

Overview of Habitats	The site primarily comprises broadleaved woodland, with an area of grassland habitat at its south eastern corner, with a small number of streams flowing east to west and draining into Llyn Trawsfynydd.
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¹ Natural England (2023) *The Biodiversity Metric 4.0 – User Guide: Technical Annex 1 Condition Sheets and Methodology*. Natural England Joint Publication JP039. Available <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6049804846366720>

	<p>The woodland habitats are considered to be broadly upland acid oak woodlands, with condition and species composition varying across the woodland.</p> <p>The woodland area on the peninsula at the north of the site (TN1), along with areas of woodland at TN3 and TN12 were considered to be in the best condition, with oak <i>Quercus patraea</i> dominant in the canopy along with good age structure, definitive storey layers and some level of visible regeneration, although it was noted that understorey was considerably thinner at the western end of TN1. The ground flora in these areas supported species indicative of acid conditions, such as bilberry <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> and hard fern <i>Blechnum spicant</i> present in all three locations.</p> <p>Areas of woodland with more moderate condition were often more limited in age structure and evidence of regeneration. Canopy species and structure varied across plots, with birch <i>Betula</i> spp. more locally dominant in areas (TN6) and certain areas having more prominent coverage of bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. and bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> at ground level (TN7).</p> <p>In areas influenced by different hydrology, such as wet woodland at TN5 and habitats along the reservoir edge TN15, species such as willow <i>Salix</i> spp. and alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> were more prominent, although these species were confined to these locales, and generally absent from other woodland areas.</p> <p>The marshy (TN18) and semi-improved acid (TN19) at the southern end of the site featured a number of species indicative of acid conditions, such as heath bedstraw <i>Galium saxifrage</i>, heath woodrush <i>Luzula multiflora</i> and tormentil <i>Potentilla erecta</i>. However, bracken was beginning to dominate the drier areas.</p> <p>Aquatic habitats within the site comprised of small, fast flowing streams such as TN2 and a wet ditch TN16 At the southern end of the site.</p>
Key Species Considerations	<p>A variety of protected/notable species are likely to be supported by the habitats within the survey area.</p> <p>The woodland, woodland shrub layer, bramble and bracken habitats across the wooded areas are likely to provide nesting opportunities for a number of bird species, which utilise a variety of niches. In addition, the marshy grassland at the southern end of the site may provide suitability for some ground nesting species, although this is considered to be sub-optimal due to the proximity of the woodland edge.</p> <p>The site is also likely to provide suitable habitat for several mammal species, including hedgehog and polecat, a local BAP species. Although there were few large, veteran trees on the site, suitable potential roost features (PRF's) for were observed in several trees throughout the site. Suitable foraging habitat, including woodland, woodland edge, grassland and open water, are also found within the site, providing opportunities for several bat species, including brown long-eared <i>Plecotus auritus</i>, common and soprano pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus/pygmaeus</i> and Daubenton's <i>Myotis daubentoni</i> bats.</p> <p>Areas of grassland and bracken and their ecotone with adjacent woodland provide suitable habitat for reptile species, specifically viviparous lizard <i>Zootoca vivipara</i> and adder <i>Vipera berus</i>.</p>

The wet ditch at TN16 may provide a small area of suitable breeding habitat for amphibians, if it holds water outside of the winter months.

Recommendations

The recommendations below are based on Middlemarch's current understanding of the project. If works are changed in any way these recommendations will need to be amended if appropriate.

R1	Areas of woodland with moderate condition and the western end of the woodland at TN1 may be enhanced by additional planting of suitable understorey species, of local provenance. In addition, areas exhibiting more limited regeneration may benefit from the planting of saplings of both canopy and understorey species. Both measures would improve the structure of these woodland areas. Area TN1 was considered most suitable to support a BES, specific delivering targeted enhancements for bats and priority birds species.
R2	Management of bracken and rush growth in the marshy/acid grassland field at the south of the site would be beneficial to ensure that smaller herbaceous species are not shaded out. A suitable, low intensity grazing regime is recommended.

Quality Assurance

Date	Version	Author	Checked & Approved By
09/02/2024	Final	Kate Statham MSc Senior Ecological Appraisal	Chris Walsh MSc Natural Capital Solutions Leader

Photographs



Plate 1: Acid oak woodland at TN1



Plate 2: Fast flowing stream at TN2



Plate 3: Woodland at TN6 with greater overage of bracken and bramble



Plate 4: Wet woodland at TN5, with TN4 flowing through



Plate 5: Woodland at TN3 with dense bryophyte growth



Plate 6: Marshy grassland at TN18



Plate 7: Semi-improved acid grassland at TN19 with dense bracken growth



Plate 8: Wet ditch at TN16

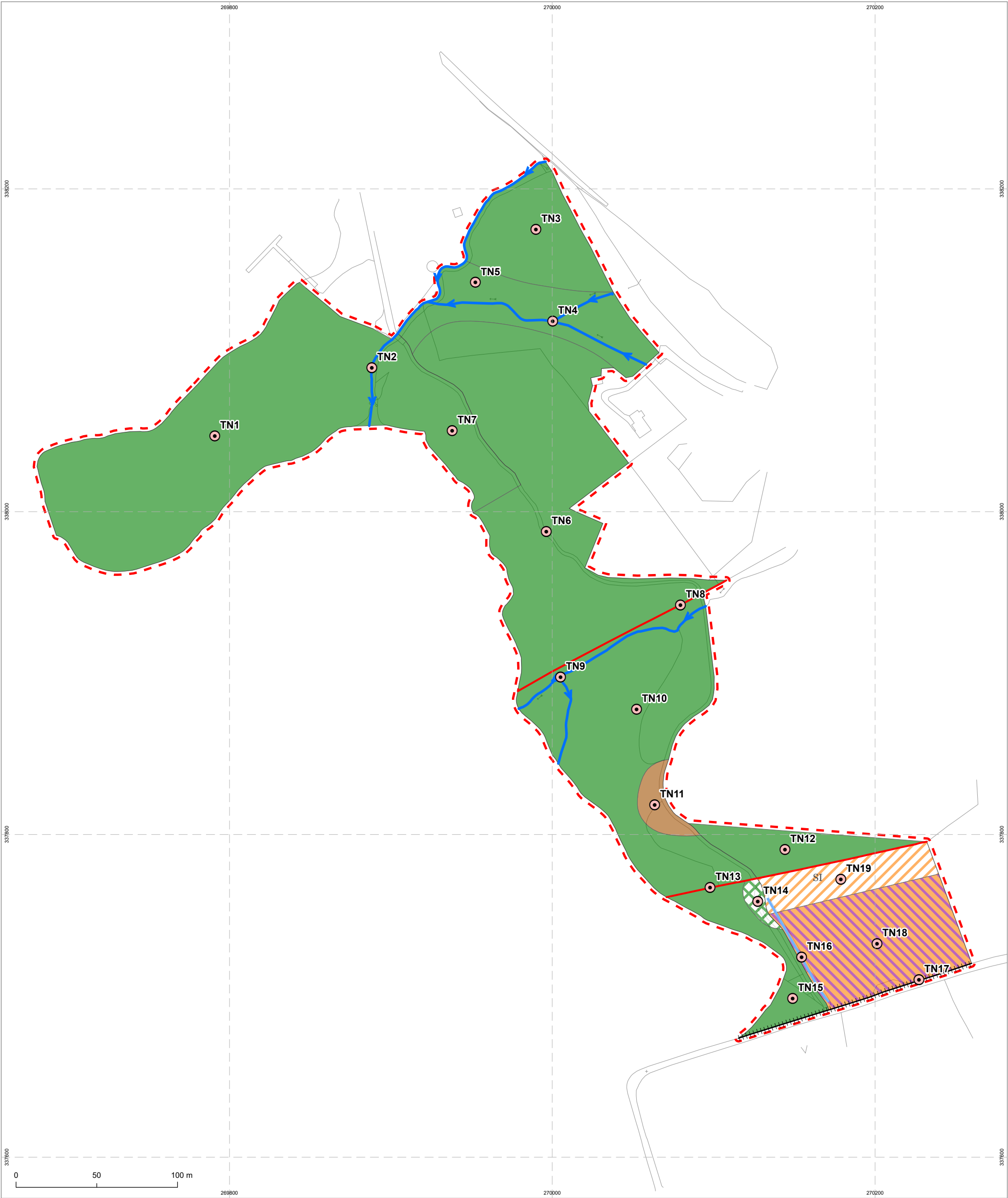
Appendix 1

The following tables include full habitat descriptions and summarise the condition assessment for habitats and hedgerows using Natural England (2023)¹.

Area Habitat				Condition Sheet Criteria Score																
Polygon / Line Ref.	Phase 1 Habitat Type	UK Hab Habitat Equivalent	Habitat Description	Condition Sheet Used	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	Total Score	Condition Assessment	
TN1	Broadleaved woodland	Acid oak woodland – w1a5	<p>Small peninsula with semi-natural broadleaved woodland. Canopy dominated by sessile oak, with silver birch <i>Betula pendula</i> the second largest component. No trees were in excess of 50-60cm DBH and the age structure was relatively uniform. Understorey was notably sparse in the eastern section, but with good coverage to the west and southern edge. Understorey species comprised silver birch, young oak, holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> and hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i>. Ground cover included billberry <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>, bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg, with bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> and occasional heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>. A variety of bryophyes, typical of upland acid oak woodlands, were present alongside occasional hard fern <i>Blechnum</i> spp.</p> <p>Occasional non-native species, including spruce and Rhododendron sp were noted, as were areas with accumulations of rubbish.</p>	Woodland (24)	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	3	35	Good
TN2	Running water	Rivers and streams r2b	Stream running east to west, draining into the reservoir. Channel 2-3m in width and up to 1m deep. Water depth is <50cm, running over boulders, cobbles and pebbles, with a fast clear flow. Banks comprise boulders and earth. Immediately west of the footbridge, the stream forks, with the northern being wider and shallower than the southern, and with both draining into the reservoir.	N/A ²																
TN3	Broadleaved woodland	Acid oak woodland – w1a5	Oak woodland at northern corner of the site. Canopy primarily mature sessile oak, with understorey sparse, comprising occasional silver birch and holly. Bryophytes dominated ground cover, forming hummocks in some locations. Frequent patches of bilberry and honeysuckle <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> were present with occasional ferns, including hard fern.	Woodland (24)	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	3	34	Good	
TN4	Running water	Rivers and streams r2b	Small stream running south east to north west and draining into TN2. Channel approximately 30cm across with water depth <10cm. Moderate clear flow, with shallow earth banks.	N/A ²																
TN5	Broadleaved woodland	Wet woodland w1d	Wet woodland associated with T2 and TN4. Adjacent to TN4 the ground is waterlogged and willow <i>Salix</i> is present, with a dense monoculture herbaceous carpet at ground level. Tree cover becomes denser to the western end of TN2, with dense willow and silver birch.	Woodland (24)	2	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	3	28	Moderate	
TN6	Broadleaved woodland	Upland oak wood w1a	Woodland south of TN5, differing in composition and structure to TN1 and TN3. Canopy trees are younger with a homogenous age structure, and a greater percentage of birch. Understorey comprises bracken and bramble with greater coverage than other woodland areas, but bryophytes, including <i>Polytrichum</i> are still evident with smaller areas of bilberry. Occasional tufted hair grass <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> adjacent to path.	Woodland (24)	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	3	30	Moderate	
TN7	Broadleaved woodland	Upland oak wood w1a	More open than adjacent woodland with scrub species such as hawthorn and hazel and occasional young trees. Underlain by dense bracken and bramble.	Woodland (24)	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	3	27	Moderate	

Area Habitat				Condition Sheet Criteria Score																
Polygon / Line Ref.	Phase 1 Habitat Type	UK Hab Habitat Equivalent	Habitat Description	Condition Sheet Used	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	Total Score	Condition Assessment	
TN8	Wall		Dry stone wall, characteristic of local area. Dense coverings of bryophytes.	N/A ¹																
TN9	Running water	Rivers and streams r2b	Stream running east to west through woodland and draining into reservoir. Channel 2-3m in width, widest as it passes under footbridge, with a maximum depth of 50 cm, but more generally 30 cm. Flow is fast and clear over boulders, cobbles, pebbles and some areas of bedrock. Banks comprise boulders and earth.	N/A ²																
TN10	Broadleaved woodland	Acid oak woodland – w1a5	Canopy dominated by oak, with mature trees being a similar age class, and silver birch and hazel within the understorey. Bramble and bilberry are present at ground level, with a variety of bryophytes and occasional fern, including hard fern. Towards the shore, the woodland becomes more willow <i>Salix</i> spp. dominant due to the fluctuations of reservoir levels. Lots of deadwood is present within the canopy but limited coverage of saplings and regeneration visible.	Woodland (24)	2	3	3	3	3	3	1	3	3	3	1	1	3	32	Moderate	
TN11	Bracken	Bracken g1c	Open area between woodland, bracken is dominant at ground level with some bramble and scattered scrub, including hawthorn, hazel and young oak.	N/A ¹																
TN12	Broadleaved woodland	Acid oak woodland – w1a5	Sessile oak canopy with understorey comprising holly, hazel, silver birch and young oak. Ground cover includes patches of bracken and bramble, more typically towards the woodland edge, alongside more open areas where bryophytes and grasses dominate ground cover, with occasional hard fern. Bilberry was noted along the woodland/path interface.	Woodland (24)	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	1	2	3	35	Good	
TN13	Wall	Wall	Dry stone wall, characteristic of local area. Dense coverings of bryophytes.	N/A ¹																
TN14	Dense scrub	Bramble scrub	Dense patch of bramble between path and reservoir shore	N/A ¹																
TN15	Broadleaved woodland	Wet woodland w1d	Wet woodland, dominated by willow, limited understorey with some bramble and hawthorn in drier areas.	Woodland (24)	2	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	1	2	1	2	3	26	Moderate	
TN16	Wet ditch	Rivers and streams r2b	Ditch running between path and fenceline. 1m in width with earth banks, which also include retaining stonework in places to stabilise the bank. Banks are vegetated, with species including tufted hair grass, <i>Polytrichum</i> , succulent, foxglove <i>Digitalis purpurea</i> and Yorkshire fog <i>Holcus lanatus</i> . Occasional bracken and bramble were also present. Much of the channel was obscured by vegetation flattened by the heavy rain.	N/A ²																
TN17	Fence	Fence	Post and wire boundary fence between cycle route/path and adjacent field.	N/A ¹																
TN18	Marshy grassland	Acid grassland g1 (15)	Marshy grassland pasture field with soft rush <i>Juncus effusus</i> visibly dominant. Grasses including Yorkshire fog, bent and wavy hair grass <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> are present with occasional tufted hair grass in direr areas. Common sorrel <i>Rumex acetosa</i> , bedstraw <i>Gallium</i> sp., meadow buttercup <i>Ranunculus acris</i> and wavy bittercress <i>Cardamine flexuosa</i> are present throughout.	Grassland – moderate / high (6)	P	P	P	P	F									Moderate		

Area Habitat			Condition Sheet Criteria Score																
Polygon / Line Ref.	Phase 1 Habitat Type	UK Hab Habitat Equivalent	Habitat Description	Condition Sheet Used	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	Total Score	Condition Assessment
TN19	Semi-improved acid grassland	Acid grassland g1	Grassland on bank which slopes up towards woodland edge. Bracken covers around 40% of the ground, with tormentil, common sorrel, bedstraw and occasional woodrush <i>Luzula multiflora</i> Grasses include Yorkshire fog and bent with occasional soft rush.	Grassland – moderate / high (6)	P	P	P	F	P									Moderate	
Key: P – Criteria passed F – Criteria failed <div></div> – Criteria not applicable ¹ – Habitat is not assigned a condition score within the metric. ² – A separate River Condition Assessment should be undertaken if required.																			



Legend

Survey area

|||||

Fence

Running water

Wall

Wet ditch

Bracken

Dense scrub

Marshy grassland

Semi-improved acid grassland

Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland

Target note (habitat)

Project

Trawsfynydd, Gwynedd - Area 1

Drawing

Ecological Walkover

Client

Mitie Group PLC

Drawing Number

C161010-EcoW-01

Revision

00

Scale @ A3

1:2,250

Date

February 2024

Approved By

KS

Drawn By

VO

MIDDLEMARCH

Triumph House, Birmingham Road, Allesley, Coventry CV5 9AZ

T:01676 525880

E:admin@middlemarch-environmental.com

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