Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.

HEATON GRANGE, BATLEY - 2026.

OS REF: SE 25053 23485.

ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT.

Ref No: **260131/EcIA.**

Date: **13th May 2026.**

Unit 34, The Business Village, Cudworth, S72 8RP.
info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk www.whitcher-wildlife.co.uk
Company No. 4401613.

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. There are plans to develop land at Heaton Grange, Batley for residential use. The site was originally granted outline planning permission 2020/93777 for an industrial development for a different developer.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd has been commissioned by Jack Lunn Ltd to carry out an updated Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the site to establish whether there are any issues that may affect the proposed works.

1.3. An initial site survey was carried out on 13th January 2026 with a follow on visit on 16th April 2026. This report has now been converted into an Ecological Impact Assessment suitable for submission to the Local Authority in support of the planning application.

1.4. Appendices I and II of this report provide additional information on specific species and are designed to assist the reader in understanding the contents of this report.

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2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.

2.1. Prior to visiting the site, the survey area was cross referenced to maps and aerial photographs to give a general idea of the habitats and potential issues within the area and to identify potential access and walking routes.

2.2. The survey area was walked where access was agreed and public rights of way were used where no access was agreed. All habitats within and immediately around the survey area were documented and the dominant species within that habitat listed in line with the UK Habitat Classification methodology to identify the broad habitat types throughout the survey area.

2.3. The survey area and immediate surrounding area was thoroughly searched for evidence of badger (*Meles meles*) activity by looking for the following signs in line with Harris S, Cresswell P and Jefferies D (1989). *Surveying Badgers*. Mammal Society: -

* Badger setts.
* Badger latrines or dung pits.
* Badger snuffle holes and evidence of foraging.
* Badger paths.
* Badger prints in areas of soft mud.
* Badger hairs caught on fencing.

2.4. The survey area was searched for watercourses and where found all watercourses within the survey area and for approximately 100m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) activity by looking for the following signs, in line with Dean M, Strachen R, Gow D and Andres R (2016). *The Water Vole Mitigation Handbook (The Mammal Society Mitigation Guidance Series).* Eds Fiona Mathews and Paul Chanin. The mammal Society, London: -

* Water vole burrows.
* Water vole faeces and latrines.
* Water vole feeding stations.
* Water vole runs.
* Water vole prints in areas of soft mud.
* Water vole lawns.
* Predator field signs.

2.5. The survey area was searched for watercourses and where found all watercourses within the survey area and for approximately 50m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of otter (*Lutra lutra*) activity by looking for the following signs in line with the P Chanin (2003). *Monitoring the Otter* and *Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers: Monitoring Series No10 Guidelines: -*

* Otter prints in soft mud.
* Otter spraints.
* Otter Holts.

2.6. The survey area was searched for watercourses and waterbodies. Where found, and where safe to enter the water, all were thoroughly searched for the presence of crayfish, for approximately 50m in each direction of the site, by searching under rocks and logs. Where stated, crayfish traps were also deployed into the watercourse. All survey work was carried out in accordance with the *Conserving Natural 2000 Rivers Monitoring Series No 1, Protocol for Monitoring the White Clawed Crayfish*.

2.7. The survey area was searched for trees and structures and where found these were checked for potential bat roosting sites in line with Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition)* by looking for the following signs: -

* Holes, cracks or crevices.
* Bat Droppings.

2.8. The land immediately adjacent to the survey area was assessed for bat roosting potential and bat foraging potential. Connective routes and flight lines were also assessed whilst on site and using maps of the area.

2.9. The area within 500m of the survey site was cross referenced to maps to highlight all ponds close to the site. Where possible, all ponds identified were accessed using agreed access or public rights of way to assess the potential for great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) to be present.

2.10. The survey area was assessed for the potential for reptiles and suitable reptile habitats. Where applicable the area was also searched for the presence of reptiles.

2.11. Where appropriate, the habitat within and surrounding the survey area was searched for species such as hazel, oak, honeysuckle, bramble and other species which may provide potential habitat for hazel dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*). Field signs such as feeding remains and nests were also searched for where possible, in line

with P Bright, P Morris and T Mitchell-Jones *The Dormouse Conservation Handbook 2nd Edition*.

2.12. Where appropriate, the area within and surrounding the survey area was assessed for its potential to house habitat for red squirrels. Field signs of red squirrels were searched for at least every 50m, looking for any dreys, feeding signs or sightings of red squirrels.

2.13. All surveys were carried out in line with the Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management (CIEEM) survey standards and advice.

2.14. This document is prepared in line with The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This sets out the government policy on biodiversity and nature conservation and places a duty on Planning Authorities to give material consideration to the effect of a development on legally protected species when considering planning applications. The NPPF and the Planning Practice Guidance on "Natural Environment" also promote sustainable development by ensuring that developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity and that it is conserved and enhanced within the development.

2.15. This report is prepared in line with the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act that came into force on 1st Oct 2006. Section 41 (S41) of the Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.

2.16. The 2025 surveys were carried out by a team of surveyors led by Sam White BSc ACIEEM. Sam has had experience in a professional capacity as an Ecologist focusing primarily on survey work for protected species and Phase 1 Habitat surveys. Sam has a BSc in Environmental Conservation from Sheffield Hallam University. Sam joined Whitcher Wildlife Ltd in May 2018 as an Ecological Consultant. Sam holds a survey licence for Great Crested Newts *Triturus cristatus*, Barn owl *Tyto alba* and a Level 1 Class Licence for Bats.

2.17. The updated PEA was undertaken by Derek Whitcher who has over twenty-eight years' experience of surveying for wildlife and has run his own wildlife consultancy since 1998. He has extensive experience of a wide variety of survey techniques for a variety of species of protected wildlife supplemented by attendance on a wide range of training courses through CIEEM, FSC and BCT. As a member of CIEEM he is committed to continuous professional development, a continual process of learning and

career development, a condition of CIEEM membership. He holds current Natural England survey licences for barn owl, bat, great crested newt and white clawed crayfish.

3. BASELINE ECOLOGY.

3.1. Data Search Results.

3.1.1. A data search request was submitted to West Yorkshire Ecology Services for records of protected species and designated sites within 2km of the survey area.

3.1.2. The data search found no designated sites within or adjacent to the survey area. The only such site within 2km of the survey area is Soothill Wood Local Wildlife Site, over 1.9km east of the survey area.

3.1.3. The site does not lie within the Kirklees Habitat Network.

3.1.4. The closest relevant record to the survey area is of pipistrelle species, recorded foraging, approximately 30m from the site. The record is dated from 2011 and all more recent records of bat activity are significantly further from the survey area.

3.1.5. There are no records of badgers, hedgehog, amphibian or reptile species within 2km of the site.

3.1.6. There is a single record of great crested newt over 1600m from the survey area, there are no records within 500m of the site.

3.1.7. There are records of swift within 500m of the survey area, although none of these are more recent than 2012.

3.1.8. The full data search may be made available to the client upon request but must not be put into the public domain.

3.2. The Survey Area.

3.2.1. The survey area comprises an area of land within a busy residential and commercial area at Heaton Grange, Batley.

3.2.2. The aerial map below shows the approximate location of the survey area, the extent of which is marked in yellow.

3.2.3. The survey area comprises land that has been left and has now been subject to ecological succession. Previous survey data from others shows the site as largely sparsely vegetated ground, which has now grown over to be predominately dense scrub, bramble scrub and rough grassland. The below photograph shows a general view of the survey area.

3.2.4. The time of year for the initial survey is suboptimal for botanical surveys, with many species, in particular spring annuals having died back over winter. However, a further survey has been undertaken during April 2026.

3.2.5. Between the 2025 survey and the 2026 surveys, the only significant change on site has been the trampling of vegetation by machinery to access the site to undergo trial pit excavations.

3.3. Description of Habitats.

3.3.1. Appendix III of this report contains an annotated map marked up with the varying habitats within the survey area. The primary habitats on and adjacent to the site are: -

- g3c – Other Neutral Grassland.
- h3d – Bramble scrub.
- h3h – Mixed Scrub.
- u1e – Built Linear Feature.

3.3.2. g3c – Other Neutral Grassland

Secondary codes: 10 scattered scrub, 81 ruderal/ephemeral.

3.3.2.1. Rough grassland makes up large areas of the site. Species present within the grassland include creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens)*, false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius)*, perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne)*, creeping bent (*Agrostis capillaris)*, dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale)*, creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense)*, white clover (*Trifolium repens)*, broadleaf dock (*Rumex obtusifolius)*, club woodrush (*Scirpus sylvaticus)*, spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare)*, cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata)*, ribwort plantain (*Plantago lancelota)*, soft rush (*Juncus effusus)*, bramble (*Rubus fruticosus)*, ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris)*, stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica)*, common hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium)*, foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea)*, cleavers (*Galium aparine)*, Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera),* rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum)* and red fescue (*Festuca rubra)*.

3.3.2.2. A condition assessment for this habitat has been carried out and submitted along with the Biodiversity Net Gain assessment. This habitat is assessed to have a poor condition assessment passing four criteria but failing the essential criteria.

3.3.3. h3d – Bramble scrub.

3.3.3.1. Much of the site supports areas of dense bramble which is gradually spreading across the site. The species present is predominantly bramble (*Rubus fruticosa*) with a mixture of scattered scrub that includes lesser amounts of the same species as listed below in the areas of mixed scrub.

3.3.3.2. The condition assessment for this habitat is automatically poor.

3.3.4. h3h – Mixed Scrub.

3.3.3.1. There are areas of the site that comprises dense mixed scrub which is overgrowing the site. Some of the species present include bramble (*Rubus fruticosus)*, willow (*Salix* sp.), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior)*, oak (*Quercus* sp.), dog rose (*Rosa canina)*, great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum)*, silver birch (*Betula pendula)*, hawthorn

(*Crataegus monogyna)*, Scottish broom (*Cytisus scoparius)*, buddleia (*Buddleja davidii)*, cherry (*Prunus* sp.), poplar (*Populus* sp.), and cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster* Sp.*)*

3.3.3.2. A condition assessment for this habitat has been carried out and submitted along with the Biodiversity Net Gain assessment. This habitat passes two criteria and is assessed to have a poor condition assessment.

3.3.4. Secondary codes: 200 trees.

3.3.4.1. Within the mixed scrub there are some trees that are large enough to have been categorised as individual trees.

3.3.4.2. In the middle of the northern boundary of the survey area there are six trees around 10m in height shown above the mixed scrub in the photograph below. The species present include silver birch (*Betula pendula)*, pear (*Pyrus* sp(p)) and goat willow (*Salix caprea*).

3.3.4.3. To the west of these, on the northern site boundary there are a further seven trees as shown below.

3.3.4.4. Species present include silver birch (*Betula pendula)*, goat willow (*Salix caprea*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna)*, alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*).

3.3.4.5. The individual trees within this habitat have been condition assessed separately on the attached condition assessment sheet. All are of similar size and character and all have passed four criteria and are assessed to be moderate condition.

3.3.5. ***Secondary code: 33 line of trees.***

3.3.5.1. There is a line of semi-mature poplar (*Populus* sp.) trees along the western and southern boundary of the site.


3.3.5.2. The line of trees within this habitat have been condition assessed on the attached condition assessment sheet. The line of trees has passed three criteria and is assessed to have a moderate condition assessment.

3.3.6. u1e – Built Linear Features.

3.3.6.1. Secondary codes: 612 fence.

Along the northern boundary of the site there is a palisade fence and there are Heras fences protecting anywhere there is no permanent boundary fence..

3.3.6.2. Secondary code 853 – Mortared Wall.

There is a mortared stone retaining wall down the western site boundary with Mill Lane.

3.4. Description of Fauna.

3.4.1. No badger setts were found within the survey area. There were previously filled holes present on the site, however there was no evidence to show these were caused by badger and there were no badger field signs in the survey area. There are no badger records in the data search results.

3.4.2. There is no watercourse within the survey area. Therefore, there is no habitat suitable for otter, water vole and white clawed crayfish.

3.4.3. A review of aerial imagery and Ordnance Survey mapping found there no ponds within 500m of the survey area. Therefore, great crested newts are assessed as absent from the survey area.

3.4.4. There are no buildings within the survey area and therefore, no suitable habitat for roosting bats within buildings.

3.4.5. There are numerous trees within the survey area. However, all are small in size and lack potential features for roosting bats.

3.4.6. The survey area provides moderate potential for foraging and commuting bats. The definition of moderate foraging and commuting habitat within the Bat Conservation Trust Guidelines 4th Edition specifically mentions scrub, lines of trees and linked residential gardens, all of which are present on and surrounding the site.

3.4.7. The survey area is suitable for nesting birds during the nesting bird season, which extends from March to August each year.

3.4.8. The survey area was originally assessed to provide good habitat for reptile species, in particular where debris has been left on site. In addition, the rough grassland contrasted by the dense scrub was assessed to provide a natural habitat preferred by reptile species.

3.4.8.1. Reptile surveys were undertaken during 2025. Fifty reptile refugia were laid out across the site in the positions shown overlaid on the habitat map below shown as black lines with the number of mats against each.

3.4.8.2. The following table outlines the date of each reptile survey visit, the temperature and weather conditions and the observations. No reptiles were found on the site during any of the site visits.

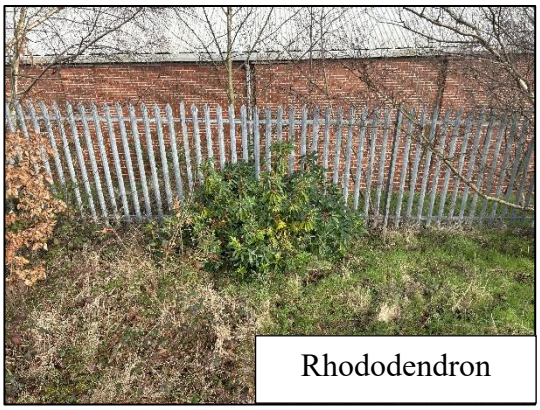
Date	Name	Temp	Weather	Results
26/02/24	Sam	Sam laid out 50 reptile mats		
9/04/24	Sam	12°C	Dry, 60% cloud, sunny spell	Nothing found
29/04/24	Sam	13°C	Fine and Dry, 10% cloud	No reptiles found
10/05/24	Gabby	15°C	Dry, mostly cloudy, partially sunny	No reptiles found
13/05/24	Ruth	16°C	30% cloud, warm sunny spells.	Nothing found
18/06/24	Sam	15°C	Sunny Spell on an otherwise cloudy day – ideal	No reptiles found
24/06/24	James and Arabella	19°C	Dry and sunny.	Nothing found

3.4.9. The survey area lies outside the known UK distribution of hazel dormouse and therefore there are no hazel dormouse present within the survey area.

3.4.10. The survey area lies outside the known UK distribution of red squirrel and therefore there are no red squirrel present within the survey area.

3.4.11. Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera)* and rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum)* are non-native, invasive plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and both were found within the survey area. The locations of each plant are shown on the annotated survey map at the end of this report, examples of each are shown below. The cotoneaster found within the survey area is not a species of cotoneaster listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Himalayan balsam



Rhododendron

3.4.12. The survey area provides an ideal habitat for hedgehogs, with rough grassland, scrub and adjacent gardens all providing value to the species. There are occasional brash piles with the survey area that may also be used by hedgehogs, such as the one shown in the adjacent photograph.

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4. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS, MITIGATION AND RESIDUAL EFFECTS.

4.1. Designated Sites.

4.1.1. Assessment.

4.1.1.1. A data search request was submitted to West Yorkshire Ecology Services for records of protected species and designated sites within 2km of the survey area. The data search found no designated sites within or adjacent to the survey area. The only such site within 2km of the survey area is Soothill Wood Local Wildlife Site, over 1.9km east of the survey area.

4.1.1.2. The site does not lie within an SSSI Impact Risk Zone or the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network.

4.1.2. Mitigation.

No mitigation measures are necessary.

4.1.3. Residual Effects.

The proposed development will have no negative residual impact on designated sites.

4.2. Habitats.

4.2.1. Assessment.

4.2.1.1. Baseline biodiversity calculations have been carried out using the Statutory Metric tool, the current metric at the time of writing this report. The calculations have been completed for baseline area habitats. The condition assessments for each habitat are shown in the attached condition assessment document and the baseline biodiversity values are shown in the attached metric calculation tool as well as being listed below.

4.2.1.2. Pre Development Area Habitats

Habitat Type	Extent (Ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Biodiversity units
Mixed Scrub	0.315	Medium	Poor	1.26
Bramble scrub	0.239	Medium	N/A	0.96
Other Neutral Grassland.	0.284	Medium	Poor	1.14
Developed Land Sealed Surface	0.003	V. Low	N/A	0
Individual trees	0.0529	Medium	Moderate	0.42
Total (excl trees)	**0.841**			**3.78**

4.2.1.3. Pre Development Linear Habitats.

Habitat Type	Extent (km)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Biodiversity units
Line of Trees	0.073	Low	Moderate	0.29
Total	**0.058**			**0.29**

4.2.2. Mitigation.

4.2.2.1. The post development landscape plan shows the presence of large areas of mixed scrub, medium distinctiveness other neutral grassland, retained and new trees, particularly in a belt around the northern and western site perimeter.

4.2.2.2. Part of the line of trees in the southwest corner of the site will be lost as they are becoming large and are growing above a retaining wall. A new line of trees will be provided in their place with additional lines of trees in the northeast corner of the site.

4.2.2.3. Hedgerows will be provided within the site, particularly beside access roads and public open space that will be outside the domestic curtilage of the dwellings and will be maintained by the housing association. This enables these to count towards BNG.

4.2.2.4. There will also be areas of native shrub planting adjacent to the above hedgerows and an area of mixed scrub on a steeply sloping part of the site adjacent to

plots 1 and 9. This area will also be outside the domestic curtilages and maintained by the housing association allowing this area to contribute to BNG.

4.2.3. Residual Effects.

With the above measures in place, the tables below show the post development biodiversity on the site.

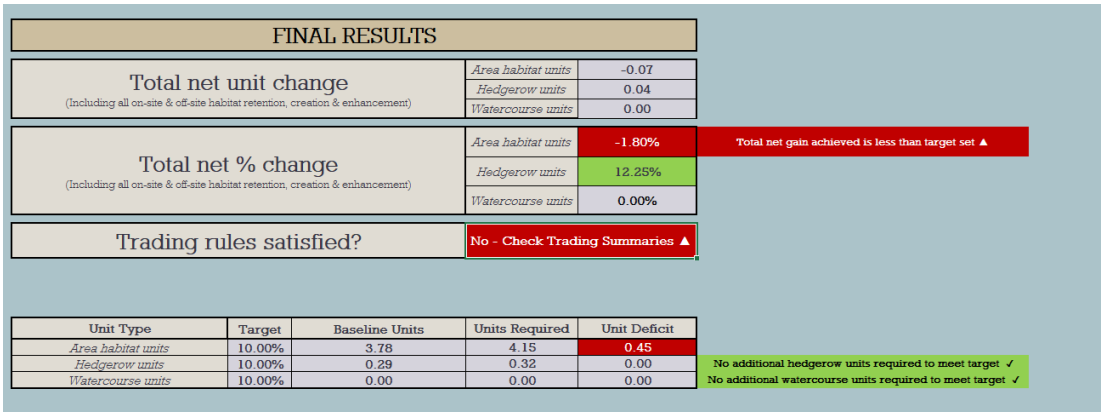
4.2.3.1. Post Development Area Habitats

Habitat Type	Extent (Ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Biodiversity units
Developed land, sealed surface.	0.257	V.Low	N/A	0
Developed land, sealed surface – buildings.	0.102	V.Low	N/A	0
Vegetated gardens	0.117	Low	N/A	0.23
Other neutral grassland.	0.22	Medium	Moderate	1.47
Mixed Scrub.	0.133	Medium	Moderate	0.89
Mixed scrub by houses.	0.018	Medium	Moderate	0.12
10 Individual trees retained.	0.0407	Medium	Moderate	0.32
50 new individual trees	0.8143	Medium	Moderate	0.62
4 small trees in public area on the development.	0.0163	Medium	Moderate	0.05
Total (excl trees)	**0.841**			**3.71**

4.2.3.2. Post Development Linear Habitats.

Habitat Type	Extent (km)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Biodiversity units
Line of Trees retained	0.028	Low	Moderate	0.11
New lines of trees	0.11	Low	Moderate	0.22
Total	**0.058**			**0.33**

4.2.3.3. This results in an overall 1.80% loss in area habitats BNG and 12.25% gain in linear habitats BNG.

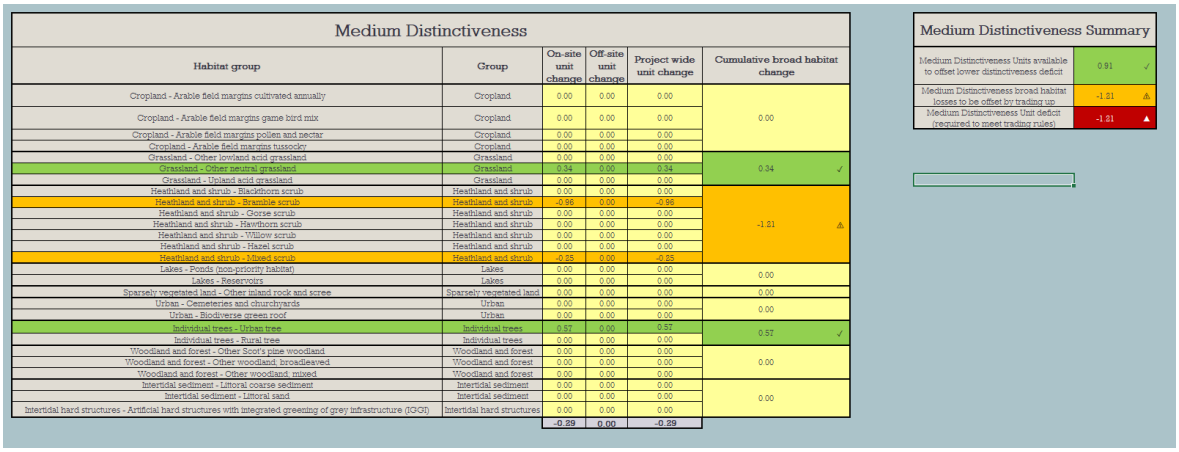


FINAL RESULTS

Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Area habitat units*	-0.07	
	Hedgerow units	0.04	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Area habitat units*	-1.80%	Total net gain achieved is less than target set ▲
	Hedgerow units	12.25%	
	Watercourse units	0.00%	
Trading rules satisfied?		No - Check Trading Summaries ▲	

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit	
Area habitat units	10.00%	3.78	4.15	0.45	
Hedgerow units	10.00%	0.29	0.32	0.00	No additional hedgerow units required to meet target ✓
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	No additional watercourse units required to meet target ✓

4.2.3.4. However, this does not satisfy the trading rules and there is a shortfall of 1.21BU of medium distinctiveness area habitat, as shown below.



Medium Distinctiveness

Habitat group	Group	On-site unit change	Off-site unit change	Project wide unit change	Cumulative broad habitat change
Cropland - Arable field margins cultivated annually	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Cropland - Arable field margins game bird mix	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cropland - Arable field margins pollen and nectar	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Cropland - Arable field margins tussocky	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Grassland - Other lowland acid grassland	Grassland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Grassland - Other neutral grassland	Grassland	0.34	0.00	0.34	0.34 ✓
Grassland - Upland acid grassland	Grassland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Heathland and shrub - Blackthorn scrub	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Heathland and shrub - Bramble scrub	Heathland and shrub	-0.96	0.00	-0.96	
Heathland and shrub - Gorse scrub	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Heathland and shrub - Hawthorn scrub	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1.21 ⚠
Heathland and shrub - Willow scrub	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Heathland and shrub - Hazel scrub	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Heathland and shrub - Mixed scrub	Heathland and shrub	-0.25	0.00	-0.25	
Lakes - Ponds (non-priority habitat)	Lakes	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Lakes - Reservoirs	Lakes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sparsely vegetated land - Other inland rock and scree	Sparsely vegetated land	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Urban - Cemeteries and churchyards	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Urban - Biodiverse green roof	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Individual trees - Urban tree	Individual trees	0.57	0.00	0.57	0.57 ✓
Individual trees - Rural tree	Individual trees	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Woodland and forest - Other Scot's pine woodland	Woodland and forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Woodland and forest - Other woodland, broadleaved	Woodland and forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Woodland and forest - Other woodland, mixed	Woodland and forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Intertidal sediment - Littoral coarse sediment	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Intertidal sediment - Littoral sand	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Intertidal hard structures - Artificial hard structures with integrated greening of grey infrastructure (IGGI)	Intertidal hard structures	0.00	0.00	0.00	
		-0.29	0.00	-0.29	

Medium Distinctiveness Summary

Medium Distinctiveness Units available to offset lower distinctiveness deficit	0.91 ✓
Medium Distinctiveness broad habitat losses to be offset by trading up	-1.21 ⚠
Medium Distinctiveness Unit deficit (required to meet trading rules)	-1.21 ▲

4.2.3.5. The site currently supports 3.78Bu of area habitat and units and 0.29Bu linear habitat units. The landscape plan prepared for client guidance provides 3.71Bu of area

biodiversity units and 0.33Bu of linear habitats. This gives a 1.80% increase in area BNG and a 12.25% increase in linear BNG that fails to satisfy the required BNG increase. Unfortunately, this does not meet the trading rules as it falls short by 1.21Bu of medium distinctiveness habitats. These will have to be provided by purchasing off-site units unless it is possible to appeal to the Local Authority to accept the shortfall in the trading rules.

4.3. Species - Bats.

4.3.1. Assessment.

4.3.1.1. There are no buildings within the survey area, therefore, the proposed development will have no impact on roosting bats within buildings.

4.3.1.2. Of the trees within the survey area, none had potential features for roosting bats and therefore, the proposed development will have no impact on roosting bats within trees.

4.3.1.3. The surrounding habitat to the site provides moderate quality foraging and commuting habitat for bats, this habitat will be retained. The habitat on the site itself is assessed as moderate potential for foraging and commuting bats.

4.3.2. Mitigation.

4.3.2.1. The development plan retains large areas of grass, scrub and trees, new and existing, around the perimeter of the site that will retain bat foraging and commuting habitat.

4.3.2.2. A sensitive lighting scheme will be enforced on the site that avoids light impacts onto those habitats.

4.3.3. Residual Effects.

With the above mitigation in place, there will be no negative residual impact on roosting, foraging and commuting bats.

4.4. Species – Nesting Birds.

4.4.1. Assessment.

There is potential for nesting birds throughout survey area in the vegetation. The nesting bird season extends from March to August each year and any works during the nesting season could potentially have a high impact on nesting birds.

4.4.2. Mitigation.

4.4.2.1. Vegetation and site clearance works will be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season, which extends from March to August each year.

4.4.2.2. If any work commences between March and August, this will be immediately preceded by a thorough nesting bird survey carried out by a suitably experienced person, no more than two days before clearance works commence.

4.4.2.3. Any active nests identified will remain undisturbed until the young have fledged from the nest.

4.4.3. Residual Effects.

With the above mitigation in place, there will be no negative residual impact on nesting birds.

4.5. Species – Alien, invasive Plants.

4.5.1. Assessment.

Himalayan balsam and Rhododendron are non-native, invasive plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and both were found within the survey area.

4.5.2. Mitigation.

4.5.2.1. An invasive plant species precautionary method statement will be put in place to avoid the potential spread of these species in the wild.

4.5.2.2. Rhododendron spreads through lateral layering. The rhododendron plans will be dug up and removed taking care to ensure all roots are removed and the whole plant will be disposed of as contaminated waste.

4.5.2.3. Himalayan balsam spreads through seeds present on the plant and within the immediate surrounding soil. Therefore, all plants will be pulled and left on the ground to die in the first year, before the plant is able to spread seeds.
4.5.2.4. In the second year, a further inspection will be carried out for any new plants and again, these will be pulled up and left to die before they can seed.

4.5.3. Residual Effects.

With the above mitigation in place, there will be no negative residual impact on the spread of alien, invasive plants in the wild.

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5. ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT MEASURES.

5.1. To provide additional biodiversity enhancements in line with the NPPF, one new integrated bat brick will be built into each of the new dwellings.

5.2. Integrated bat bricks will be Habibat boxes, as shown below or equivalent to match the external materials of the building.

5.3. Integrated swift boxes will be provided in all dwellings, as shown below or equivalent.

5.4. Where perimeter fences or garden fences are to be erected between gardens, these will be furnished with gaps 130mm by 130mm to allow the free passage of hedgehogs into and between gardens.

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Prepared by:	
Derek Whitcher BSc MCIEEM, MCMI	Date: 12th May 2026

Checked by:	
Ruth Georgiou. BSc, MCIEEM.	Date: 15th May 2026

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Appendix I. NESTING BIRD INFORMATION.

Ecology

The nesting season will vary according to the weather each year but generally commences in March, peaks during May and June and continues until September. It is also worth remembering that some birds nest in trees and scrub, but others are ground nesting or prefer man- made structures or buildings.

Surveys

Nesting bird surveys search for potential nest sites in vegetation, buildings etc. Potential nesting sites are observed over a suitable period of time for bird movements or calling male birds that would indicate the presence of a nest. The presence of a nest can be identified from the field signs without the necessity to see the nest itself, thereby avoiding any disturbance of the nests. The best way to avoid this issue is to plan for vegetation clearance to be carried out outside the bird-nesting season.

Legislation

Nesting birds are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Part 1. -(1) Of the Act states that: - If any person intentionally: - kills, injures or takes any wild bird; takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird, he shall be guilty of an offence.

Part 1. -(5) of the Act states that: - If any person intentionally: - disturbs any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on, or near a nest containing eggs or young; or disturbs young of such a bird, he shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a special penalty.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 amends the above by inserting after “intentionally” the words “or recklessly”.

Appendix II. INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES INFORMATION.

Ecology

The Government has acknowledged the problems that can be caused by non-native invasive species. In 2008 the Government launched "The Invasive Non-Native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain". The strategy provides a framework for a more co-ordinated approach to invasive species management. It seeks to create a stronger sense of shared responsibility across government, key organisations, land managers and the public.

The Non-Native Species Secretariat has been established to oversee the implementation of the strategy. Details of the secretariat including risk assessments and action plans for some species are available at www.nonnativespecies.org.

In general, there are four basic methods of controlling weeds; mechanical, chemical, natural and environmental.

- ***Mechanical control*** *includes cultivation, hoeing, pulling, cutting, raking, dredging or other methods to uproot or cut weeds.*
  Where this method is used all plant material must be considered "controlled waste" and must be disposed of properly.
- ***Chemical control*** *uses approved herbicides.*
- ***Natural control*** *uses pests and diseases of the target weed to weaken it and prevent it from becoming a nuisance.*
- ***Environmental control*** *works by altering the environment to make it less suitable for weed growth, for example by increasing or decreasing water velocity.*

Surveys

A site will be searched for invasive plant species growing on site, from mature plants to new shoots. A site will also be searched for dead stems indicating that plants that may have seasonally died back are present.

Legislation

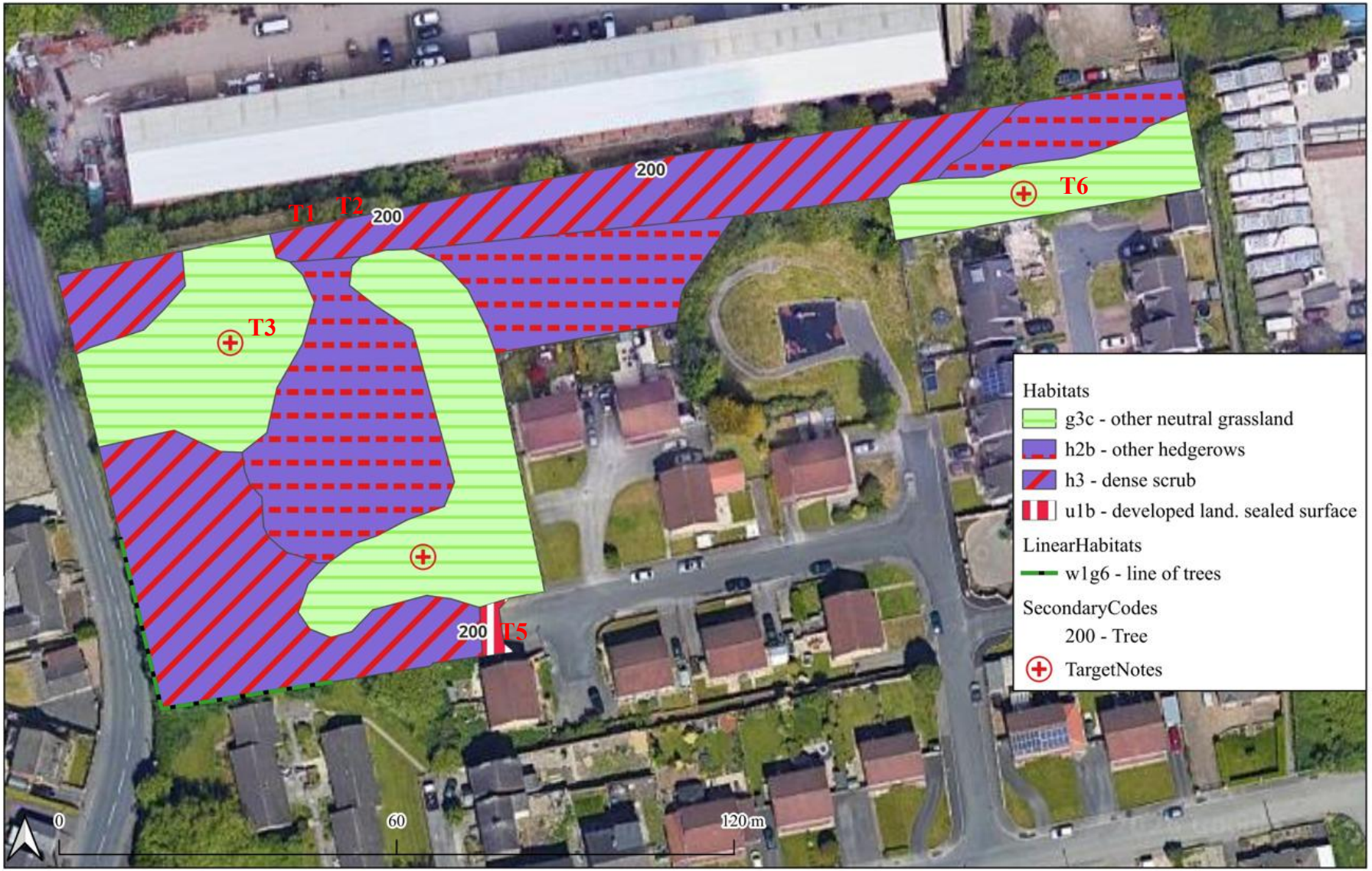
Invasive species listed under Schedule 9 are prohibited from release into the wild. Schedule 9, Section 14(2) prohibits 'planting' or 'causing to grow' in the wild of any plant listed in Part 2 of Schedule 9.

The following is a list of all the species of plant listed under Schedule 9 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**England & Wales**	**Scotland**
Alexanders, Perfoliate	*Smyrnium perfoliatum*	✓	
Algae, Red	*Grateloupia luxurians*	✓	
Archangel, Variegated Yellow	*Lamiastrum galeobdolon subsp. Argentatum*	✓	
Azalea, Yellow	*Rhododendron luteum*	✓	
Balsam, Himalayan	*Impatiens glandulifera*	✓	
Cotoneaster	*Cotoneaster horizontalis*	✓	
Cotoneaster, Entire Leaved	*Cotoneaster integrifolius*	✓	
Cotoneaster, Himalayan	*Cotoneaster simonsii*	✓	
Cotoneaster, Hollyberry	*Cotoneaster bullatus*	✓	
Cotoneaster, Small Leaved	*Cotoneaster microphyllus*	✓	
Creeper, False Virginia	*Parthenocissus inserta*	✓	
Creeper, Virginia	*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*	✓	
Dewplant, Purple	*Disphyma crassifolium*	✓	
False-acacia	*Robinia pseudoacacia*		✓
Fanwort	*Cabomba caroliniana*	✓	✓
Fern, Water	*Azolla filiculoides*	✓	✓
Fig, Hottentot	*Carpobrotus edulis*	✓	✓
Garlic, Three-Cornered	*Allium triquetrum*	✓	
Hogweed, Giant	*Heracleum mantegazzianum*	✓	✓
Hyacinth, water	*Eichhornia crassipes*	✓	✓
Kelp, Giant	*Macrocystis angustifolia*	✓	✓
Kelp, Giant	*Macrocystis integrifolia*	✓	✓
Kelp, Giant	*Macrocystis laevis*	✓	✓
Kelp, Giant	*Macrocystis pyrifera*	✓	✓
Kelp, Japanese	*Laminaria japonica*	✓	✓
Knotweed, Giant	*Fallopia sachalinensis*	✓	

Knotweed, Hybrid	*Fallopia japonica x Fallopia sachalinensis*	✓	
Knotweed, Japanese	*Fallopia japonica*	✓	
Knotweed, Japanese	*Polygonum cuspidatum*		✓
Leek, Few-flowered	*Allium paradoxum*	✓	✓
Lettuce, water	*Pistia stratiotes*	✓	✓
Montbretia	*Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora*	✓	
Parrot's-feather	*Myriophyllum aquaticum*	✓	
Pennywort, Floating	*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*	✓	
Potato, Duck	*Sagittaria latifolia*	✓	
Primrose, Floating Water	*Ludwigia peploides*	✓	
Primrose, Water	*Ludwigia grandiflora*	✓	
Rhododendron	*Rhododendron ponticum*	✓	
Rhubarb, Giant	*Gunnera tinctorial*	✓	
Rose, Japanese	*Rosa rugosa*	✓	
Salvinia, Giant	*Salvinia molesta*	✓	✓
Seafingers, Green	*Codium fragile*	✓	
Seafingers, Green	*Codium fragile tomentosoides*		✓
Seaweed, Californian Red	*Pikea californica*	✓	✓
Seaweed, Hooked Asparagus	*Asparagopsis armata*	✓	✓
Seaweed, Japanese	*Sargassum muticum*	✓	✓
Seaweeds, Laver (except native species)	*Porphyra sp. except -* *P. amethystea* *P. leucosticta* *P. linearis* *P. miniata* *P. purpurea* *P. umbilicalis*	✓	✓
Shallon	*Gaultheria shallon*		✓
Stonecrop, Australian swamp	*Crassula helmsii*	✓	✓
Wakame	*Undaria pinnatifida*	✓	✓
Waterweed, Curly	*Lagarosiphon major*	✓	✓
Waterweeds	*All species of the genus Elodea*	✓	

Appendix III. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA PRE DEVELOPMENT.



Site: Heaton Grange, Batley

Reference: 260131

Date: 17.04.2026

Produced by: Samuel Bentley

Appendix IV. TARGET NOTES.

T1 – Location of Rhododendron.

T2 – Location of Rhododendron.

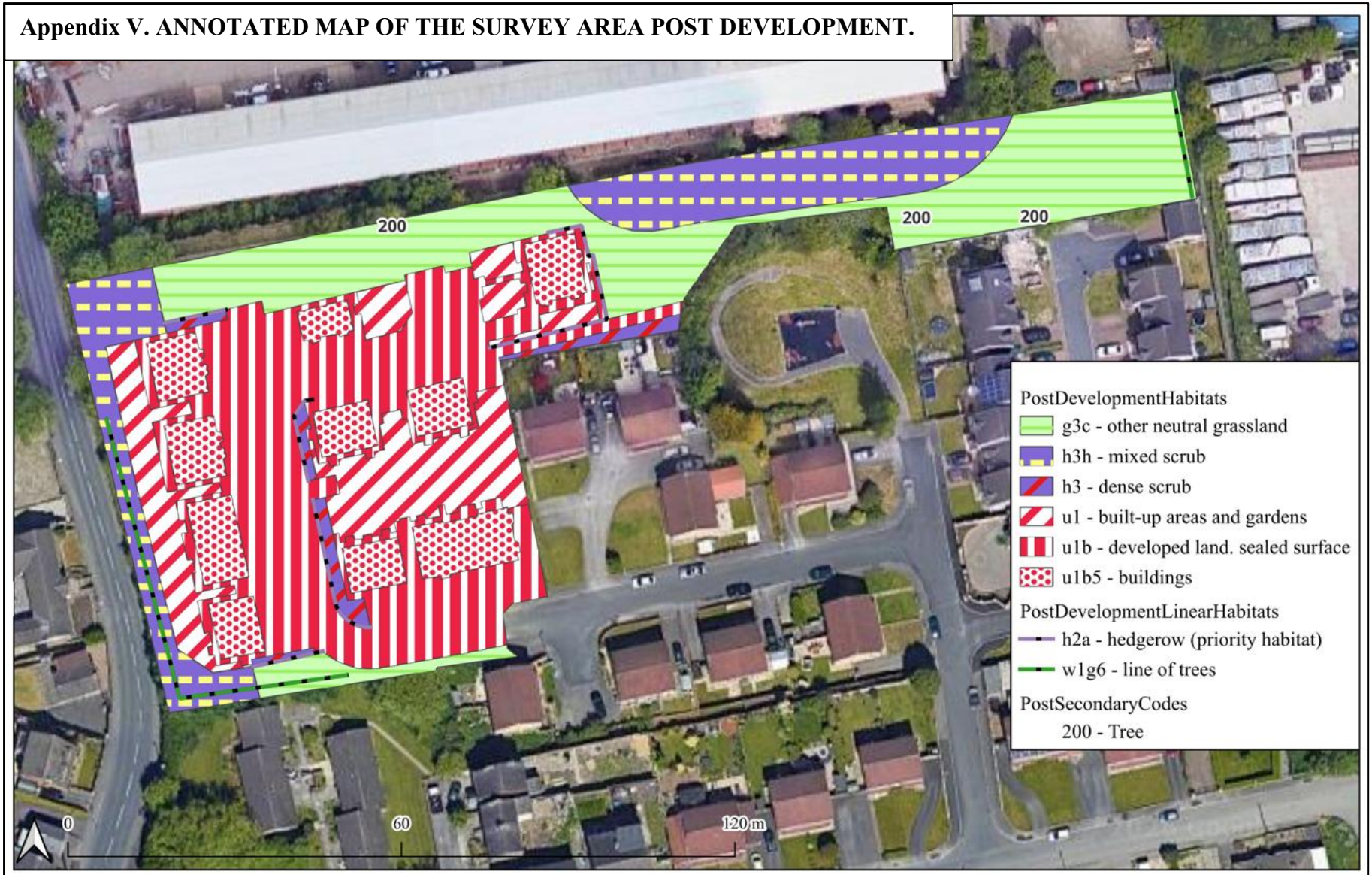
T3 – Location of Rhododendron.

T4 – Location of Himalayan balsam.

T5 – Pile of debris and brash.

T6 – Pile of rubble.

Appendix V. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA POST DEVELOPMENT.



Site: Heaton Grange, Batley

Reference: 260131

Date: 13.05.2026

Produced by: Samuel Bentley

Toolbox Talk: Himalayan Balsam

Whitcher Wildlife Ltd

Ecological Consultants

Himalayan Balsam was introduced into the UK in the early 19th century as an ornamental garden plant. The plant has since become established in the wild growing in a wide range of habitats, predominantly damp habitats and along watercourses. Himalayan Balsam grows in dense stands and therefore along river banks it can increase the likelihood of flooding during periods of heavy rainfall and can leave the river banks bare and exposed to erosion during the winter.

Identification.

Himalayan Balsam grows to around 2m and has a hollow, brittle stem. The plant stem is green to red early in the season and turns pink to red during the summer.


The plant has leaves up to 15cm long which are finely serrated along the edges and may have a pink mid-rib. The flowers are trumpet shaped and pink.


Habitat and Spreading.

Himalayan Balsam grows in a range of habitats but prefers damp habitats and river corridors. The plant grows in dense stands that out-compete native species. Along river corridors the plant can increase the likelihood of flooding during periods of heavy rainfall and leaves the river banks bare and exposed to erosion during the winter.


Himalayan Balsam spreads solely by seeds, which are small and easily carried by wind or water. The seed heads are approximately 2.5cm long and explode on touch when ripe.

The best form of control of the plant is to prevent it from seeding by cutting back or pulling before it can seed.

Legislation.

Under section 14 and Part II of Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence for it to be planted or otherwise caused to grow in the wild. This includes spreading the species by transferring polluted ground material from one area to the other.

If Himalayan balsam is identified during works, stop all works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 01226 753271 or at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk

Toolbox Talk: Rhododendron

Whitcher Wildlife Ltd

Ecological Consultants

Rhododendron was introduced by gardeners in the late 18th century into parks and woodlands as game cover. The plant is still widely planted, particuarly by gardeners and often grows in sensitive habitats such as woodland, dunes and heath. Rhododendron grows in a very dense way that can considerably alter the structure of the habitats.

Identification.

Key identification features of *R.ponticum* include leaves which are dark green and glossy above, in an oblong to elliptical shape and up to 22cm in length. The leaves grow in whorls around the stem. The wood is hard and light brown, with a rough bark. The flowers vary in colour from light pink to dark shades of purple, which are usually located in the middle of the terminal whorl on the branches. The fruit is presented in a woody capsule which bears multiple seeds and can persist for up to three years.

Habitat and Spreading.

Rhododendron causes problems in the wild in acid woodland and heathland. It reproduces readily from seed and has since spread rapidly across the UK, being most invasive in western and upland areas. It's dense, evergreen foliage and rapid growth crowd out almost all other species and phenols from its leaves suppress the germination of seed.
Rhododendron is causing particular problems in the internationally important Atlantic woodlands of western Wales and Scotland, where rare lichen and moss communities are under threat. On Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel, rhododendron was threatening the endemic Lundy cabbage *Coincya wrightii* (and its associated endemic invertebrates) until a programme was started to eradicate it.

Legislation.

Under section 14 and Part II of Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence for it to be planted or otherwise caused to grow in the wild. This includes spreading the species by transferring polluted ground material from one area to the other.

If Rhododendron is identified during works, stop all works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 01226 753271 or at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk