

**HOGWOOD FARM, FINCHAMPSTEAD**

**HEDGEROW MITIGATION AND COMPENSATION STRATEGY – PARCELS 4 AND 5**

**Prepared for CALA Homes Thames Ltd**

**by**

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HDA Document Control and Quality Assurance Record

## **APPENDICES**

- A Phase 1 Habitat Survey and Target Notes
- B Proposed Habitat Connectivity Plans
- C Parcels 4 and 5 Indicative Ecological and Pedestrian Permeability Plan (JNP, 2024)

# **1 INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 Site location and summary description**

1.1.1 This report describes a Hedgerow Mitigation and Enhancement Strategy in relation to Parcels 4 and 5 of the development of approximately 110ha of land at Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead. The Parcels 4 and 5 development area comprises approximately 9ha of land, hereinafter referred to as 'the site'. The site centre is located by National Grid Reference SU 7653 6421. The study was commissioned by CALA Homes Thames Ltd in May 2024.

1.1.2 The Parcels 4 and 5 site is located to the north-west of the village of Finchampstead, Berkshire. In general terms, it comprises two fields supporting ruderal vegetation, bare ground, a small area of scrub and a hardstanding construction access track and compound area. The fields are bounded by areas of woodland, including ancient and aged woodland, in addition to native hedgerows with wet and dry ditches. The Parcels 4 and 5 site is bordered to the south by the existing Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) (delivered as part of the wider Hogwood Farm development); to the north by Parcels 2 and 3 of the development which are currently under construction; to the east by a future development parcel which currently comprises modified grassland and bare ground; and to the west by the A327 and Sheerlands Road, with ancient woodland and fields beyond. The location and boundary of the Parcels 4 and 5 site is shown in *Appendix A*.

1.1.3 The Parcels 4 and 5 site is part of a larger area covering a total of 110ha, hereinafter referred to as the 'wider site'. The wider site includes residential properties associated with Parcel 1 and a construction site associated with Parcel 2 in the north-west and a SANG in the south which comprises a mix of wetland, species-rich grassland, scrub and woodland habitats. In general terms, the western area of the wider site is comprised of three fields of disturbed ground dominated by short ruderal vegetation with scattered areas of tall ruderal vegetation and large spoil heaps bordered by mature trees and woodland with scrub field margins. The central and eastern areas of the site are comprised of areas of hardstanding and construction/disturbed ground bordered by mature treelines and woodland. The south-eastern areas of the site comprise two fields of semi-improved grassland fields intersected by a ditch with associated scrub and scattered trees. A species-rich hedgerow with trees adjacent to Park Lane is present along the southern boundary. Woodland shaws and copses are located in the northern, western and central areas of the site, including mixed, broadleaved and broadleaved plantation woodland types, some of which are included on Natural England's Inventory of Ancient Woodland. Wetland habitats within the site include drainage ditches and small streams associated with the field boundaries and several ponds in poor condition are located across the site. The wider site is bordered to the north by a construction site, the Bohunt School and the Hogwood Industrial Estate; to the east by Park Lane beyond which lie residential dwellings

and park homes; to the south by Park Lane and farmland; and to the west by A327 Reading Road and Sheerlands Road beyond which lie farmland and woodland. The wider area is dominated by agricultural land interspersed with woodland and residential properties.

- 1.1.4 Further information on the extent and composition of habitats, including hedgerows, across the Parcels 4 and 5 site and the wider site is provided in *Appendix A*.

## **1.2 Development proposals and context**

- 1.2.1 Planning permission (O/2014/2179 and 140764) was granted in January 2017 for a hybrid application. This comprises:

- Outline permission for demolition of all existing buildings on site; up to 1,500 new dwellings; employment floor space; a Neighbourhood Centre; a primary school; sports pitches and associated pavilion building; highways infrastructure; associated landscaping, public realm, open/green space and sustainable urban drainage systems; and
- Full permission for a 29.7ha Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) in the south of the site.

The hybrid planning permission was subsequently amended by a Section 73 application (181194) which was approved in November 2018.

## **1.3 Scope and purpose of report**

- 1.3.1 This Hedgerow Mitigation and Compensation Strategy has been prepared in response to the presence of native hedgerows within the Parcels 4 and 5 site and the wider site during the initial Phase 1 habitat survey (HDA, 2018).

- 1.3.2 Condition 23 of the outline planning permission states that:

*“Prior to or concurrent with the submission of a Reserved Matters application for any sub phase of the development, a detailed hedgerow mitigation and compensation strategy shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority for that sub phase of the development. Each detailed hedgerow mitigation and compensation strategy shall include the following:*

*(a) No loss of native species-rich hedgerows or other ecologically important hedgerows, unless necessary to facilitate the development and a package of mitigation and/or compensation is provided.*

*(b) Details of the buffer zones required to protect the retained important and/or species rich hedgerows, such buffer zones to be a minimum of 10m unless there are exceptional circumstances - The buffer zones required to protect the retained hedgerows should be free from any development including residential gardens.*

*(c) Details of measures to ensure that removal of any hedgerow does not adversely effect the ecological permeability of the site.*

*(d) A detailed method statement for the translocation of any important and/or species rich hedgerows to be removed as a result of the sub phase of the development, unless mitigation could be better achieved in ecological terms through new hedgerow creation.*

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

*(f) 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 plans unless otherwise agreed in writing by the local planning authority.*

- 1.3.3 In accordance with the requirements of Condition 23, this document provides a Hedgerow Mitigation and Compensation Strategy for Parcels 4 and 5. This has been produced to ensure that opportunities currently provided by hedgerows within the Parcels 4 and 5 site are maintained following development.

## 2 BASELINE CONDITIONS

- 2.1 The following hedgerows and other significant boundary features (e.g. treelines, woodland belts) currently associated with the Parcels 4 and 5 development site comprise the following. Numbers in brackets refer to target notes shown in *Appendix A*.

- **Northern site boundary and northern section of eastern site boundary (4):** Native defunct hedgerow with trees comprising a hedgerow of Field Maple, Hazel, Blackthorn and Ash, with Ash and Oak mature trees and a dry ditch below.
- **Southern section of the eastern site boundary (7):** Belt of 'aged' lowland mixed deciduous woodland comprised of Pedunculate Oak and coppiced Ash with Wild Cherry, Field Maple, Hazel, Hawthorn and Blackthorn. The ground layer includes Bramble, Cow Parsley, Ground Ivy, Germander Speedwell, Common Sorrel and Lords-and-ladies. A dry ditch is present along the western boundary of the parcel and a ditch, that was wet at the time of the survey, along the eastern boundary of the parcel. An approximately 6m wide section was previously cleared to facilitate the provision of a service corridor comprising a foul rising main and gravity sewer (HDA, 2021) under planning reference 211808 (discharge of conditions of planning consent 181194).
- **Western boundary (3):** A mixed woodland with species including Ash, Larch, Scots Pine, Beech, Pedunculate Oak and Black Poplar. The understorey is comprised of Elder, Hawthorn, Holly, Willow and Hazel. The ground layer is dominated by Bramble and Common Nettle with Bracken, Ground Ivy, Cleavers, Wood Avens, Herb Robert, White Bryony and Black Bindweed. Part of the central area of this woodland is listed on Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory;

this area is especially dominated by Larch and other introduced coniferous species. Sixteen trees were previously cleared to facilitate the provision of a temporary construction access and permanent emergency access (HDA, 2020) under planning reference 213645 (discharge of conditions of planning consent O/2014/2179 (as varied by s.73 planning permission 181194)).

- **Between Parcel 4 and 5 (6):** A treeline of mature Ash and Pedunculate Oak trees with relic species-rich hedgerow of Hazel, Holly, Field Maple, Hawthorn and Blackthorn beneath. The ground layer vegetation is sparse and mostly comprised of Bramble with occasional Cowslip and Creeping Thistle.
- **Southern site boundary (10):** Plantation lowland mixed deciduous woodland comprised of White Poplar, Pedunculate Oak, Ash and Field Maple. Understorey comprised of Holly, Dog Rose, Common Nettle, Cow Parsley, Cleavers, Curled Dock, Bramble and Ground Ivy. A dry ditch is present along the southern boundary of the wooded strip.

2.2 The location and further descriptions of each of the above hedgerows/linear features are provided by the Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan and Target Notes provided in *Appendix A*.

### 3 HEDGEROW MITIGATION AND COMPENSATION STRATEGY

#### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This section identifies the effects of the Parcels 4 and 5 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 Parcels 4 and 5 development.

#### 3.2 Hedgerow retention, loss and remediation

3.2.1 *Table 1* below identifies the extent to which hedgerows and other significant boundary features (e.g. treelines, woodland belts) associated with the Parcels 4 and 5 development area will be affected by the development works. Measures to off-set adverse effects on the Parcels 4 and 5 site hedgerow resource are also identified. Each hedgerow/linear feature is addressed in turn.

**Table 1:** Impacts on existing hedgerows and avoidance/mitigation measures

| <b>NORTHERN SITE BOUNDARY AND NORTERN SECTION OF EASTERN BOUNDARY</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Description:</b>                                                   | Native defunct hedgerow with trees. Hedgerow comprises of Field Maple, Hazel, Blackthorn and Ash, with Ash and Oak mature trees and a dry ditch below.                                                                        |
| <b>Impacts:</b>                                                       | The features associated with the northern site boundary will be retained and enhanced within the Parcels 4 and 5 development scheme. A single Field Maple and a group of mixed broadleaves (approximately 13m in length) will |

|                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                             | be removed from the centre of the eastern boundary <sup>1</sup> associated with widening of the existing access route.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Impact avoidance, reduction and mitigation measures:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A green buffer dominated by meadow grassland and scattered trees will be established along the length of the hedgerow on the southern and western side of the hedgerow within the Parcels 4 and 5 site. The buffer has a minimum width of approximately 1m but is generally 5-10m wide with a maximum width of 11m (CSA, 2024).</li> <li>• The retained hedgerow and woodlands will be protected during construction works in accordance with BS5837:2012 unless otherwise agreed with a suitably qualified arboriculturalist.</li> <li>• The retained hedgerow and trees would be subject to sensitive management to maximise its value to wildlife as described in the Parcels 4 and 5 LEMP (HDA, 2024a) and summarised in <i>Section 3.4</i> below.</li> </ul> |

| <b>SOUTHERN SECTION OF EASTERN BOUNDARY WOODLAND BELT AND DITCHES</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Description:</b>                                                   | A strip of aged broadleaved woodland bordered by two ditches is present along the eastern site boundary. Previous application for a service corridor resulted in a 6m section being cleared.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Impacts:</b>                                                       | <p>The woodland belt and ditch corridor will be retained and enhanced within the Parcels 4 and 5 development scheme.</p> <p>It will however be crossed by access infrastructure at one point for a footpath, this is associated with the area of previous clearance for the service corridor so no additional impacts are anticipated.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Impact avoidance, reduction and mitigation measures:</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A green buffer dominated by rough and meadow grassland habitats will be established along the length of the woodland belt. The buffer has a width of approximately 12-18m wide (CSA, 2024).</li> <li>• To reduce the impact of the access infrastructure, the proposed footpath through the woodland utilises an existing area of clearance associated with service corridor to result in no additional loss.</li> <li>• The retained woodland will be protected during construction works in accordance with BS5837:2012 unless otherwise agreed with a suitably qualified arboriculturalist.</li> <li>• The retained woodland would be subject to sensitive management to maximise its value to wildlife as described in the Parcels 4 and 5 LEMP (HDA, 2024a) and Ancient Woodland Mitigation Strategy (HDA, 2024b) and summarised in <i>Section 3.4</i> below.</li> </ul> |

| <b>WESTERN BOUNDARY</b>                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Description:</b>                                         | Mixed woodland belt with species including Ash, Larch, Scots Pine, Beech, Pedunculate Oak and Black Poplar. Includes an area of Ancient Woodland dominated by Larch and other introduced coniferous species.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Impacts:</b>                                             | <p>The woodland will be crossed by access infrastructure at one point for a road. This is located at an historic access point, which was subsequently widened to a temporary construction access and permanent emergency access (HDA, 2020). It is now proposed that this access route is changed to a permeant access route, which will require the removal of two trees (a Beech tree to the north of the existing construction track and a Holly tree to the south of the existing construction track)<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>The rest of the woodland will be retained, protected and enhanced within the Parcels 4 and 5 development scheme.</p> |
| <b>Impact avoidance, reduction and mitigation measures:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A green buffer dominated by rough and meadow grassland habitats will be established along the length of the woodland belt. The buffer has a width of approximately 15m (CSA, 2024).</li> <li>• To reduce the impact of the access infrastructure, the proposed permanent road through the woodland utilises an existing area of clearance associated with a historic track and subsequent temporary</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                            |

<sup>1</sup> Identified as removal of T332 and G56 in the Tree Survey and Arboricultural Impact Assessment (RPS, 2024).

<sup>2</sup> Identified as removal of T852 and T855 in the Tree Survey and Arboricultural Impact Assessment (RPS, 2024).

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p>construction access and permanent emergency access to result in highly limited additional loss.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The woodland will be protected during construction works in accordance with BS5837:2012 unless otherwise agreed with a suitably qualified arboriculturalist.</li> <li>• The retained woodland would be subject to sensitive management to maximise its value to wildlife as described in the Parcels 4 and 5 LEMP (HDA, 2024a) and Ancient Woodland Mitigation Strategy (HDA, 2023b) and summarised in <i>Section 3.4</i> below.</li> </ul> |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| <b>TREELINE THROUGH CENTRE OF THE SITE</b>                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Description:</b>                                         | Treeline of mature Ash and Pedunculate Oak trees with relic species-rich hedgerow of Hazel, Holly, Field Maple, Hawthorn and Blackthorn beneath. The ground layer vegetation is sparse and mostly comprised of Bramble with occasional Cowslip and Creeping Thistle.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Impacts:</b>                                             | <p>Three Leyland Cypress proposed to be removed from western end<sup>3</sup> for a footpath.</p> <p>An approximately 9m section of Hawthorn and Field Maple hedgerow to be removed from eastern end<sup>4</sup> to widen existing gap for a road.</p> <p>The remaining central section of the treeline/hedgerow through the centre of the Parcels 4 and 5 site will be retained and enhanced.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Impact avoidance, reduction and mitigation measures:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A green buffer either side of the treeline/hedgerow dominated by rough and meadow grassland habitats will be established along the length of the treeline/hedgerow. The buffer has a width of approximately 4-10m wide (CSA, 2024).</li> <li>• The retained treeline/hedgerow will be complemented by adjacent landscape planting including scrub and tree planting and creation of adjacent areas of rough and meadow grassland (CSA, 2024).</li> <li>• To reduce the impact of the access infrastructure, the proposed footpath and road utilise existing gaps within the treeline/hedgerow to reduce the loss required.</li> <li>• The retained treeline/hedgerow will be protected during construction works in accordance with BS5837:2012 unless otherwise agreed with a suitably qualified arboriculturalist.</li> <li>• The retained treeline/hedgerow and scrub planting would be subject to sensitive management to maximise its value to wildlife as described in the Parcels 4 and 5 LEMP (HDA, 2024a). The approach to treeline/hedgerow management is summarised in <i>Section 3.4</i> below.</li> </ul> |

| <b>WOODLAND ALONG SOUTHERN SITE BOUNDARY</b>                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Description:</b>                                         | Plantation lowland mixed deciduous woodland comprised of White Poplar, Pedunculate Oak, Ash and Field Maple. Understorey comprised of Holly, Dog Rose, Common Nettle, Cow Parsley, Cleavers, Curled Dock, Bramble and Ground Ivy. A dry ditch is present along the southern boundary of the wooded strip.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Impacts:</b>                                             | The section of woodland along the southern site boundary of the Parcels 4 and 5 site will be retained and enhanced.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Impact avoidance, reduction and mitigation measures:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A green buffer of approximately 4 to 8m wide will be established and the woodland will be complemented by adjacent landscape planting along the southern site boundary including tree and scrub planting and creation of adjacent areas of rough and meadow grassland (CSA, 2024).</li> <li>• The retained woodland will be protected during construction works in accordance with BS5837:2012 unless otherwise agreed with a suitably qualified arboriculturalist.</li> <li>• The existing woodland and proposed grassland, tree and scrub planting would be subject to sensitive management to maximise its value to wildlife</li> </ul> |

<sup>3</sup> Identified as G54 in the Tree Survey and Arboricultural Impact Assessment (RPS, 2024).

<sup>4</sup> Identified as H48 in the Tree Survey and Arboricultural Impact Assessment (RPS, 2024).

|  |                                                                                                                              |
|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | as described in the Parcels 4 and 5 LEMP (HDA, 2024a). The approach to management is summarised in <i>Section 3.4</i> below. |
|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

3.2.2 In total approximately 22m of hedgerow/groups of mixed broadleaves and 6 trees will be lost to the proposed Parcels 4 and 5 development.

3.2.3 In order to compensate for the loss of these sections of hedgerow and trees from Parcels 4 and 5, planting has been included within the soft landscape proposals for the Parcels 4 and 5 development area as described above and result in approximately 530m of scrub, treelines and hedgerow planting. Additional hedgerow planting (along with other linear habitats such as woodland and scrub) have been incorporated into the SANG and will be incorporated into future Phases of the development.

### 3.3 **Additional measures to ensure functional connectivity of retained hedgerows**

3.3.1 A Detailed Ecological Permeability Scheme has been prepared for the Parcels 4 and 5 development which describes measures to be incorporated into the hard and soft landscape to maintain continued functionality of the hedgerow network and other opportunities for the movement of wildlife across the Parcels 4 and 5 site, the wider site and the surrounding area. Measures detailed in the scheme, not already described above in relation to hedgerow retention and protection are summarised below. Full details can be found in the 'Detailed Ecological Permeability Scheme – Parcels 4 and 5' (HDA, 2024c):

#### *Lighting:*

3.3.2 The retained hedgerows/treelines and plantation woodland/ woodlands are located within 'lighting exclusion zones' and/or 'lighting restriction zones'. These areas will either be subject to no lighting or restricted lighting levels to ensure that the habitat remains suitable for use by nocturnal wildlife.

#### *Road crossing points:*

3.3.3 A number of measures will be included within the road system to: (i) reduce the likelihood of small animals entering the carriageway; and (ii) if in the event that small animals do enter the road system, that they can safely exit the carriageway. These include:

- Minimisation of the number of points at which hedgerows are crossed by roads.
- Locating road crossing points at existing gaps.
- Where possible crossing points approach hedgerow corridors perpendicularly to minimise loss of hedgerow habitat.
- To reduce the likelihood of small animals entering the carriageway, small tunnels (e.g. [www.aco.co.uk/products/climate-tunnel](http://www.aco.co.uk/products/climate-tunnel) or similar) will be installed flush with or below road/footpath surfaces to allow small animals to safely cross roads crossing through key hedgerows/linear features. The locations of the tunnels to

be provided are shown on the 'Parcels 4 and 5: Indicative Ecological and Pedestrian Permeability Plan' (JNP, 2024) provided in *Appendix C*.

- Dropped kerbs will be provided where hedgerows are crossed by roads to allow small animals crossing the road to easily exit the carriageway (see *Appendix C*).
- Where hedgerows are crossed by roads, the carriageway will be designed to minimise risk of small animals becoming trapped in gully pots. This will involve the use of a selection of the following measures at the locations shown in *Appendix C*:
  - Provision of wildlife kerbs to allow animals to bypass gully pots.
  - Offsetting of gully pots to provide a gap between the kerb and the gully pot.
  - Installation of gully pot ladders to allow animals to escape.

### **3.4 Hedgerow, woodland and scrub management**

3.4.1 In addition to the infilling of existing gaps, planting of new hedgerows to re-connect habitat corridors within the site and creation of new complementary habitats adjacent to the retained hedgerows and woodland, the 'Landscape and Ecological Management Plan – Parcels 4 and 5' (HDA, 2024a) identifies long-term management works which will be implemented to maintain and enhance the value of native hedgerows, woodland and scrub at the site for wildlife.

#### *Hedgerows*

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

- 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 areas of informal open space will be trimmed no more frequently than once every 2-3 years on a rotational cutting scheme. This will encourage bushier hedges and fruiting of hedgerow plants in addition to reducing maintenance costs.
- 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 management area will be trimmed within the same 12 months.

#### *Woodland and scrub*

3.4.3 These measures will apply to the existing woodland and new scrub 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 management area shall be reviewed each winter and techniques for scrub control, i.e. cutting back with or without stump treatment, will be implemented as and where deemed necessary. Such work will be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season.
- Where appropriate, once established scrub will be coppiced on a short rotation of approximately 5 years in order to prevent succession into woodland. No more than 20% of the scrub will be coppiced in any one year. Selected areas of scrub may be left to succeed to woodland where appropriate.

3.4.4 Full details of hedgerow, woodland and scrub management proposals are provided in the 'Landscape and Ecological Management Plan – Parcels 4 and 5' (HDA, 2024a).

## **4 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

4.1 The Parcels 4 and 5 development scheme will result in a net gain in hedgerow/treeline/scrub habitat associated with this part of the Hogwood Farm site. In addition, functional habitat connectivity across the residential area of the Parcels 4 and 5 site provided by the hedgerow resource would be maintained through implementation of the measures described in *Section 3* above, in combination with the provision of new landscape features within the development scheme. A holistic view of ecological permeability of the Parcels 4 and 5 development scheme is provided in the 'Detailed Ecological Permeability Scheme – Parcels 4 and 5' (HDA, 2024c).

4.2 In addition to the specific measures relating to the Parcels 4 and 5 development area, the emerging landscape scheme for the wider site, including the 29.7ha SANG, provide substantial opportunity to provide new areas connective habitat and habitat for species associated with hedgerows.

4.3 Notwithstanding this, where appropriate the detailed landscape schemes for future development phases should seek to retain existing hedgerows and include new sections species-rich hedgerows as boundary features and within areas of informal open space with the aim of achieving no net loss in hedgerow habitats across the development area.

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## HDA Document Control and Quality Assurance Record

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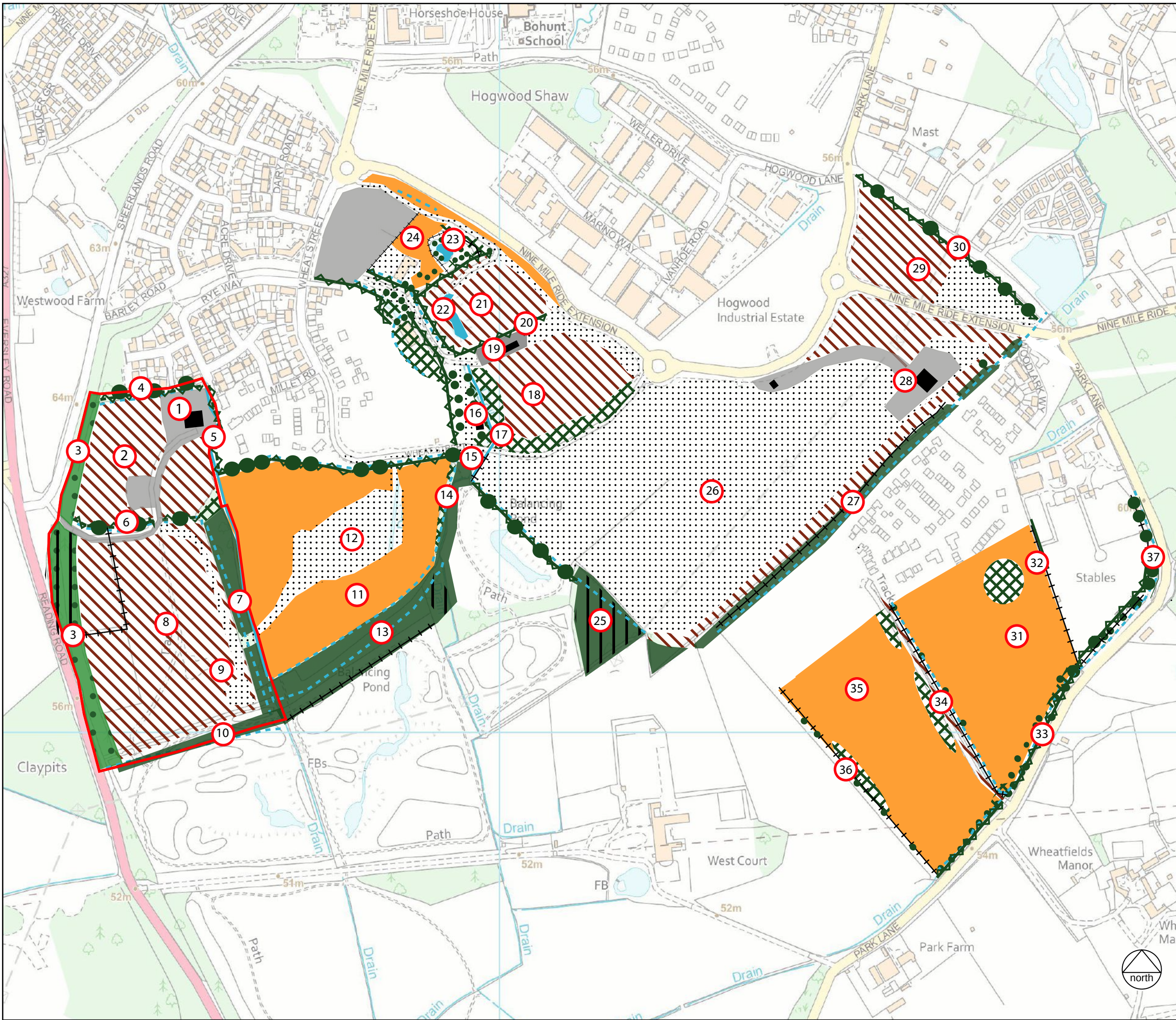
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## **APPENDIX A**

### **Phase 1 Habitat Survey and Target Notes**



- KEY**
- Parcels 4 and 5 boundary
  - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland - (w1f)
  - Other woodland - mixed - mainly broadleaved (w1h5)
  - Ancient Woodland
  - Scattered trees
  - Native hedgerow - (h2a)
  - Native hedgerow with trees - (h2a - 11)
  - Non-native and ornamental hedgerow - (h3b)
  - Mixed scrub - (h3h)
  - Ruderal - (81)
  - Developed land - sealed surface - (u1b)
  - Modified grassland - (g4)
  - Standing open water - (r1)
  - Wet ditch / Dry ditch - (50)
  - Bare ground - (510)
  - Buildings
  - Fence
  - Target notes

CLIENT:  
CALA Homes (Thames) Ltd

PROJECT:  
Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead

TITLE:  
Parcels 4 & 5 - Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan

SCALE AT A3:  
NTS

DATE:  
June 2024

868.1/89

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### **Target Notes – Arborfield**

1. Site yard comprised a hardstanding area with mobile cabins.
2. Relatively sparse ruderal vegetation dominated by Common Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Spear Thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, Common Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*, Bristly Oxtongue *Helminthotheca echinoides* and Common Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*. Small areas of scattered bare ground/ recently disturbed ground are present. Field margins vary between 1 – 5m and are more densely vegetation with the above species with the inclusion of Annual Meadow Grass *Poa annua*, Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*, Cleavers *Galium aparine*, Broad-leaved Dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, Cut Leaved Cranes Bill *Geranium dissectum*, Field Forget-me-not *Geranium dissectum* and Scarlett Pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis*.
3. Mixed woodland along the western boundary with species including Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Larch *Larix decidua*, Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris*, Beech *Fagus sylvatica*, Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur* and Black Poplar *Populus nigra*. Some of the trees are mature and have suitable bat roosting features. The understorey is comprised of Elder *Sambucus nigra*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Holly *Ilex aquifolium*, Willow *Salix Sp.* and Hazel *Corylus avellana*. The ground layer is dominated by Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and Common Nettle with Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, Cleavers, Wood Avens *Geum urbanum*, Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*, White Bryony *Bryonia dioica* and Black Bindweed *Fallopia convolvulus*. Part of the southern area of this woodland is listed on Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory; this area is especially dominated by Larch and other introduced coniferous species.
4. Native defunct hedgerow with trees comprising a hedgerow of Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Hazel, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and Ash, with Ash and Oak mature trees and a dry ditch below.
5. Newly created culvert with a small area of standing water.
6. Treeline of mature Ash and Pedunculate Oak trees with relic species rich hedgerow of Hazel, Holly, Field Maple, Hawthorn and Blackthorn. Some of the mature trees have the potential to support roosting bats. The ground layer vegetation is sparse and mostly comprised of Bramble with occasional Cowslip *Primula veris* and Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense*.
7. Lowland mixed deciduous woodland comprised of Pedunculate Oak and coppiced Ash with Wild Cherry *Prunus avium*, Field Maple, Hazel, Hawthorn and Blackthorn. Mature trees are present, some of which have features of bat roosting potential. The ground layer includes Bramble, Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, Ground Ivy, Germander Speedwell *Anthriscus sylvestris*, Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosa* and Lords-and-ladies *Arum maculatum*. A dry ditch is present along the western boundary of the parcel and a ditch that was wet at the time of the survey along the eastern boundary.
8. A field of ruderal vegetation of varying height from 10cm to 50cm in height dominated by Spear Thistle, Common Nettle and Perennial Ryegrass and White Clover *Trifolium repens* with the occasional Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Common

18. Ruderal vegetation comprised of Perennial Rye Grass, Spear Thistle, Common poppy *Papaver rhoeas*, Cocks Foot, Rosebay Willowherb *Chamerion angustifolium*, Annual Sow Thistle *Sonchus oleraceus*, Common Nettle, and Curled Dock.
19. Listed building with multiple features with bat roost potential including lifted roof tiles and cracks in the brickwork. Situated on an area of concrete hardstanding. Surrounded by scaffolding at the time of the survey.
20. Species-rich native hedgerow comprised of Hawthorn, Hazel, Blackthorn, English Elm and Ash.
21. Ruderal vegetation similar to TN 20 with the inclusion of Oxeye Daisy at high densities and occasional Red Campion *Silene dioica*.
22. A SUDS pond within a parcel of ruderal vegetation described in TN21. Sloping earth banks with occasional Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula*.
23. A shaded pond approximately 30cm in depth. Tussocks of Pendulous Sedge and patches of encroaching Bramble, Willow, Pedunculate Oak and Alder, border the edge of the pond. The pond area is enclosed by a chicken-wire fence.
24. Modified grassland with a short sward length of approximately 20cm in length comprised of Perennial Rye Grass, Cocks Foot, Red Fescue, Meadow Buttercup, Broadleaved Dock and Dandelion.
25. Lowland mixed deciduous woodland. Dominant species within the woodland include Ash, Pedunculate Oak and Alder with a Hawthorn and Field Maple understorey. The ground layer includes Bramble, Wood Aven, Herb Robert, Ground Ivy, and Hairy Brome *Bromopsis ramosa*. There are fallen wood and dead-wood piles throughout the woodland area and multiple trees with possible bat roosting potential. The woodland, in part, is listed on Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory.
26. Large parcel of bare ground with large spoil heaps. During the time of the survey, excavators were topping soil within the parcel. Field margins were sparsely vegetated with ruderal species including Bramble, Curly Dock, Spear Thistle, Ragwort and Common Nettle.
27. Lowland mixed deciduous woodland. A thin strip of broadleaved woodland plantation behind this comprised of Ash, Lombardy Poplar, Field Maple, White Willow, Grey Willow, Dogwood, Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Bramble with Common Ivy and Cleavers dominating the ground layer. Some of the trees have features of possible bat roosting potential. A ditch that had small pools of standing water is present along the southern side of the wooded strip.
28. Site compound on hardstanding area.
29. Short ruderal vegetation within the northern end of the parcel similar in species composition to TN18 with the inclusion of Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Timothy *Phleum pratense*, Musk Mallow *Malva moschata* and Bristly Oxtongue. Bare ground is present across the southern area of the parcel with small field margins

Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, Ragwort and Broad Leaved Dock and Cleavers. Small areas within the parcel are sparsely vegetated with areas of bare ground with occasional ruderal species mentioned above but include Scarlett Pimpernel and Bird Foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*.

9. A small depression of bare ground that had standing water at the time of the survey with occasional Yellow Flag Iris present.
10. Plantation lowland mixed deciduous woodland comprised of White Poplar, Pedunculate Oak, Ash and Field Maple. Mature trees are present, some of which have features of bat roosting potential. Understorey comprised of Holly, Dog Rose *Rosa canina*, Common Nettle, Cow Parsley, Cleavers, Curled Dock *Rumex crispus*, Bramble and Ground Ivy. A dry ditch is present along the boundary along the southern boundary of the wooded strip.
11. Species poor modified grassland of varying sward length between 5cm – 40cm comprised of Perennial Ryegrass, Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*, White Clover, Oxeye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, Creeping Buttercup with occasional Broad Leaved Dock, Dandelion and Scarlett Pimpernel. Field margins are approximately 4-6m wide and are comprised of Common Nettle, Spear Thistle, Common Vetch *Vicia sativa* and Cow Parsley.
12. Area of bare ground used for storage of construction materials.
13. Lowland mixed deciduous woodland comprised of Pedunculate Oak standards and coppiced Ash with Wild Cherry *Prunus avium*, White Poplar, Field Maple, Hazel, Willow, English Elm *Ulmus procera*, Holly, Hawthorn and Blackthorn. Mature trees are present, some of which have features of bat roosting potential. The ground layer includes Bramble, Wood Avens *Geum urbanum*, Herb Robert, Common Ivy, Wood Spurge *Euphorbia amygdaloides*, Violet *Viola sp.*, Greater Stitchwort *Stellaria holostea*, Common Nettle, Remote Sedge *Carex remota*, False Brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum* and Butcher's Broom *Ruscus aculeatus* present. Standing and fallen dead wood is present throughout the woodland area. The woodland becomes increasingly wet to the west where Willow becomes dominant and dry ditches border most of the woodland edges, a further dry ditch running centrally through the southern area of woodland is also present. The eastern area of this woodland is listed on Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory; here the dominant tree species is White Poplar in the south and Pedunculate Oak in the north. This area is demarcated in its western boundary by a small woodbank.
14. Mixed Scrub comprised of Bramble, Blackthorn, Dog Rose and Pendulate Oak samplings over a dry ditch.
15. [REDACTED]
16. A wooden bat barn set between treelines of Pendulate Oak, Ash and Hazel.
17. Mixed scrub comprised of Bramble, Elder and Holly with large amounts of deadwood above a steep-sided wet ditch. Towards the eastern end of the scrub parcel, Elder becomes the dominant species with the inclusion of ruderals in the ground layer including Common Nettle, Spear Thistle, Cleaver and Broad Leaved Dock.

approximately 1m in width comprised of similar short ruderal species as the northern area.

30. A dense, intact, species-rich native hedgerow with trees comprising Pedunculate Oak, Beech, Ash, Goat Willow *Salix caprea*, Black Poplar *Populus nigra*, Field Maple, Dogwood, Hazel, Holly, Bramble and Common Broom *Sarothamnus scoparius*. The hedgerow is approximately 15 years old and tree guards are present on some individual plantings with some mature trees present along the roadside, especially within the southern section of the hedgerow.
31. Modified grassland with species including Yorkshire Fog, Perennial Rye-grass, False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Cock's Foot, Red Fescue, Common Bent, Creeping Buttercup, White Clover, Doves-foot Cranesbill *Geranium molle*, Common Vetch, Common Mouse-ear *Cerastium fontanum*, Scentless Mayweed *Tripleurospermum inodorum*, Creeping Thistle, Spear Thistle, Common Sorrel, Ragwort, Greater Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, Cleavers, Broad-leaved Dock, Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, Forget-me-not sp., Fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica* and Self-Heal *Prunella vulgaris*. Along the treeline to the south, Hemp Nettle *Galeopsis tetrahit*, Lady's Thumb *Persicaria maculosa*, Scentless Mayweed, Prickly Sow-Thistle and Clustered Dock with wet flushes of Sedge and Soft Rush. There are two soil bunds/soil storage piles with tall ruderals dominated by Spear Thistle, Common Nettle, Broadleaved Dock and Smooth Hawksbeard *Crepis capillaris* with large patches of scrub within the grassland with species including Bramble, Elder, Silver Birch and Dog-rose with Common Nettle. There are also piles of deadwood near and within the scrub.
32. Non-native and ornamental species-poor hedgerow comprising Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*, Leylandii Cypress *Cupressus x leylandii* and Elder, broken by Bramble scrub on the north-eastern edge of the grassland field (TN 31). To the south of the hedgerow, continuing along the field boundary is a wooden post and electric wire fence which is overgrown with tall grasses and ruderal vegetation.
33. An outgrown, defunct native species-rich hedgerow with trees adjacent to Park Lane, with a dry ditch below. Species within the hedgerow include Pedunculate Oak, Black Poplar, Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), Holly, Grey Willow, Blackthorn, Bracken and Bramble. A treeline of Pedunculate Oak is present approximately 5m into the field from the hedgerow.
34. A ditch that was dry at the time of survey with scattered Bramble scrub and trees including Willow and Pedunculate Oak, some of which have possible bat roosting potential. Behind the ditch is a fence and a dirt track, used as an access route into the site. A scrub line is present along the eastern side of the track and is 1-2m wide comprised of Grey Willow, Dog Rose, Oak and Bramble scrub. Track supports ephemeral vegetation including Scentless Mayweed, Cocks Foot, Smooth Hawksbeard, Common Yarrow, Hawthorn saplings, Common Bent and Spear Thistle.
35. Modified grassland field with a similar species composition to Target Note 31, with more Bent dominant in the north and False Oatgrass and Fescue sp. dominated to the south. Occasional species include Greater Plantain, Ribwort Plantain, Greater Birds-foot Trefoil, Common Hogweed, Cleavers, Meadow Vetchling, Mouse-ear, Common Vetch, Common Fleabane, Creeping Buttercup, Red Fescue and Soft Rush.

Bramble scrub is present along many of the field boundaries, with Common Nettle also present. A wet flush is present within the west of the field and contains Common Horsetail, Common Nettle, Sow Thistle, Soft Rush and occasional Hemp Nettle.

36. Scattered semi-mature trees and scattered areas of dense scrub along fence line. Species present include Oak, Ash, Blackthorn, Dog Rose, Bramble and Common Nettle.
37. A line of scrub and trees with a dry ditch bordering Park Lane.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Proposed Habitat Connectivity Plans**



- KEY**
-  Parcels 4 and 5 boundary
  -  Proposed Hedgehog access points (indicative)

CLIENT:  
**CALA Homes (Thames) Ltd**

PROJECT:  
**Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead**

TITLE:  
**Parcels 4 & 5 - Proposed Bird Nesting Features**

SCALE AT A3: NTS

DATE:  
**November 2024**

868.1/93a

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**Landscape Architecture  
 Masterplanning  
 Ecology**

**hda**



**KEY**

Parcels 4 and 5 boundary

★

Bat roosting opportunities on new buildings (indicative)



CLIENT:  
**CALA Homes (Thames) Ltd**

PROJECT:  
**Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead**

TITLE:  
**Parcels 4 & 5 - Proposed Bat Roosting Features**

SCALE AT A3:  
**NTS**

DATE:  
**November 2024**

868.1/91a

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**Landscape Architecture**

**Masterplanning**

**Ecology**

**hda**



**KEY**

 Parcels 4 and 5 boundary

 New opportunity for nesting birds provided on new buildings (indicative)

CLIENT:  
**CALA Homes (Thames) Ltd**

PROJECT:  
**Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead**

TITLE:  
**Parcels 4 & 5 - Proposed Bird Nesting Features**

SCALE AT A3: NTS

DATE:  
**November 2024**

868.1/92a

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Ecology**

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- KEY**
-  Parcels 4 and 5 boundary
  -  Proposed bat box location\*
  -  Proposed bird box location\*

\* Position indicative

CLIENT:  
**CALA Homes Thames Ltd**

PROJECT:  
**Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead**

TITLE:  
**Parcels 4 & 5 Landscape Proposals and Bat and Bird Mitigation**

SCALE AT A3:  
**NTS**

DATE:  
**November 2024**

868.1/94a

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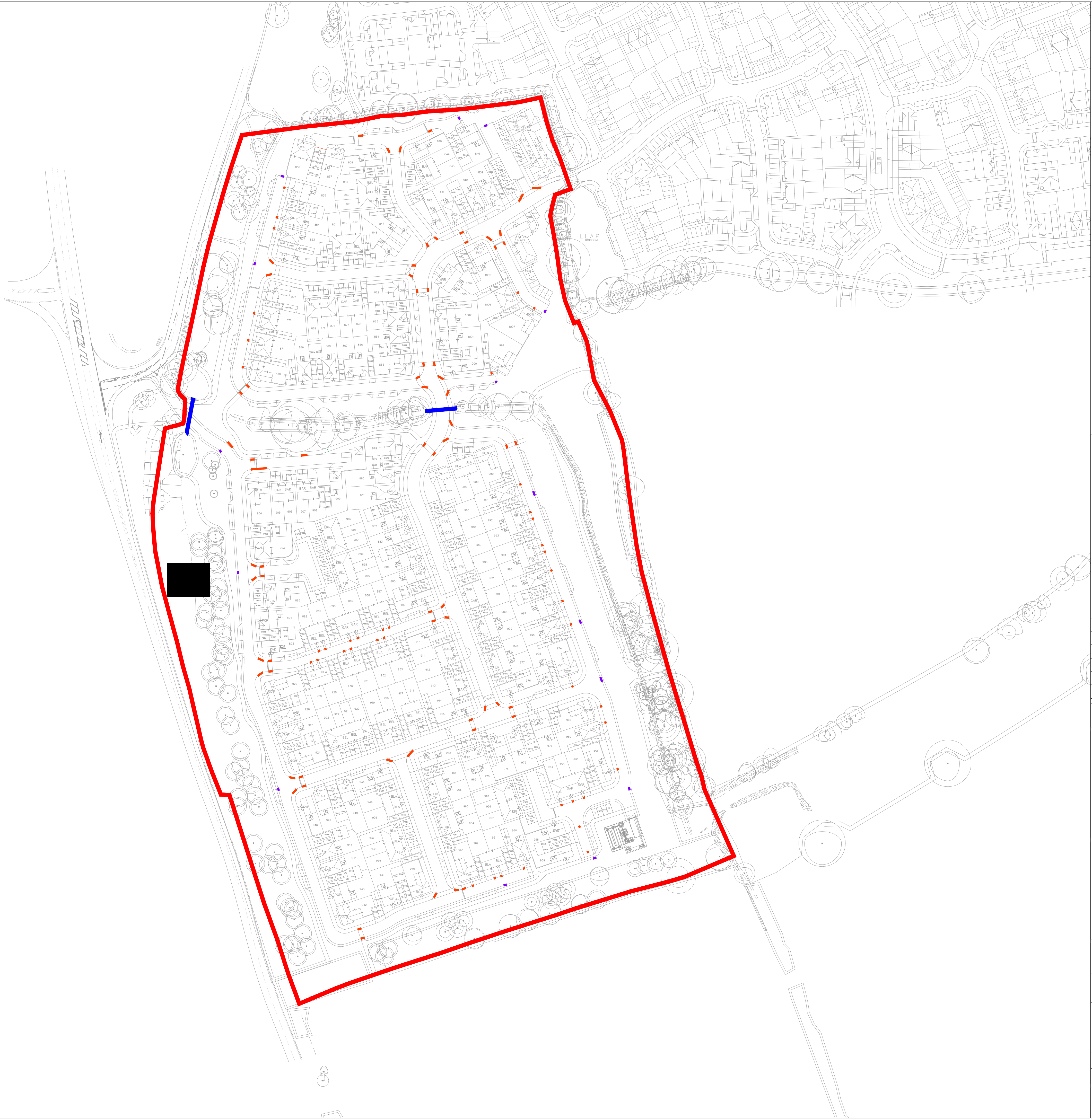
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## **APPENDIX C**

### **Parcels 4 and 5 Indicative Ecological and Pedestrian Permeability Plan (JNP, 2024)**



General Notes

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- Any discrepancies between drawings of different scales, and between drawings and specification where appropriate to be notified to JNP Group for decision.
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LEGEND:

- Dropped Kerb (Pedestrian/Cycle Use + Access to Refuse V.C.P)
- Dropped Kerb (Ecological Use)
- Mammal Tunnel
- Wildlife Corridor Features

Notes:

- Dropped kerbs for pedestrian/cyclist use may also benefit ecology.
- Pedestrian/cyclist dropped kerbs to be accompanied with tactile paving to WBC specification.
- Ecology to further benefit from dropped kerbs applied to vehicle crossovers serving individual parking spaces that are not detailed on this plan.
- Shared surfaces also apply to private drives not detailed.
- All kerbing types remain subject to detailed design and approval with WBC.

|      |            |              |                         |
|------|------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| P04  | 11/11/2024 | Fourth Issue | EEK/MKM                 |
| P03  | 05/07/2024 | Third Issue  | MD/ELKM                 |
| P02  | 02/07/2024 | Second Issue | MD/ELKM                 |
| P01  | 25/06/2024 | First Issue  | EL/KMKM                 |
| Rev. | Date       | Description  | Drawn / Checked / App'd |

Subsidiary:

S2 - Suitable for Information

Client Logo:



|         |                                         |
|---------|-----------------------------------------|
| Client: | CALA Homes                              |
| Job:    | Hogwood Farm Parcels 4 & 5              |
| Title:  | Indicative Ecological Permeability Plan |

|                 |          |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------|----------|--|--|--|--|
| Classification: | FL_60_20 |  |  |  |  |
| Scale @ A1:     | 1:1000   |  |  |  |  |

|                                                                                    |          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Project - Originator - Volume/System - Level/Location - Type - Discipline - Number | Revision |
| C86557 - JNP - 66 -XX- DR - T - 7016                                               | P04      |
| Document/Drawing Number                                                            |          |