Ecological Design Strategy

Yew Tree Road, Birchencliffe (East)

Newett Homes

Report Reference: ER-5871-02A

20/03/2025

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Date:	Revision A—20/03/2025

The information which we have prepared and provided is true and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the CIEEM's Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions. This report does not constitute legal advice.

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Introduction

The following Ecological Design Strategy ('the Plan') has been produced for Newett Homes to aid in the discharge of a conditions attached to the granted Outline Planning Permission (2018/90776) at Yew Tree Road, Birchencliffe, Huddersfield, HD2 2EQ.

The Plan is produced in accordance with Chapter 11 of British Standard 42020.

Background Information

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report was produced by Brooks Ecological in December 2017, to support an Outline Planning Application.

At this time the Site was occupied by species-poor grazing pasture; scattered with emerging scrub. It was concluded that the Site was unlikely to support, or be important to any protected or notable species. Furthermore, it is not well linked to any designated Site's or areas of otherwise important habitat. Additional survey is not required in support of these conclusions.

Effort should be made to retain the oak to the north and mature sycamore to the south. Despite this, given the limited ecological value of tree and hedge stock currently on Site, any loss could easily be compensated for through new native species planting elsewhere on Site.

The following recommendations were put forward, in an effort to deliver ecological enhancements.

- Provision of species rich, native hedges around the Site's boundary will provide areas of habitat and food sources for local wildlife. Hedges should include at least 6 native woody species and be planted in double, staggered rows.
- Any development could seek to incorporate artificial faunal habitat such as bat and bird boxes. These can be easily and inexpensively incorporated into the fabric of any buildings constructed on Site without creating conflict with its occupants.

Scope of Plan

This plan relates only to land within the Site's Red Line Boundary (RLB); see figure opposite.

Delivering the Plan

The Developer is responsible for the creation and establishment works for a five-year period.

After year five, this plan will be the responsibility of a Site Management Company whence it will be implemented in perpetuity.

Site Location

Typical view of the sites grassland

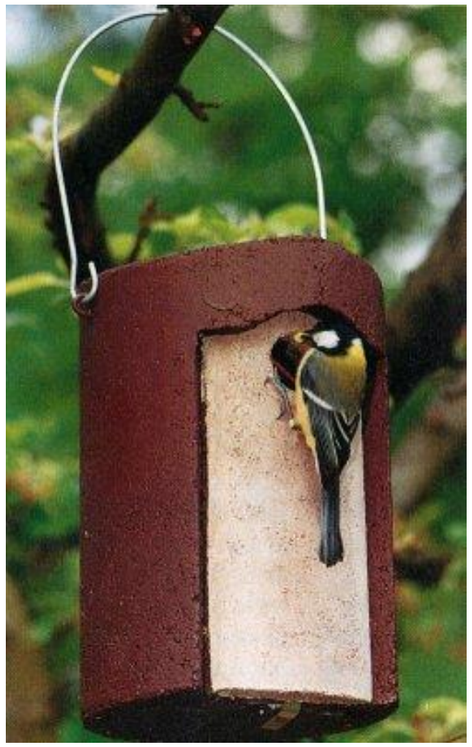
Opportunities and Themes

Diverse Hedgerows

Creating diverse, species-rich hedgerows provides a source of food and shelter for a wide range of faunal groups, including birds and invertebrates.

Food and cover for wintering birds

Birds on passage are often attracted to dense cover where they can recuperate away from predators. Landscaping can include areas which will allow for the creation and long term maintenance of thickets which will also provide winter food sources (berries).



Homes for declining birds & bats

New builds often fail to provide opportunities for nesting birds and roosting bats, with the eaves and verges being well sealed.

A wide range of designs are now available on the market which can either be fixed to the masonry, or built discretely into the fabric of new walls.

Maintaining connectivity for Hedgehog

Hedgehog have seen significant declines over the last few decades, with one of the major factors being habitat loss and fragmentation. Gardens provide excellent hedgehog habitat and by simply providing a means of access into these, new gardens can very quickly once again become home to this enigmatic species.

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Shrub planting

(planting)

Rationale

New scrub planting and management of existing habitat to create a diverse ecotone habitat between woodland and development.

Specification

Soil N/A.

Weeds: No herbicide to be used. Strim and rake out planting stations in areas to be gapped up immediately prior to planting

Seeding: *N/A*

Planting: Ornamental shrub and herbaceous planting; to be detailed in the Landscape Masterplan.

A preference will be made for species with a recognizable value to wildlife, i.e. nectar/ pollen rich, long flowering period, bearing seeds, nuts, berries or fruit. Examples for differing soil conditions are provided below.

Ornalmental planting

Shrubs

Number	Abbreviation	Species	Specification	Density
5 -	LAVANHI	Lavandula angustifolia 'Hidcote'	Bushy :C	4/m²

Prairie mix 1

Number	Species	Height	Pot Size	Specification	Density	Percentage Contribution
2 -	Aster macrophyllus		3L	C	4/m²	3%
6 -	Calamagrostis brachytricha		3L	Full Pot	5/m²	10%
2 -	Digitalis ferrunginea		3L	C	5/m²	3%
3 -	Echinacea purpurea		3L	C	5/m²	5%
5 -	Eragrostis curvula		3L	Full Pot	4/m²	10%
2 -	Eupatorium cannabinum		3L	C	4/m²	3%
2 -	Filipendula ulmaria 'Variegata'		3L	C	4/m²	3%
3 -	Hemerocallis lilioasphodelus		3L	C	4/m²	5%
4 -	Miscanthus sinensis 'Kleine Fontane'		3L	Full Pot	3/m²	10%
5 -	Molinia caerulea arundinacea 'Transparent'		3L	Full Pot	4/m²	10%
2 -	Monarda 'Prairie Night'		3L	C	4/m²	3%
5 -	Panicum virgatum 'Heavy Metal'		3L	Full Pot	4/m²	10%
5 -	Pennisetum alopecuroides		3L	Full Pot	4/m²	10%
3 -	Rudbeckia laciniata		3L	C	5/m²	5%
4 -	Stipa calamagrostis		3L	Full Pot	3/m²	10%
Total :53 -						

Shade Mix 1

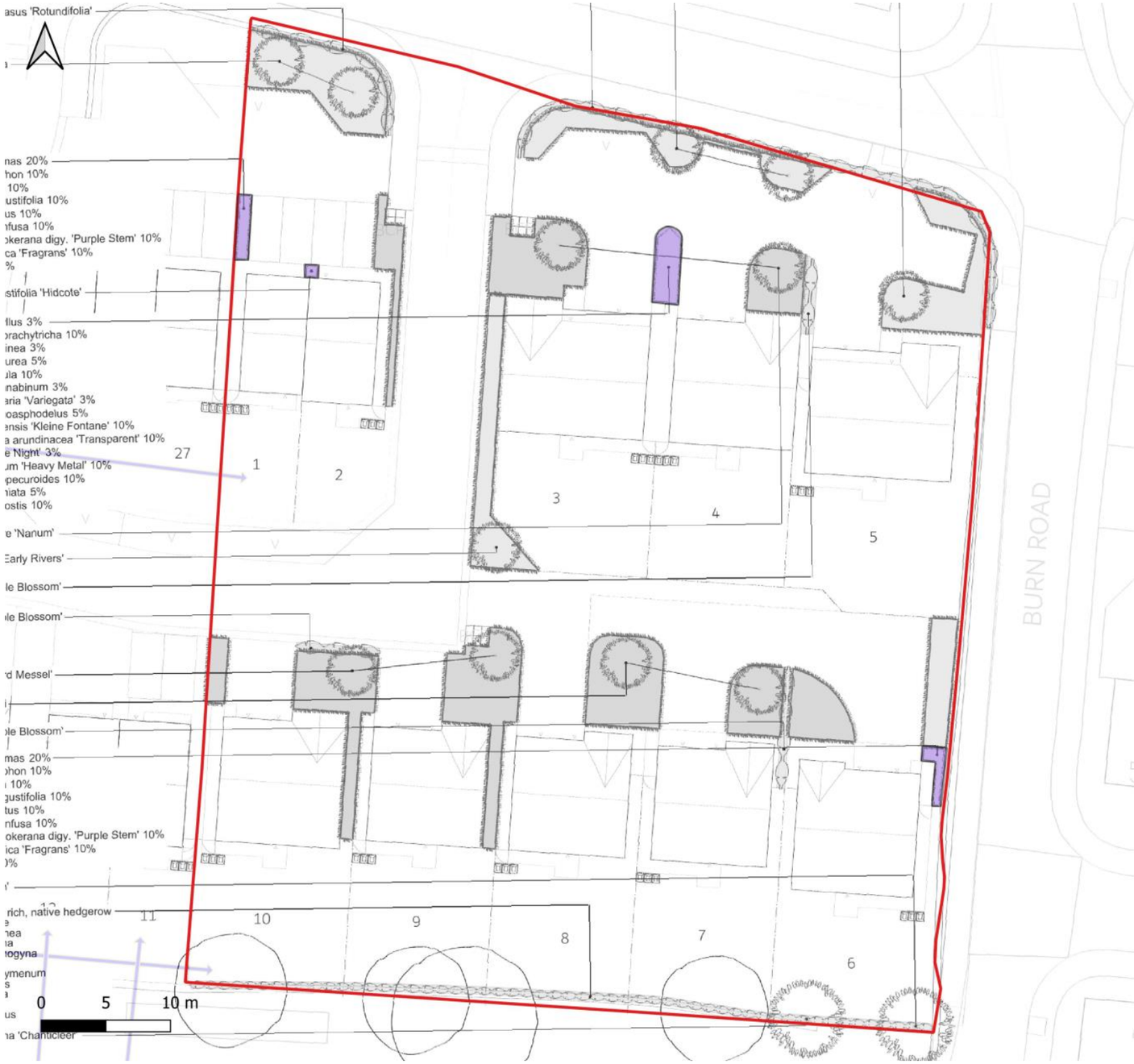
Number	Species	Height	Pot Size	Specification	Density	Percentage Contribution
9 -	Dryopteris filix-mas		3L	Full Pot	4/m²	20%
5 -	Hebe brachysiphon	30-40cm	3L	C	4/m²	10%
5 -	Hebe ochracea	30-40cm	3L	C	4/m²	10%
5 -	Pulmonaria angustifolia		3L	C	4/m²	10%
5 -	Ruscus aculeatus	30-40cm	3L	C	4/m²	10%
5 -	Sarcococca confusa	30-40cm	3L	C	4/m²	10%
5 -	Sarcococca hookerana digy. 'Purple Stem'	30-40cm	3L	C	4/m²	10%
5 -	Skimmia japonica 'Fragrans'	30-40cm	3L	C	4/m²	10%
5 -	Vinca minor	30-40cm	3L	C	4/m²	10%
Total :49 -						

Management

Standard Landscape establishment and management works.

Monitoring

Not required. Much of this habitat will be within private ownership.



Wildflower grassland

Rationale

Areas otherwise specified as amenity 'lawns' will be seeded with mixtures that include flowering plants to benefit invertebrates and in turn, larger fauna that will prey upon these.

Specification

Preparation

The areas marked for grassland creation are located on former farmland. To reduce nutrient levels and maximise the chances of target grassland communities establishing, no more than 5cm of topsoil will be spread over the subsoil profile in these areas. This will be loose tipped and spread with back actor to avoid compaction, and harrowed to a fine tilth ready for seeding.

Seeding

Emorsgate Seeds mix EM2—Standard Meadow Mix will be sown in the areas indicated opposite.

Seeds will be sown according to supplier's instructions. If soils have been spread before September, any weed growth that has established in the meantime will be sprayed off with glyphosate and a seedbed be re-prepared.

Seed will either be broadcast by hand or by approved lightweight machinery at c. 40Kg /Ha. Following seeding the area will be lightly rolled to incorporate the seed with the growing substrate.

Management

Year 1

Five cuts, collect arisings and remove from site. Use a weed wipe three times in year 1 to kill off weeds - Spear thistle, creeping thistle, broad-leaved dock, clustered dock, wood dock, curled dock, nettle, ragwort and others according to ECoW recommendations. Operative must be proven competent in identifying these in their early stages to prevent killing off sown wildflowers.

Year two onwards

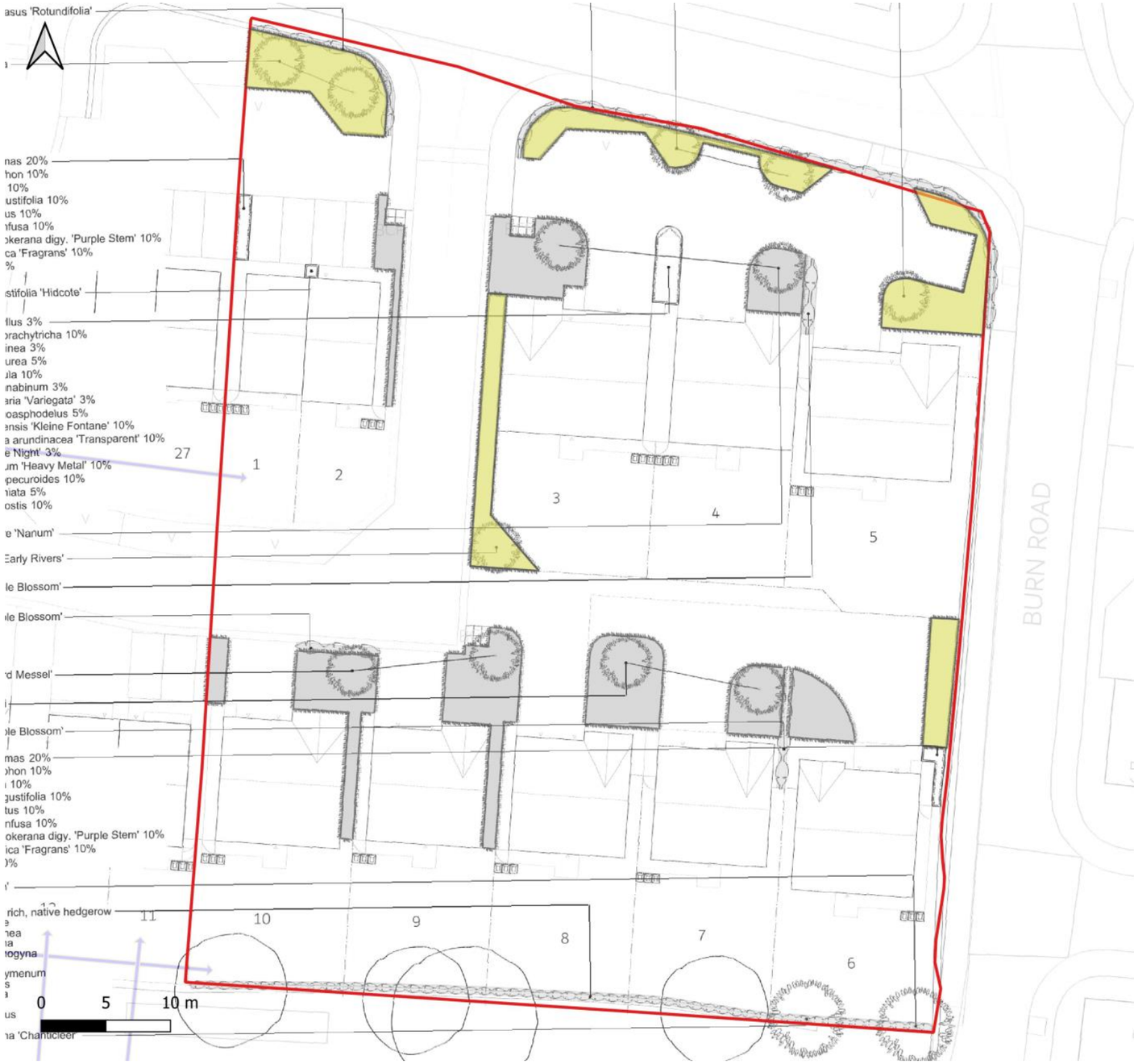
annual cut in late August/ early September. Arising collected and removed from Site.

Monitoring

Year 2 & 5 Ecologist survey to record relative cover values according to objectives.

Remedial actions

Localised weed control or over sowing with wildflower seed under the instructions of the ECoW.



Bird boxes

Rationale

Ready made nesting boxes can be incorporated into developments to provide shelter and breeding sites of declining garden birds, such as swift and house sparrow.

Specification

Box Type	No.	Plan ref.
Mansthorpe swift box	12*	Orange dots

Although designed to attract swift, Mansthorpe boxes have been shown to also be used by house sparrow.

Location Notes

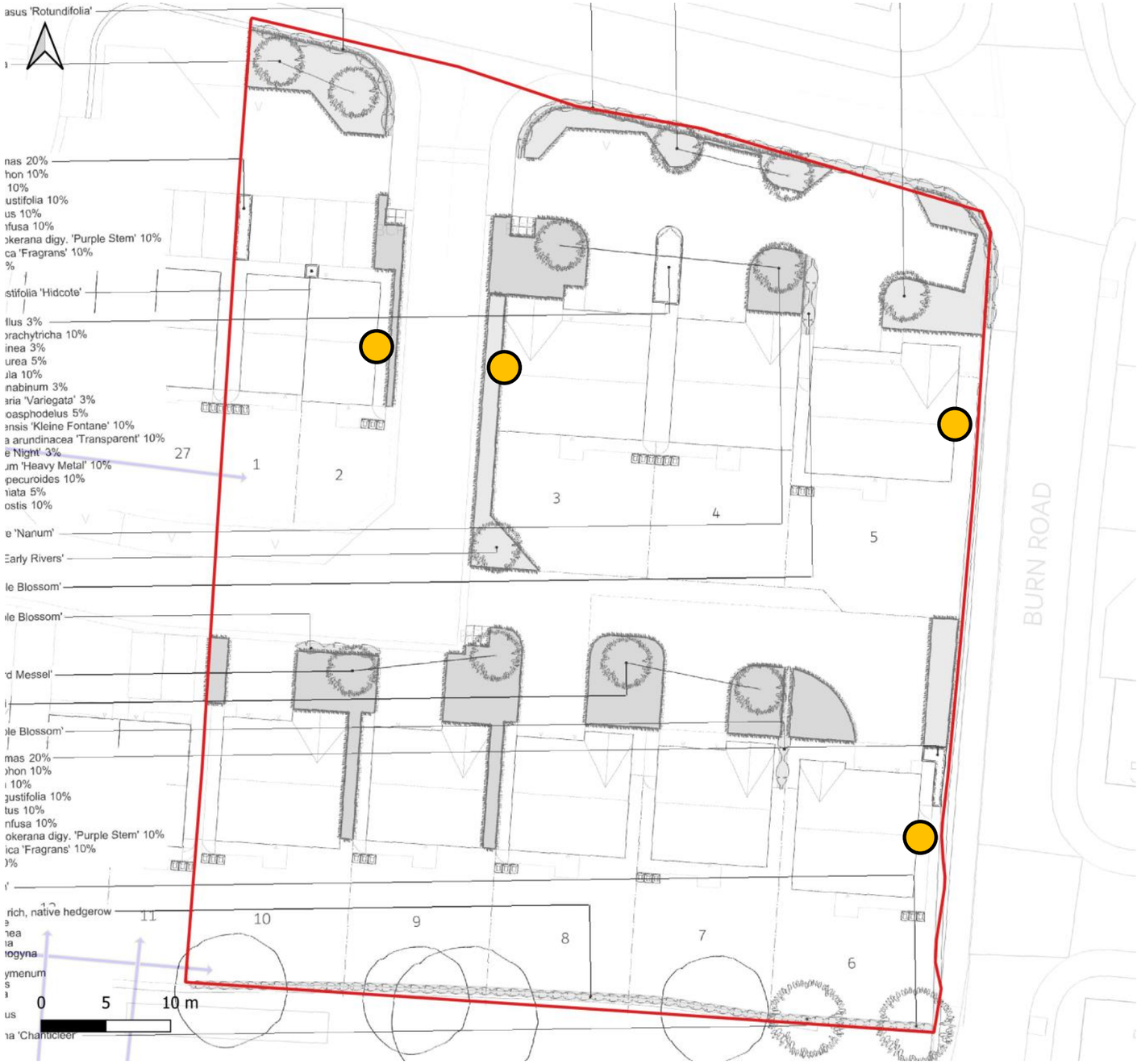
* Installed in groups of 3 boxes. 1 dot on the plan opposite denotes 3 boxes on that elevation.

Sited as high as possible on new build, ideally directly below the eaves or verges.

Boxes will not be positioned directly above windows, to prevent potential conflict with new homeowners.

Installed

During construction.



Bat boxes

Rationale

Ready made roosting boxes can be incorporated into developments to provide shelter and breeding sites of crevice dwelling bats, such as pipistrelles.

Specification

Box Type	No.	Plan ref.
Integrated Eco Bat Box	5	Blue dots

Location Notes

Sited as high as possible on new build, ideally directly below the eaves or verges.

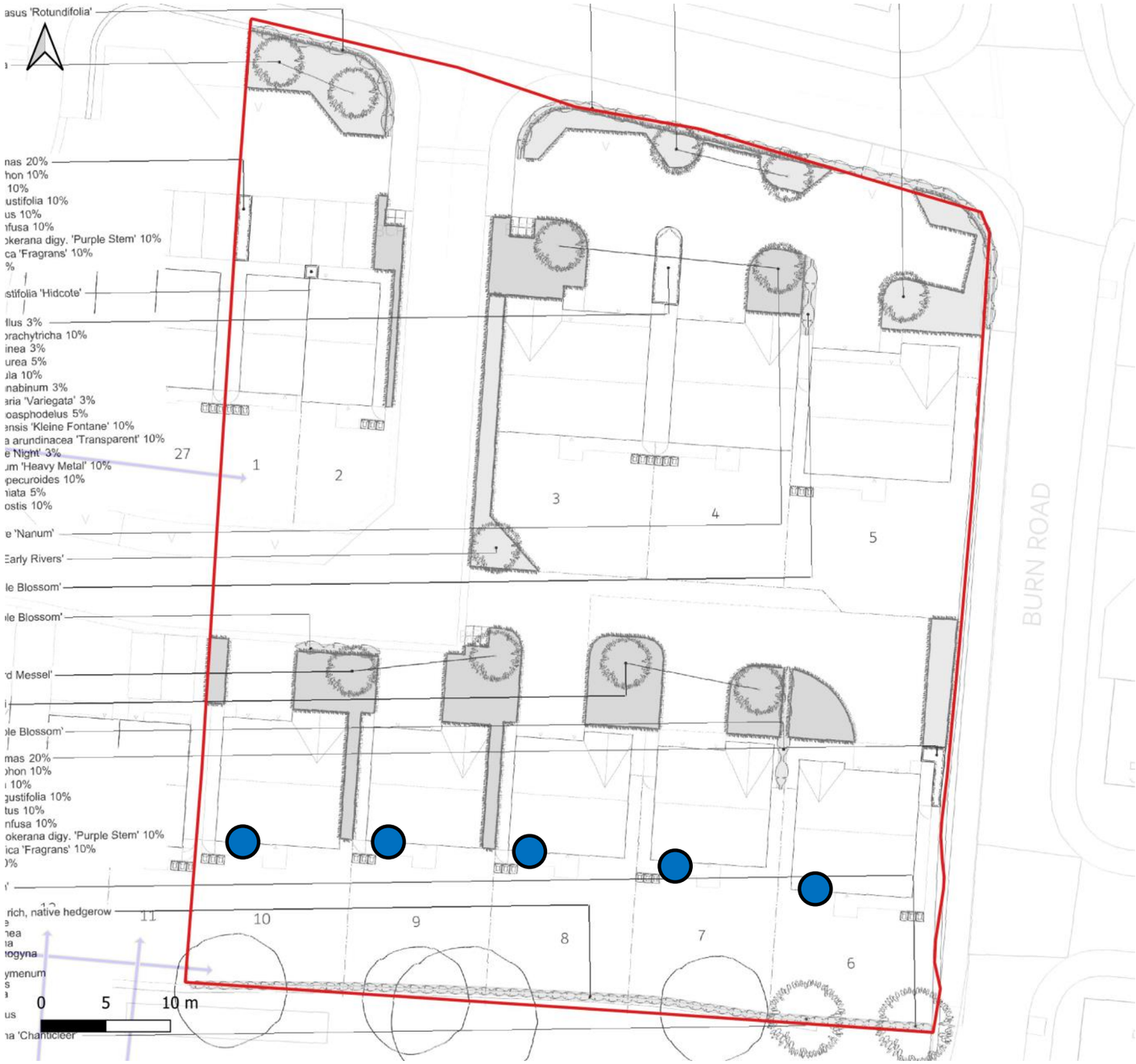
Boxes will not be positioned directly above windows, to prevent potential conflict with new homeowners.

A range of elevations have been selected, so as to provide a variety of potential roost environments.

Where possible, boxes have been positioned so as to face onto retained boundary hedgerows or new rear gardens. This fronts them onto favourable habitat and enables boxes to be discrete. Front elevations, or elevations fronting onto new roads have been avoided, to avoid illumination from street lights.

Installed

During construction.



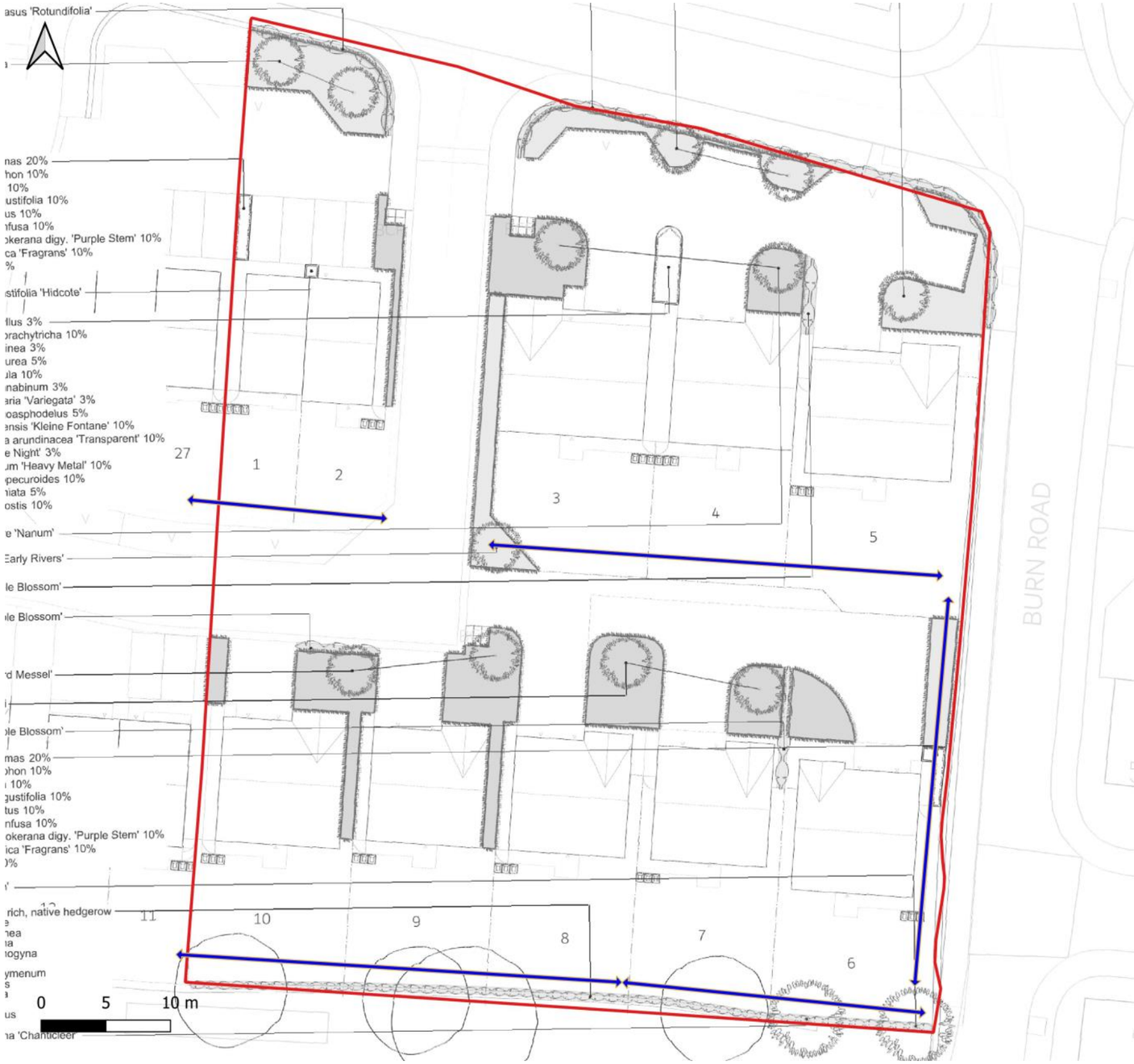
Hedgehog Provision

Rationale

Hedgehog have seen significant declines over the last few decades, with one of the major factors being loss of habitat. This species is listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006) as a 'Species of Principle Importance'. New gardens provide excellent hedgehog habitat and whereas previously, these gardens were accessible to this species by virtue of hedgerow planting, a shift in industry practice to hard borders (fences and walls) has inadvertently excluded hedgehog from this extensive foraging resource. Simply providing a means of access into and between these new gardens can very easily and cheaply increase the amount of habitat available to hedgehog.

Hedgehog access holes

At least one hedgehog access hole (measuring at least **13cm x 13cm**) will be installed in each new fence line along the line of the blue arrow shown in the figure opposite.

This will be done by contractors during the fence's installation. These will be either purpose made panels such as those supplied by Jackson Fencing or be cut into standard fences, by contractors, during installation. Where concrete gravel boards are used, either purpose built ramps to access holes in the fence panels or underpasses beneath the boards will be made.

All holes will be simply labelled 'Hedgehog Highway' (see photos below) so home owners know why there are there. This will reduce the risk of holes being sealed.