

Extended Phase One Habitat Survey (Preliminary Ecological Appraisal)

Version Two.
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Prepared for: CRT
Trevor Basin.

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- Appendix 2 Site Vascular plant list

1. Introduction

1.1 Background to the project

The client is proposing the re development of the Trevor Basin as is shown in appendix 1 – proposed development (V16 GA Landscape plan).

1.2 Site location, context and main habitats

The site is located within the area of Llangollen in a rural environment and enclosed by existing residential and commercial land uses. The habitat on site comprises of Woodland, scattered tress, tall ruderal, amenity grassland, standing water habitat including areas of hard standing.

1.3 Report purpose

To prepare a Preliminary Ecological Assessment or Extended Phase One Habitat Survey for the development site following CIEEM guidelines (*Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, April 2013*). The purpose of the report is to provide information relating to the location, extent and distribution and impact on the conservation of wild plants and animals and natural and semi natural habitats affected by development. This report sets out the methods, results and recommendations arising from the above work. A site meeting was held on the 19th August 2021 with Emma Broad from Wrexham BC ecology in order to further discuss the planning application.

1.3.1 Surveyor information

Simon Brain has attained a Post Graduate Certificate in Biological Recording and has attended residential FSC Field Courses for Land mammal, Songbird Barn Owls (CIEEM) and Advanced Bird Survey Techniques. He holds a NE Class 2 bat license (17334-CLS).

2. Desk Study

2.1 Methodology

The desk study collated information on designated statutory and non-statutory wildlife sites within 1km search radii around the proposed development site.

Information on statutory and non-statutory designated sites and legally protected/notable species records were obtained from <http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx> and contained in section 2.2 below.

2.2 Designated sites, species and habitats - Results Overview

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website (<http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx>) has confirmed no statutory designations apply to the site and the site boundaries.

The site is located within SSSI Impact Zone for River Dee and Bala Lake SSSI which is located 325m south of site.

The site itself is in a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone.

- Community forest (within site)

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside website has confirmed the following habitats and species apply to the site and its immediate locality:

- There are areas of woodland (section 41) habitats listed on the inventory on the north of the site.
- There are numerous areas of listed woodland within the 1km which are mainly located within 1km.

A COFNOD data search has been provided to inform the planning application. In summary 1091 records have been identified within the 1km and 29 EPS records are present in the dataset. AONB is within 50m.

Species summary

A single record of Trifid Bur-marigold is presented on site. Bullfinch was identified 140m from site. Otter was identified 198m from site. Northern yellow cress was identified 206m from site. Other species records that could be relevant to site due to habitat present, species mobility and distances previously recorded (<500m) are; Mallard, Swift, Bat species, Kingfisher, Pearl Mussel, House sparrow, Dunnock, Starling, Coal Tit, Various non native vascular plants, Willow warbler, Bluebell, water starwort, Otter, Great Crested Newt and Dipper.

Sites summary

The site itself is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The sites southern boundary is adjacent to the listed Bridge building. A restored Ancient Woodland site is located 300m south of site and there are a number of such sites within the 1km, mainly associated with the River Dee SSSI. There is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and SSSI / AONB associated with the River Dee <500m from site. Ty Mawr and Tan Y Cut Wood is a Country Park along the River Dee with semi-improved neutral grassland, woodland and scrub covering 80+ acres located <500m from site and Spring Wood is a Local Wildlife Site located 1km from site to the west

3. Extended Phase One Habitat Survey

3.1 Methodology and survey results

The site was visited on the 24th August 2021 and an update survey of the site was conducted using the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey 2010 in order to conform if any change had occurred since the winter survey of 2019. Distinct habitats were identified and any features of nature conservation interest or habitat areas that were too small to map were subject to a more detailed description in a Target Note (T1 etc) and contained in Appendix 1 – Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Mapping and Appendix 2 – Vascular Plant Site List. Habitat coding identified within the survey are listed below and shown on the Habitat Plan.

3.1.2. Vascular Plants and Habitat

Table 1: Site habitats

Habitat Code	Dominant species	Less frequent species
A.1.1.1 Woodland broadleaf semi natural	Fraxinus excelsior Acer pseudoplatanus	Betula pendula Alnus glutinosa
A.3.1 scattered trees	Salix caprea Crataegus monogyna	Acer pseudoplatanus Betula pendula
C.3.1 Tall ruderal	Rubus agg. Urtica dioica	Chamerion angustifolium Ribes sp.
J.1.2 Amenity grassland	Festuca rubra Trifolium repens Poa annua	Plantago lanceolata Ranunculus repens

Target Notes

T1 – Potential bat roost in sunken tunnel area

3.1.3 Protected and Notable Species (Mammals)

Water Voles

The habitat on the site does not contain running water habitat suitable for the species.

Bat species

Bats are comprehensively protected under UK and European legislation and bats are largely ubiquitous. There are good hunting and foraging grounds in the immediate vicinity of site and on site itself as water, woodland and tall ruderal habitats are present. There are several trees that shall need to be removed for development that require Bat Roost Assessment.

Badgers and Hedgehog

Badgers are protected under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which prohibits deliberate interference with the animal or its sett. A standard badger survey was undertaken making checks site and in the immediate site margins. For example, up to 15m+ from site was checked for signs for field signs of Badger (hair, tracks, prints, dropping or latrines) and no field signs of badger were found. Equally no field signs were found for hedgehog, however suitable foraging habitat does exist for hedgehog to be present.

3.1.4 Amphibians

The desktop and field survey exercises indicate no field ponds are located within 250m of the site. There are two larger ponds within the Pontycysyllte coach parking areas which are over 375m east of site. There is no suitable aquatic breeding habitat associated with the site itself and some foraging, dispersal or hibernating habitat for amphibians to be present.

3.1.5 Birds

All birds with only minor exceptions are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), as amended. It is also an offence to disturb birds whilst nesting or displaying breeding behaviour, during the breeding season.

The area forms part of the Bird Conservation Targeting Project for arable assemblages of bird species including lapwing. The habitats on site are suitable for the breeding bird species due to the presence of areas of scrub (scattered and dense). Although no specific bird survey was undertaken the site is unlikely to support a significant amount of grassland and /or farmland birds due to urban nature of the habitats present. Urban birds are more likely to use the site such as house sparrow and starling which were both observed during the walkover on the site.

3.1.6 Vascular Plants

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 section 13 1(b) affords some wild flowers protection from uprooting. No other IUCN listed, BAP or other notable plants were identified. No non-native invasive (WCA Schedule 9) vascular plants were found.

3.1.7 Reptiles

All native reptile species in the UK are protected under law from killing or sale. Some habitat exists on the site (hard standing).

3.2. Constraints to the Surveys

The timing of the site visit was optimal for all species and habitats to be identified within the framework of a Phase 1 survey.

4. Summary and Impact

4.1 Summary – Protected habitats

The surveys have confirmed that the site does not support a habitat protected under The Environment Act. The priority listed woodland is 150m off the southern site boundary. There are no hedgerows on the site.

Summary - Protected species

Evidence of protected species was recorded on site which included starling (UK Red List). No other evidence of protected species was found during the site walkover.

Summary – Protected sites

There are no statutory or non-statutory designated sites within the boundaries of the development site or within the site margins.

Impact – General

The development proposal seeks to regenerate the area for visitor attractions and there is a direct loss of amenity grassland, scattered trees and buildings for the footprint of the development.

Impact - Species

The full extent of protected species that may reside on this site will require confirmation following further surveys as recommended in section 4.2. The following general impacts are considered to apply:

Bat species. Loss of some commuting and foraging habitat. The existing trees to be removed may contain bat roosts. The target noted tunnel entrance appears unaffected.

Badger / hedgehog. Currently no evidence of badger, hedgehog has potential to be present on site.

Otter. Surveys required

Amphibians. Some loss of sub optimal commuting and foraging habitat.

Birds. Loss of breeding habitat (hedge and scrub) and disturbance during the breeding season. The site meeting held with Wrexham BC (19th Aug 2021) confirmed the need for Breeding Bird Appraisal.

Vascular Plants. Loss of vascular plant habitat identified on site is a low-level impact and no protected plants were identified

Reptiles. Low-level impact, slow worm record at 250m and 700m.

4.2 Recommendations for protected species

4.2.1 Mammals

Bat species

A Bat Roost Assessment of all trees to be removed is required. The Bat Roost Assessment may recommend the need for a summer emergence survey/s on the identified roost features in trees. The site is likely to hold significance for commuting and foraging bat species. The need for a bat activity survey is however lessened as much of the existing habitat suitable for foraging bats is to be retained. The site meeting held with Wrexham BC (19th Aug 2021) confirmed the need for a bat activity survey using 2no. transect routes.

Badgers / hedgehog

No evidence of these species was found but a pre start check shall be made to ensure no badger activity has developed since this walkover survey.

Riparian mammal survey

The site meeting held with Wrexham BC (19th Aug 2021) confirmed the need for this particularly due to otter records in the area.

4.2.2 Amphibians

No other further surveys are required for these species.

4.2.3 Avian

A breeding bird appraisal / survey will be required prior to any tree to removal ascertain the importance of the site to breeding birds at that time. This may require hand searching and dawn observations depending upon the time of year. The site meeting held with Wrexham BC (19th Aug 2021) confirmed the need for a breeding bird appraisal.

4.2.4 Vascular Plants

No other further surveys are required for vascular plants.

4.2.5 Reptiles

No further surveys are required for these species. Enhancement for slow worm is suggested.

5. Mitigation and enhancement measures

5.1 Mitigation and enhancement measures

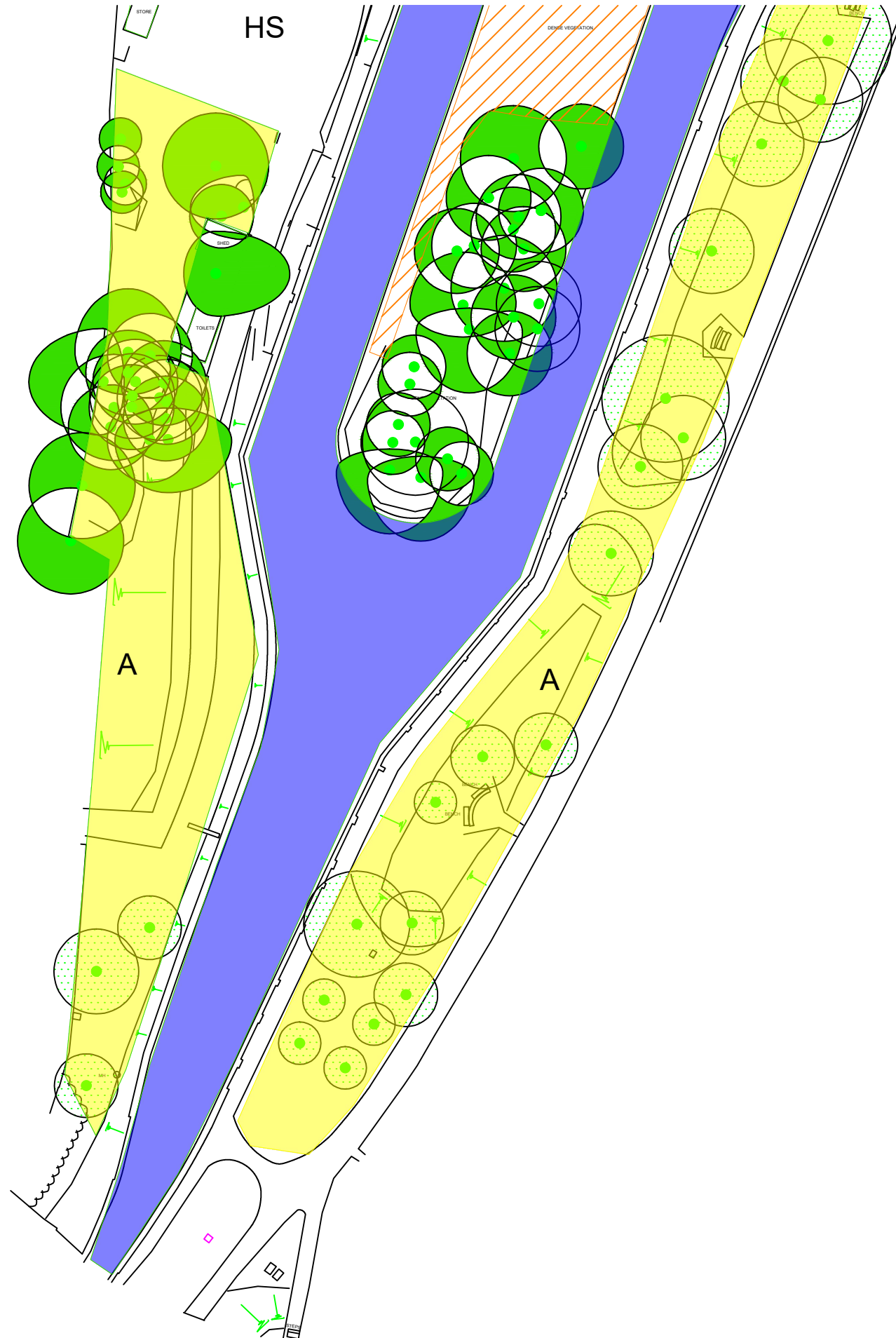
Mitigation applies to works required to comply with legislation when developing land where protected species reside or protected habitats are being lost. Enhancement relates to biodiversity improvements often made under the National Planning Policy. The site meeting held with Wrexham BC (19th Aug 2021) confirmed the need for Biodiversity Enhancement Planning to support the planning application and for a Habitat Regulations Assessment.

At present there is some evidence of some protected species on the site (avian), some of which could be affected by development. Other protected

species that may be present on site include avian species, bats, riparian mammal and to a lesser degree, badger/hedgehog.

The extent of protected species requires the surveys referred to in section 4.1 and 4.2 to be complete before mitigation can be proposed to support this development. Upon completion of these surveys mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures can be provided and confirmed.

Appendix 1 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Map and proposed development



PHASE ONE HABITAT MAP

KEY

-  A.1.1.1 Woodland (to be retained)
-  A.3.1 Scattered trees
-  C.3.1. Tall ruderal
-  G1 Standing water
-  J1.2 Amenity Grassland

Client:

CRT

Project:

Trevor Basin

Detail:

HABITAT PLAN

Drawn By:

SB

Date:

09.09.21

Scale:

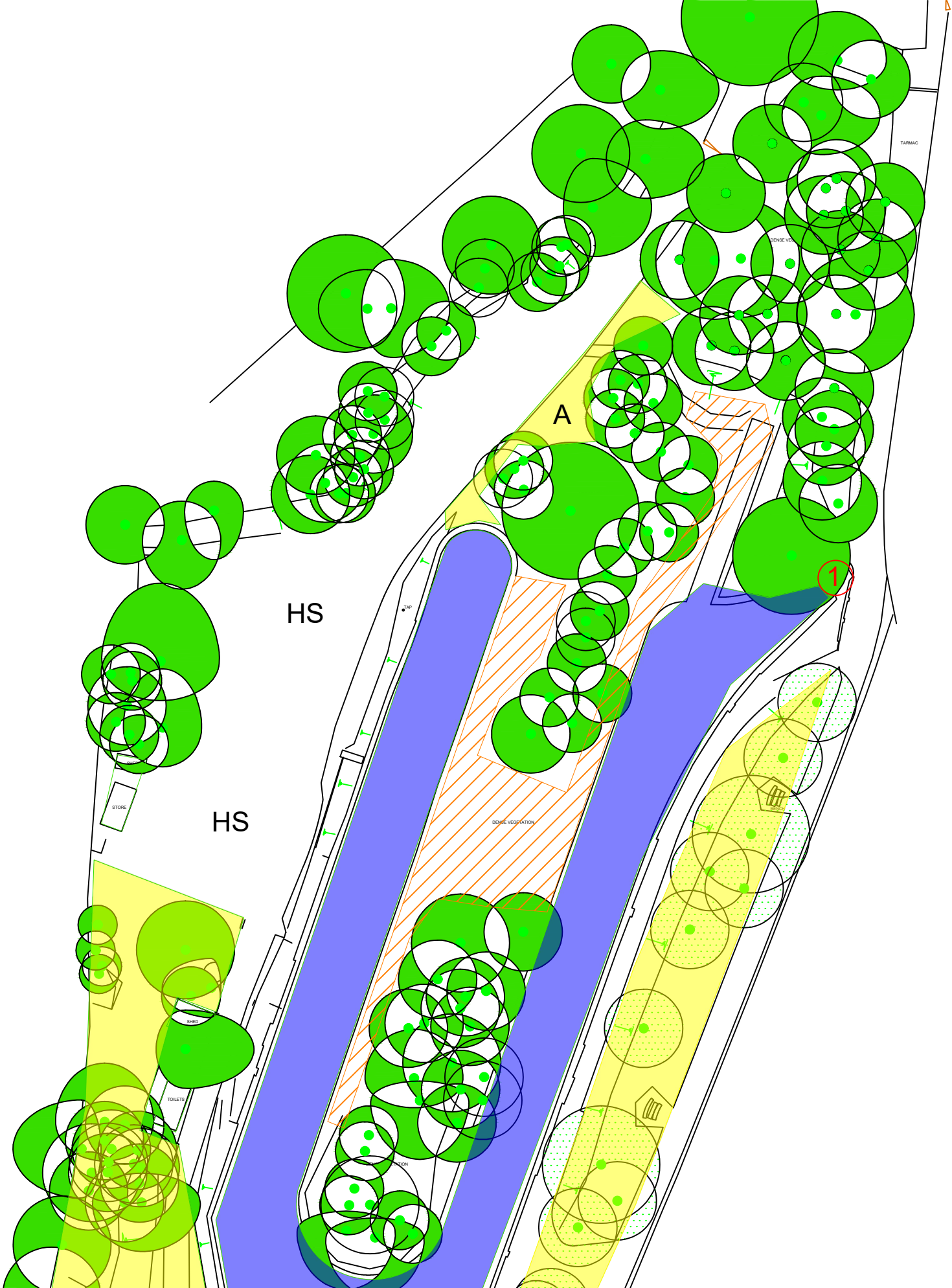
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Drg No:

TR-01

Revision:

V1



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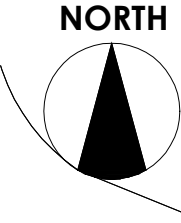
1:500@A3

Drg No:

TR-01

Revision:

V1



KEY

GENERAL INFORMATION

- = Trust land boundary ownership
- = Site application boundary
- = Tree canopy line to be retained as existing
- = Power lines constraint / Hazard
- = Single vehicular access to Rose Cottage retained
- = Site pedestrian access route (1.2m width)
- = Existing Tree canopy retained
- = Fuel service point
- = Foul service point
- = Electricity service point
- = Water service point
- = Tree to be planted, position and specification to be agreed with Canal & River Trust Ecologist
- = Soft landscaping, retained as existing or native grass germinal seeded mix planted to make good as required
- = Proposed woodland native planting mix, to be agreed with Canal & River Trust Ecologist and Landscape Architect
- = Proposed wild meadow native planting mix, to be agreed with Canal & River Trust Ecologist and Landcape Architect
- = Medium grade reinforced grass mesh strip along route to Rose Cottage
- = Proposed Hard Surfacing, tar and chip, alrewas stone chip finish, feathered edge (specification to match pathways within wider destination)
- = Existing tar and chip surface (arlewas stone chip finish)
- = Made ground, to remain as existing and reinforced with matching lose gravel on sub-base to use specification as required
- = Asphalt road surface as existing
- = Asphalt road surface as proposed (to widen existing access route)
- = Proposed stone retaining wall (estate rail fixed onto of coping aside of 0.5m falls)
- = Proposed stone retaining or screening wall (1.2m high)
- = Proposed railway sleeper retaining boundary
- = Proposed boundary fence to remain as existing, dark green V-MESH (RAL 6005) only where replacement required
- = Proposed timber bollard
- = External Bike Stand , traditional Sheffield Style (x3)
- = Traditional mooring ring, black painted finish. Fixing methodology and location to be approved by Canal & River Trust Heritage Advisor
- = Micro surface recessed LED. Emits a low level light strip onto the pedestrian surface for wayfinding along general external circulation areas to entrance
- = Proposed timber gate matching the existing south arch entrance in appearance to northern arch entrance to prevent any possible future antisocial behavior under the covered space.

Site access leading from Tower Hill (please refer to drawing 1938 26)

Site Entrance

CAR PARK

21 Bays

WILD MEADOW PLANTING PHASE 1

WILD MEADOW PLANTING PHASE 2

WILD MEADOW PLANTING PHASE 3

Rose Cottage

NEW ROAD (FFORD NEWYDD)

ROAD & PEDESTRIAN MARKINGS

- 1.2m Pedestrian route to site and parking bays are to be marked by low domed metallic demarcation studs
- Disabled parking bay to be defined by sign on adjacent masonry wall facing into car parking area
- = Flush pin kerb to define edge between asphalt, made ground, tar and chip and existing footway



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Sheet
GA Landscaping Plan

Project
Trevor Hire Boat Base

Origin Date/ Auth
RB

Drawing No.
2019 38 32

Scale
1:300 @ A1

Sheet Size
A1

Revision / Issue
V16

Revision Date
26.08.21

Scale Bar 1/300 @ A1

GA LANDSCAPE PLAN
Scale 1:300 @ A1

Appendix 2 Site Vascular plant list

Acer pseudoplatanus
Alnus glutinosa
Alnus cordata
Arrhenatherum elatius
Betula pendula
Carex pendula
Carpinus betulus
Chamerion angustifolium
Cirsium arvense
Cuppressus sp
Craetagus monogyna
Corylus avellana
Dactylis glomerata
Euphorbia repens
Festuca rubra
Fraxinus excelsior
Galium aparine
Hedera helix
Hippuris vulgaris
Holcus lanatus
Lolium perenne
Ligustrum vulgare
Plantago lanceolata
Plantago major
Prunus padus
Poa annua
Rosa acicularis
Salix caprea
Salix fragilis
Sambucus nigra
Ranunculus repens
Ribies sp.
Rumex obtusifolius
Rubus agg.
Taraxacum officinale
Trifolium repens
Ulmus sp
Urtica dioica