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# **Hedgerow Mitigation and Compensation Strategy**

171 Evendons Lane,  
Wokingham

Report For:  
Propco (Wokingham) Ltd

Date: 16/01/2026

**PEG602-19D**

## 171 Evendons Lane, Wokingham



### Document Control

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## 1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Pioneer Environment Group Ltd was commissioned by Propco (Wokingham) Ltd to produce a Hedgerow Mitigation and Compensation Strategy in relation to the reserved matters application for land at 171 Evendons Lane, Wokingham, RG31 4EH (centred on National Grid Reference: SU 79868 66970), hereafter referred to as the 'Site'.
- 1.2 The area proposed for development is illustrated in Figure 1 by the 'Red Line Boundary' and the off-Site area in the wider landowner ownership is represented by the 'Blue Line Boundary'.
- 1.3 An outline planning application was submitted in June 2023 (planning reference: 231351) for the following:

*"Outline application with all matters reserved except for access, for the proposed erection of a 64 bed care home (Use Class C2) with site access, parking, hard and soft landscaping and other associated works following demolition of existing commercial buildings."*
- 1.4 The outline application was subsequently granted planning permission in November 2024 by Wokingham Borough Council (WBC). A number of planning conditions were attached to the outline planning permission.
- 1.5 In accordance with the requirements of Condition 14, this document provides a Hedgerow Mitigation and Compensation Strategy for the Site. This has been produced to ensure that opportunities currently provided by hedgerows within the Site are maintained, and any new hedgerows are managed to ensure continued healthy growth following the development.

## 2.0 Introduction

### Background

- 2.1 Pioneer Environment Group Ltd was commissioned by Propco (Wokingham) Ltd to produce a Hedgerow Mitigation and Compensation Strategy in relation to the reserved matters application for land at 171 Evendons Lane, Wokingham, RG31 4EH (centred on National Grid Reference: SU 79868 66970), hereafter referred to as the 'Site'.
- 2.2 The area proposed for development is illustrated in Figure 1 by the 'Red Line Boundary' and the off-Site area in the wider landowner ownership is represented by the 'Blue Line Boundary'.

### Site Description and Project Overview

- 2.3 The Site is located to the south-west of Wokingham, within an urban-edge context. The Site is bound to the north by trees and grassland, beyond which is Doles Lane, to the south by Evendons Lane, to the east by Blagrove Lane and to the west by several residential dwellings, a wooded strip, and the grassland of Redlands Farm Park.
- 2.4 The south-east of the Site is dominated by buildings, hardstanding and gravel, with the north dominated by pasture grassland. Other habitats included a pond, hedgerows, and longer sward grassland, with ruderal vegetation and scrub to the south-west.
- 2.5 Further information on the extent and composition of existing habitats, including hedgerows, across the Site is provided in the Ecological Appraisal report (Aspect Ecology, 2023) and the updated Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment Report (Pioneer Environment Group, 2025).

### Development Proposals and Context

- 2.6 An outline planning application was submitted in June 2023 (planning reference: 231351) for the following:

*"Outline application with all matters reserved except for access, for the proposed erection of a 64 bed care home (Use Class C2) with site access, parking, hard and soft landscaping and other associated works following demolition of existing commercial buildings."*
- 2.7 The outline application was subsequently granted planning permission in November 2024 by Wokingham Borough Council (WBC), with several planning conditions attached to the outline planning permission.
- 2.8 Condition 14 of the planning permission states that:

*"The reserved matters of the development shall include a detailed hedgerow mitigation and compensation strategy. This shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority at reserved matters stage. The detailed hedgerow mitigation and compensation strategy shall be include:*

*(a) Details of buffer zones required to be protected the retained hedgerows, such buffer zones to be a minimum of 10m unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.*

*(b) The buffer zones required to protect the retained hedgerows should be free from any development.*

## Hedgerow Mitigation and Compensation Strategy

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*(c) A detailed method statement for the translocation of any hedgerows to be removed as a result of the development, unless mitigation could be better achieved in ecological terms through new hedgerow creation.*

*(d) A detailed hedgerow compensation strategy to address all other significant negative impacts on the local hedgerow network as a result of the development.*

*(e) Management arrangements for the receptor site that will secure the long term future of the translocated habitats and species. The mitigation and compensation strategy shall be implemented in accordance with the approved plan unless otherwise approved in writing by the local planning authority.*

*Reason: In the interests of visual amenity and to ensure appropriate mitigation of the impact upon hedgerows during construction and in the long term in accordance with NPPF, Core Strategy Policy CP1, CP3 and CP7 and Managing Development Delivery Local Plan policies CC03 and TB21.”*

2.9 In accordance with the requirements of Condition 14, this document provides a Hedgerow Mitigation and Compensation Strategy for the Site. This has been produced to ensure that opportunities currently provided by hedgerows within the Site are maintained and any new hedgerows are managed to ensure continued healthy growth following the development.

### 3.0 Baseline Conditions

#### Baseline Hedgerows

3.1 A total of three hedgerows are present and form boundary features within the Site. The hedgerows are described in more detail in Table 1 and illustrated in Figure 1.

**Table 1: Baseline Hedgerow Descriptions**

Hedge Number	Habitat Type	Length (km)	Height (m)	Width (m)	Species	Description	BNG Condition
H1	Native hedgerow with trees	0.0419	5	2.5	Blackthorn ( <i>Prunus spinosa</i> ), barberry ( <i>Berberis</i> sp.), holly ( <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> ), elder ( <i>Sambucus nigra</i> ), elm ( <i>Ulmus</i> sp.) and bramble ( <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.). Scattered young/semi-mature trees include beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> ) and ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ).	Established, tall and overgrown hedgerow adjacent to Evendons Lane. Appears to be subject to minimal management, largely relating to cutting back of lower branches from encroaching into the road.	Good
H2	Native hedgerow with trees	0.0569	7	3-4	Hawthorn ( <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> ), blackthorn, elm, field maple ( <i>Acer campestre</i> ), elder, and bramble. Scattered young/semi-mature trees include English oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> ), ash and field maple.	Established, tall and overgrown hedgerow adjacent to Blagrove Lane. Appears largely unmanaged but may occasionally be cut back to avoid encroachment into the road.	Good
H3	Native hedgerow with trees	0.0954	6	3-4	Hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple, elder, hazel ( <i>Corylus avellana</i> ), and bramble. Scattered semi-mature/mature trees include ash, English oak and field maple.	Hedgerow along the western boundary of the Site with a dry ditch at the base. No evidence of recent management and is becoming tall and overgrown.	Good

## 4.0 Hedgerow Mitigation and Compensation Strategy

### Introduction

4.1 This section identifies the effects of the development proposals on existing hedgerows, together with avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures, to ensure that the habitat and connectivity provided by the hedgerow resource of the Site and wider site is not compromised by the development.

### Hedgerow Retention, Loss and Remediation

4.2 Table 2 below identifies the extent to which hedgerows within the Site will be affected by the development works. Measures to off-set adverse effects on the hedgerow resource are also identified.

**Table 2: Impacts on Existing Hedgerows and Avoidance/Mitigation Measures**

Hedge Number	Habitat Type	Length Retained (km)	Length Lost (km)	Impacts	Impact Avoidance, Reduction and Mitigation measures
H1	Native hedgerow with trees	0.0419	0.0419	The hedgerow along the southern boundary of the Site, adjacent to Evendons Lane, will be removed.	Hedgerow is to be removed in full and a new native hedgerows and mixed scrub will be replanted along the southern boundary of the Site.
H2	Native hedgerow with trees	0.0275	0.0294	A section of the hedgerow will be lost to allow the construction of the new Site entrance from Blagrove Lane.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The retained hedgerow will be protected from construction activities through the Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) detailed within the Arboricultural Report (Mark Welby, 2025). This will involve the installation of tree protection barriers in accordance with BS5837:2012.</li> <li>The retained section of hedgerow will be complemented by adjacent landscape planting and the creation of a native, species-rich hedgerow with trees to the south of retained section.</li> <li>Adjacent proposed wildlife/ meadow grassland will further enhance the value of the</li> </ul>

## Hedgerow Mitigation and Compensation Strategy

Hedge Number	Habitat Type	Length Retained (km)	Length Lost (km)	Impacts	Impact Avoidance, Reduction and Mitigation measures
					<p>hedgerow base to provide habitat niches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The retained hedgerow will be subject to sensitive management to maintain and enhance its current condition as summarised in Section 4.10.</li> </ul>
H3	Native hedgerow with trees	0.0954	0.0019	A small section will be lost to provide a new access to the adjacent off-Site area to the west.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The retained hedgerow will be protected from construction activities through the Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) detailed within the Arboricultural Report (Mark Welby, 2025). This will involve the installation of tree protection barriers in accordance with BS5837:2012.</li> <li>The retained section of hedgerow will be complemented by adjacent landscape and native hedgerow planting.</li> <li>Adjacent proposed wildlife/meadow grassland will further enhance the value of the hedgerow base to provide habitat niches.</li> <li>The retained hedgerow will be subject to sensitive management to maintain and enhance its current condition as summarised in Section 4.10.</li> </ul>

### Buffer Zone

4.3 During construction the retained species-poor native hedgerows must be protected by appropriate 10m wide buffer (Figure 2), where possible. The root protection zones in-line with '*BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition, and construction*' are detailed as Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) within the Arboricultural Report (Mark Welby, 2025) and the associated Tree Protection Plan (Appendix A). Specifications of the tree protection barriers to be installed and methods of work are detailed within the Arboricultural Report. These buffer zones must be maintained throughout the construction zone, with any changes agreed with an arborist.

## Hedgerow Mitigation and Compensation Strategy

4.4 Habitat enhancement and creation within the 10m buffer zone of the retained hedgerows has been incorporated post-development, where feasible, and will contribute to protecting and improving the ecological networks within the Site and the wider area (Figure 2).

### Hedgerow Creation

4.5 In addition to the above works proposed to the existing habitat corridors within the Site, the habitat connectivity will be further enhanced through hedgerow planting around the woodland in the south-eastern corner of the Site and around the southern, western and south-western margins of the amenity spaces around the care home.

4.6 In order to compensate for the loss of small sections of hedgerows (H2 and H3) on the Site, planting has been included within the soft landscape proposals for the proposed development area, as described below in Table 3 and illustrated in Figure 2.

4.7 Significant hedgerow creation (including creation of sections of species-rich, native hedgerows) was considered more appropriate compensation for the Site than translocating a small sections of unmanaged species-poor native hedgerow.

**Table 3: Hedgerow Creation Overview**

New Hedge Number	Hedge Type	Length (km)	Target BNG Condition	Proposed Species	Description
NH1	Native hedgerow with trees	0.047	Moderate	Field maple, common hornbeam ( <i>Carpinus betulus</i> ), and beech. Trees include ornamental <i>Prunus</i> sp. ( <i>Prunus 'Amanogawa'</i> and <i>Prunus 'Ichiyo'</i> ).	New native hedgerow with trees to be created proposed towards the centre of the Site, adjacent to car parking area and amenity areas.
NH2	Native hedgerow	0.0361	Moderate	Field maple, common hornbeam, and beech.	New native hedgerow to be created along the south-western section of H3 and adjacent to amenity garden area, towards the west of the care home.
NH3	Native hedgerow	0.0302	Moderate	Field maple, common hornbeam, and beech.	New native hedgerow to be created along the south-western boundary of the proposed amenity garden area.
NH4	Species-rich native hedgerow	0.0275	Moderate	Field maple, common hornbeam, hawthorn, beech, holly, wild privet, and blackthorn.	Section of new species-rich native hedgerow to be created towards the east of the Site, to the

## Hedgerow Mitigation and Compensation Strategy

New Hedge Number	Hedge Type	Length (km)	Target BNG Condition	Proposed Species	Description
					south of the new entrance.
NH5	Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	0.015	Moderate	Field maple, common hornbeam, hawthorn, beech, holly, wild privet, and blackthorn. Trees include field maple.	Section of new species-rich native hedgerow with trees to be created towards the east of the Site, to the north of the new entrance.
NH6	Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	0.1056	Poor	Mix of non-native and ornamental species including: oleaster ( <i>Elaeagnus × ebbingei</i> ), Escallonia 'Iveyi', spindle tree ( <i>Euonymus japonicus</i> 'Green Spire'), New Zealand broadleaf ( <i>Griselinia littoralis</i> ), honeysuckle ( <i>Lonicera pileata</i> 'Maigrun'), Burkwood osmanthus ( <i>Osmanthus x burkwoodii</i> ), and daisy bush ( <i>Olearia x haastii</i> ).	Sections of non-native and ornamental hedgerows to be created around the new building and amenity areas.
NH7	Species-rich native hedgerow	0.0451	Moderate	Field maple, common hornbeam, hawthorn, beech, holly, wild privet, and blackthorn.	Section of species-rich native hedgerow to be created along the eastern and south-eastern boundary, adjacent to the woodland (W1).
NH8	Native hedgerow	0.049	Moderate	Field maple, common hornbeam, and beech.	Section of native hedgerow to be created along the southern boundary, adjacent to H1.

4.8 These works will improve habitat connectivity, both east to west and north to south, through the Site and result in approximately 0.39km of hedgerow planting; in addition, areas of scrub and woodland will be enhanced and scattered trees have been incorporated into the landscape plan. The Site is also directly connected to an off-Site field that will be enhanced to benefit biodiversity including the creation of a traditional orchard, mixed scrub and scattered trees (illustrated in Figure 2).

### Hedgerow, Woodland, Scrub and Individual Tree Management

4.9 In addition to the retention of existing hedgerow, planting of new hedgerows to re-connect habitat corridors within the Site, and creation or enhancement of complementary habitats nearby or adjacent to the hedgerows, a Landscape Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) will identify the long-term management works which will be implemented to maintain and enhance the value of native hedgerows, woodland, scrub, and individual trees at the Site for wildlife.

#### Hedgerows

4.10 These measures will apply to both the existing native hedgerows and new native hedgerow planting once established, and are summarised below:

- Trees and shrubs that have failed will be replaced in the subsequent planting season to achieve at least 90% survival and maintain a gap free line to enable mammals to disperse along the hedge line.
- Existing standard trees within the hedgerows will be maintained and, where appropriate, suitable plants will be excluded from the cutting regime to provide new mature trees.
- Existing mature and newly established native hedgerows within the Site will be trimmed no more frequently than once every 2 years on a rotational cutting scheme. The trimming would aim to maintain an 'A'-profile to the full width of the hedge at the base.
- All native hedgerows will be trimmed between January and February, allowing the majority of hedgerow fruits to be eaten by birds and other wildlife prior to cutting.
- No more than one third of hedgerows within the Site will be trimmed within the same 12 months.
- All dead, dying and diseased hedge plants will be replaced with plants of similar-size and species.

#### Mixed Scrub

4.11 These measures will apply to the scrub enhancement, and are summarised below:

- Scrub will be managed annually and on rotation to ensure a range of ages including seedlings, young shrubs and mature shrubs are present. Saplings will be removed from established glades and rides to ensure they do not become overgrown over time.
- Any invasive non-native species and other species indicative of sub optimal condition will be removed using the most appropriate methods for the species present.
- Grassland at the base of scrub habitats will be maintained with a longer sward to create a well-developed scrub edge.

#### Woodland and Individual Trees

4.12 These measures will apply to the woodland enhancement and individual tree planting once established, and are summarised below:

- Standing dead or decaying timber and fallen deadwood will be retained, where safe to do so, to provide wildlife habitat.

- Scrub habitats within the woodland shall be reviewed each winter and techniques for scrub control, i.e. cutting back, will be implemented as, and where, deemed necessary. Such work will be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season.
- Areas vulnerable to browsing and damage should be fenced off to allow seedlings, saplings and young trees to establish, which will improve diversity of structure, and these areas should be monitored.
- A thinning and coppicing regime will be implemented to maximise the wildlife value of the woodland by increasing the diversity of tree structure, shade and ground cover. Thinning, coppicing and management works are anticipated to start at 10 years onwards, with successive works about every 10 years following, although dependent on rate of growth. Trees to be thinned or coppiced will be selected according to tree health, surrounding vegetation and ground conditions (e.g. coppicing to allow light to maintain areas of ground flora) to provide a structurally diverse woodland with a high scrub content.
- Tree pruning will be undertaken regularly to remove dead and dying branches and encourage healthy growth of the scattered individual trees.

### Additional Measures to Ensure Functional Connectivity of Retained Hedgerows

4.13 A detailed Ecological Permeability Scheme will be prepared for the Site, which describes measures to be incorporated into the landscape plan to maintain continued functionality of the hedgerow network and other opportunities for the movement of wildlife across the Site, the wider off-Site and the surrounding area. Measures detailed in the scheme, not already described above in relation to hedgerow retention and protection, are summarised below:

#### Lighting

4.14 To maintain the current low lighting levels at night-time, if any lighting is to be used at the Site, either during the construction or operational phase, a sensitive lighting scheme should be designed by a lighting engineer in close consultation with an ecologist and implemented within the new development. Any light spill should be directed away from the boundaries of the Site so that suitable habitats for bats and other nocturnal species are not impacted. In accordance with the 'Bats and artificial lighting in the UK; Bats and the built environment series, Guidance Note 08/23' by the Bat Conservation Trust and Institution of Lighting Professionals (2023), the 'Dark Buffer' i.e., 5m buffer around the perimeters of the Site, should have light levels of 0 lux. These areas will be subject to restricted lighting levels to ensure that the habitat remains suitable for use by nocturnal wildlife.

#### Road Crossing Points

4.15 Facilitating the movement of wildlife across roads will involve measures to prevent animals becoming trapped in the carriageway and/or being run over by vehicles. These include:

- The number of points at which the access road and footpaths cross the habitat corridors (i.e. hedgerows) has been kept to the minimum level required to allow effective movement of people and vehicles into the Site.

- The position of these crossing points intentionally avoids features of higher ecological interest (e.g. avoiding trees with potential to support roosting bats, or removal of all woodland habitats).
- Crossing points have been designed to approach the habitat corridor perpendicularly. This will limit the extent of existing habitat to be lost and the extent of road/footpath within the habitat corridor.
- Dropped kerbs will be provided to assist pedestrians to cross roads safely and these will also be available to allow small animals to easily exit the carriageway.

### Best Practice Measures

4.16 Standard biosecurity measures will apply throughout the proposed development to prevent the accidental spread of invasive and wildlife diseases (e.g. pests and diseases affecting trees etc). Guidance for biosecurity can be found on the Forest Research website (<https://www.forestryresearch.gov.uk/climate-change/risks/pests-and-diseases/biosecurity/>).

4.17 A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be prepared for the Site to detail how the habitats and species, both within and surrounding the Site, should be protected during the construction phase. Guidance for pollution prevention can be found on the Government website (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pollution-prevention-for-businesses>).

4.18 To avoid disturbance to birds, it is recommended that any suitable nesting habitat should be removed outside of the bird breeding season (March to August, inclusive). In the event that the timing of the works is to be undertaken within the aforementioned season, any areas to be impacted by vegetation removal should be checked for active nests, no more than 24 hours prior to the commencement of works, by a suitably experienced ecologist. If an active nest were to be discovered, an exclusion zone (diameter of which would be determined by the ecologist) around the nest will be established and adhered to until young have fledged, or until a suitably qualified ecologist has confirmed that the nesting attempt has concluded.

## 5.0 Summary and Conclusions

- 5.1 The proposed development scheme will result in a net gain in hedgerow habitats associated with the proposed development at the Site. The proposed hedgerow retention and creation, in addition with the woodland and scrub enhancement and individual tree creation, will improve habitat connectivity both north to south, and east to west, through the Site.
- 5.2 In addition to the specific measures relating to the proposed development area, the enhancement of the adjacent off-Site area will provide further connective habitats (e.g. mixed scrub enhancement and creation) that can be utilised by species associated with the hedgerows within the Site and will provide dispersal routes into the wider landscape.

## 6.0 References

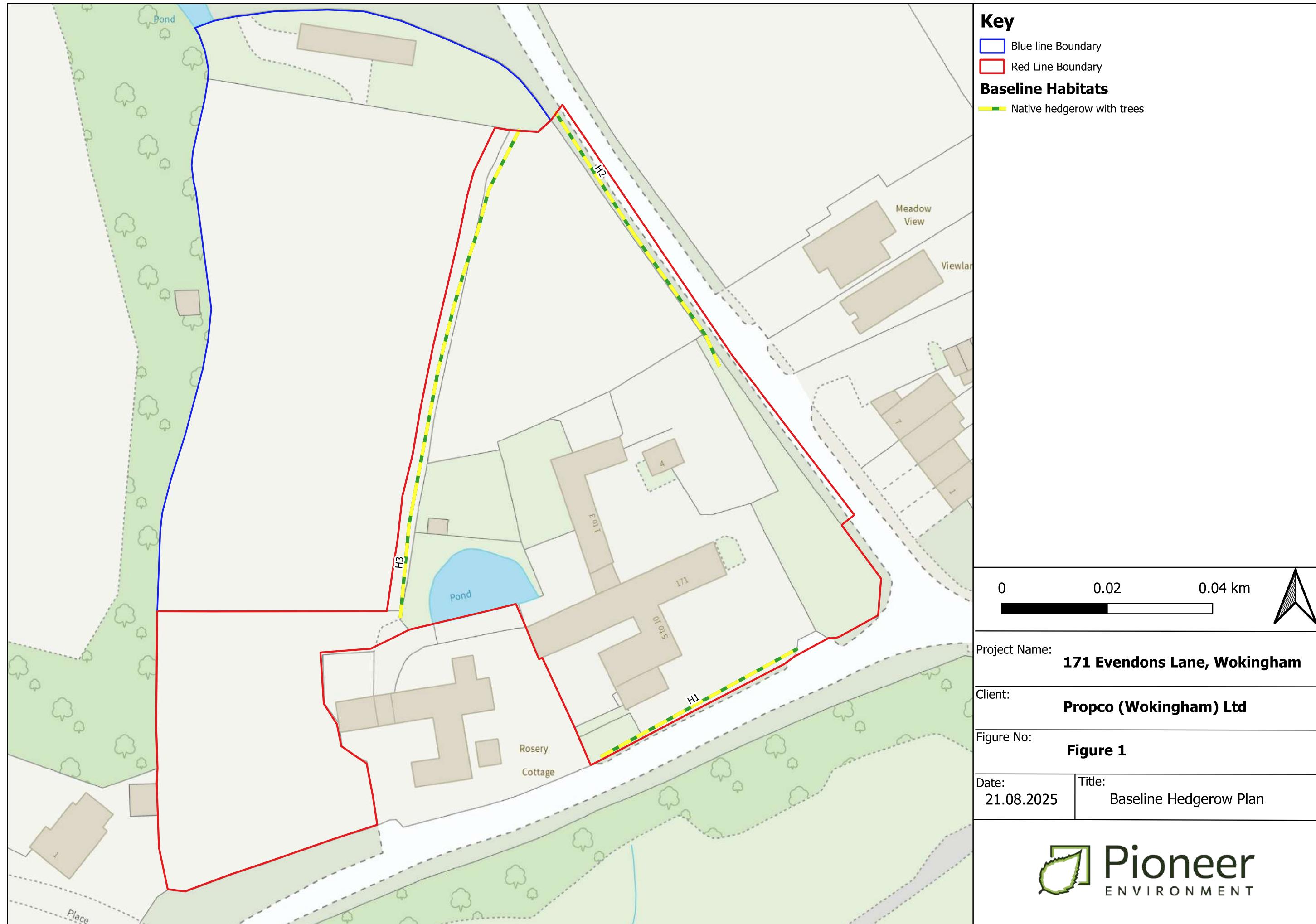
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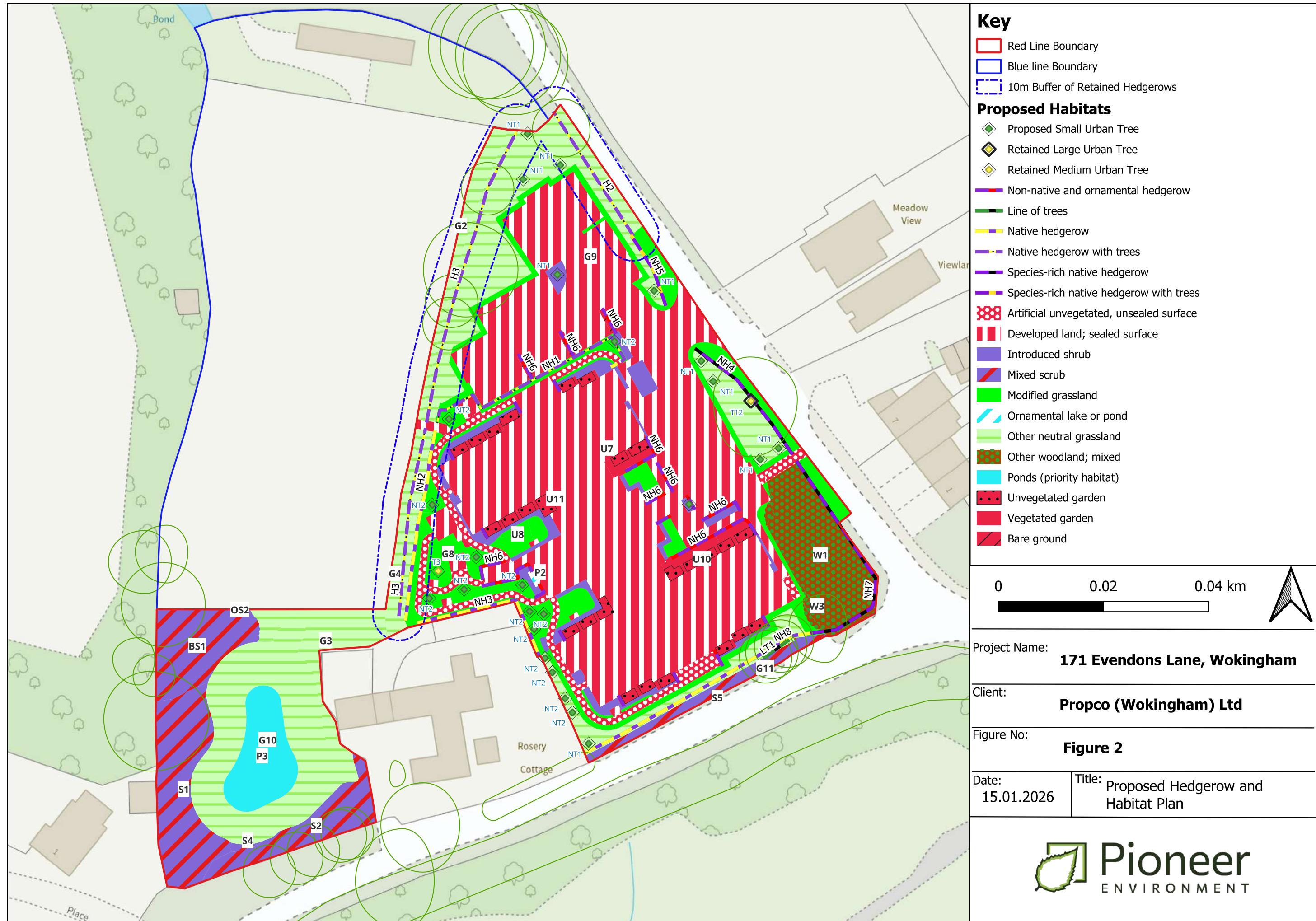
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## Appendix A: Tree Protection Plan

