



FUTURESECOLOGY

Connah Construction

Ashbrow Road, Huddersfield

Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA)

Report Reference Number: FE198/BIA01

October 2022

Futures Ecology Ltd

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1.0 **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The following report has been prepared by Futures Ecology Ltd. on behalf of Connah Construction. This summary report presents the results of the Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) calculations using the Natural England Biodiversity Metric 3.1 (BM) Calculation Tool produced in respect of application 2022/90852 at 41, Ashbrow Road, Fartown, Huddersfield, HD2 1DX.

SITE LOCATION AND CONTEXT

- 1.2 The Site was 0.57ha in extent and located to the south of Ashbrow Road, comprising a mosaic of ornamental planting, scrub, grassland, scattered scrub, mature trees and hardstanding. Shrub hedgerows bordered the site to the north, east and south. An existing charitable retreat is located in the north of the Site, which will be retained within the proposals. The Site backed onto residential properties to the east, south and west, with Ashbrow Road bordering the northern site boundary.
- 1.3 The majority of the Site is mapped as Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network (WHN) and therefore the Local Authority have requested that a Biodiversity Impact Assessment using the Natural England BM 3.1 is undertaken.

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

- 1.4 Erection of a mixed-use development of a new retreat building and 5 dwelling houses with integral garages.

2.0 **METHODOLOGY**

FIELD SURVEY – HABITATS

Habitat Assessment & Biodiversity Net Gain

- 2.1 A Phase 1 Habitat Survey of the main application Site was completed on the 9th June 2022 to assess the habitats present on site and to fully inform the Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) using the Natural England Biodiversity Metric 3.1. This information was used to:
- Adequately map the onsite habitats to inform the BIA; and
 - Undertake habitat condition assessments as per those outlined within The Biodiversity Metric 3.1 Technical Supplement¹.

Extended Phase 1 Survey

- 2.2 Survey methodology followed guidance from Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) 2016² comprising a walkover of the survey area mapping (using JNCC standard

¹ Natural England Joint Publication JP039, The biodiversity metric 3.1: auditing and accounting for biodiversity Condition assessment sheets (Excel format).

² JNCC (2016) *Handbook for Phase1 Habitat Survey – a technique for environmental audit*. ISBN 0 86139 636 7

habitat codes) and broadly describing and classifying the principal habitat types and other features of interest.

UK Hab

- 2.3 A summary of the habitats present on site is provided within the report including UK Hab equivalent habitats for the purpose of the Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA).

BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (BIA)

- 2.4 To quantify deliverable net gain for the application, the baseline value of the habitats within the site have been calculated utilising the Natural England Biodiversity Metric 3.1.

Survey Limitations

- 2.5 The Phase 1 Habitat survey was undertaken during the optimal survey season (May – September) and as such no limitations of the current condition of the Site are expected.

3.0 BASELINE ECOLOGY

- 3.1 A plan showing the baseline habitats for the on-site land is provided in Figure 1. A summary of the habitats present is provided in Table 1 below, including UK Hab equivalent habitats for the purpose of the BIA.

Table 1: Summary of Habitats

Phase 1 Habitat Type	UK Hab (converted using Biodiversity Metric 3.1 Table G-9)	Condition Notes
Buildings and hardstanding	Developed land; sealed surface	N/A - Other
Vegetated gardens (lawn and planting)	Vegetated gardens	Condition Assessment N/A
Ornamental planting	Introduced shrub	Condition Assessment N/A
Species poor semi-improved grassland	Modified grassland	Grassland (low distinctiveness) – Modified Grassland, the condition assessment for this habitat is good as it passes 7 of the criteria. In 'Good' condition.
Tall ruderal vegetation	Ruderal / ephemeral	Meets criterion 3 of the Urban habitat condition assessment. Fails 1 & 2. In 'Poor' condition.
Dense / continuous scrub	Mixed scrub	Criteria met: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 In 'Good' condition.
Broadleaved trees (standard)	Urban tree	Six trees / tree groups fail criteria 1; T16, T17, T19, G31 (medium) and T2, T22 (small). In 'Moderate' condition. Nine trees / tree groups meet all criteria: T9, T18, T20, T30 (medium) and T13, T15, T24, T26, T28 (small). In 'Good' condition.
Broadleaved trees (line)	Line of Trees	T1, T3-T8, T10-T12 and G23 both fail criteria 1, 3 and 4. In 'Poor' condition. G25 fails criteria 1 and 4. In 'Moderate' condition.

Phase 1 Habitat Type	UK Hab (converted using Biodiversity Metric 3.1 Table G-9)	Condition Notes
		G14, G21, G27 and G29 fail criteria 4. In 'Moderate' condition.
Coniferous trees (line)	Line of Trees	G23 fails criteria 4. In 'Moderate' condition.
Hedgerows	Hedge Ornamental Non-Native	H1, H2, H3 and H4 - automatic 'Poor' condition

- 3.2 From the completed Natural England BM 3.1, the value of the existing on-site habitats is **6.93 Biodiversity Habitat Units (HU) and 1.08 Hedgerow Units** (see Appendix A).

4.0 BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2021)³, the Environment Bill (2021⁴) which was enacted in November 2021, and the Kirklees Biodiversity Net Gain Technical Advice Note⁵ the aim is to generate a minimum of 10% net gain in biodiversity units.
- 4.2 Post development, the on-site habitat enhancements and creation (Figure 3) with long-term management (for a minimum of 30 years) will achieve **7.17 Biodiversity Habitat Units**, which is a **total net unit change of +0.24 Biodiversity Habitat Units**, equating to a **+3.46% net percentage gain**. The habitat trading is currently acceptable.
- 4.3 There will also be a considerable net gain in hedgerow units post development. With the creation outlined in Appendix A and long-term management (for a minimum of 30 years) **2.07 Hedgerow Units** will be achieved, which is a **total net unit change of +0.98 Hedgerow Units**, equating to a **+91.05% net percentage gain**.
- 4.4 The above calculation does not account for the following additional enhancement measures that will be provided within the development as these cannot be quantified using the Natural England BM calculator. The inclusion of the following biodiversity enhancements to what has already been outlined above would be considered a benefit to biodiversity.
- Provision of bat and bird boxes throughout the site;
 - Installation of gaps for hedgehogs within boundary treatments;
 - Amenity grassland lawn areas (within gardens of the residential properties) to be seeded with a flowering lawn mix such as Emorsgate EL1. The species diversity and flowers will improve the value of the habitat to invertebrates.
- 4.5 It is considered that the above would secure a considerable net gain post-development.

³ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (July 2021). National Planning Policy Framework. London

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-bill-2020> accessed 15.12.2021

⁵ <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/planning-applications/pdf/biodiversity-net-gain-technical-advice-note.pdf> accessed 05.04.2022

APPENDIX A: NATURAL ENGLAND BIODIVERSITY METRIC (BM) 3.1



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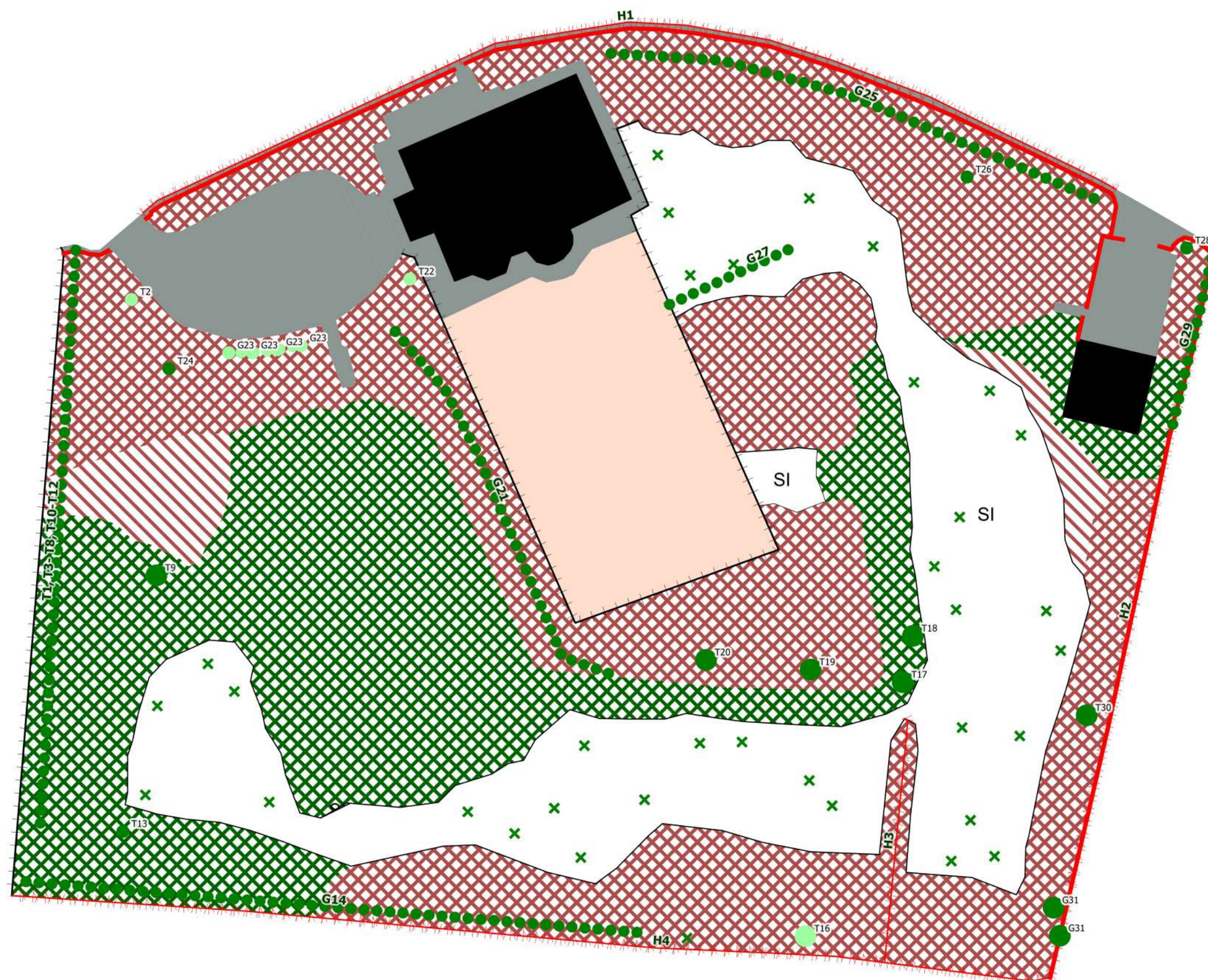
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Unit 9, The Tangent Business Hub, Weighbridge Road, Shirebrook, Mansfield, Derbyshire, NG20 8RX

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Key

- Site Boundary
- Pre-development Habitats
 - Developed land; sealed surface (buildings)
 - Developed land; sealed surface (hardstanding)
 - Vegetated garden (lawns and planting)
 - Introduced shrub (Ornamental)
 - Modified grassland (Poor semi-improved grassland)
 - Ruderal/Ephemeral (Tall ruderal)
 - Mixed scrub (dense / continuous)
- Hedges: Introduced shrub
- Broadleaved trees
- Coniferous trees
- Wall
- Fence
- Broadleaved Tree
- Coniferous Tree
- Scrub - Scattered



Client: Connah Construction
Project: Ashbrow Road, Huddersfield
Title: Figure 1 -Baseline Habitat Plan

Plan Reference: FE198_01
Project Reference: FE198
Report Reference: FE198/BIA01

Author: KEH
Date: 20/10/2022
Scale: NTS @ A3

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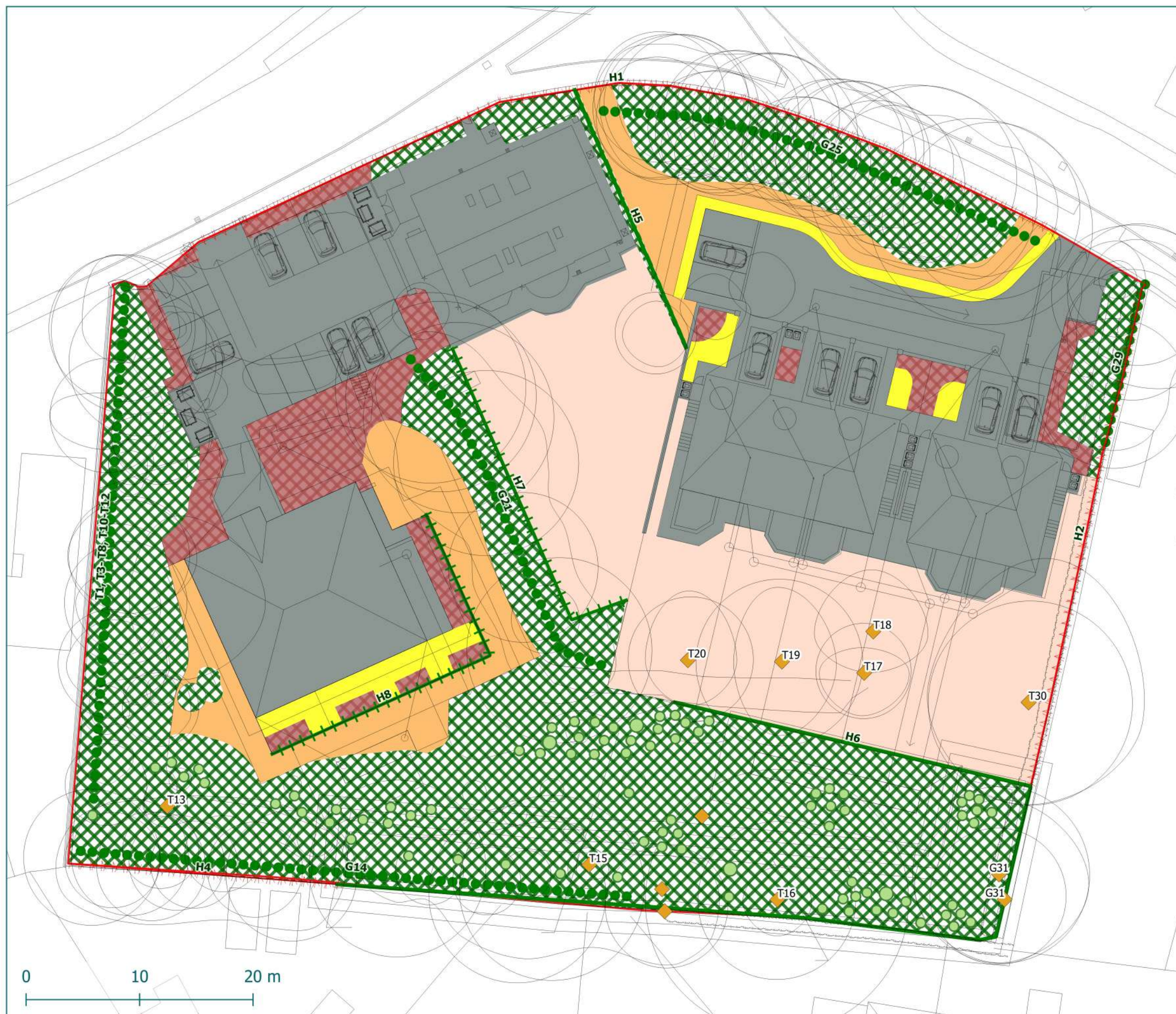
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Key

- Site Boundary
- Post-development Habitats
 - Developed land; sealed surface (Buildings/hardstanding)
 - Vegetated garden
 - Introduced shrub (Ornamental planting)
 - Modified grassland (Amenity grassland)
 - Mixed scrub (Native scrub; retained, enhanced & created)
 - Other neutral grassland (Wildflower meadow)
 - Native species-rich hedgerow (created)
 - Hedge Ornamental Non Native (retained)
 - Line of Trees (retained)
 - Urban tree - small
 - Urban tree - medium
 - Retained tree standard
 - Native species hedgerow (created)



Client: Connah Construction
Project: Ashbrow Road, Huddersfield
Title: Figure 2 - Proposed Habitat Plan

Plan Reference: FE198_02
Project Reference: FE198
Report Reference: FE198/BIA01

Author: KEH
Date: 20/10/2022
Scale: NTS @ A3

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