

**Our ref: ECO02709-QL-02a** Hampton Waterworks – Biodiversity Net Gain

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## HAMPTON WATERWORKS– BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN ASSESSMENT

RPS was commissioned by Waterfall Planning Ltd (Hampton Water Treatment Works) to undertake Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment of the pre- and post-development habitats present on site. This report should be read in conjunction with the Biodiversity Metric 3.1 - Calculation Tool released by Natural England<sup>1</sup> submitted alongside this document.

### Legislation and Planning Policy

The requirement for developments to seek to achieve BNG arises from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>2</sup>, which states in Para.174 that:

*“Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by ... minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity.”*

Policy G6 Section D of the London Plan 2021<sup>3</sup> states that:

*“Development proposals should manage impacts on biodiversity and aim to secure net biodiversity gain. This should be informed by the best available ecological information and addressed from the start of the development process.”*

The adopted local plan (2018)<sup>4</sup> for London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames has the following policies relating to biodiversity and habitats:

Policy LP 15 relates to biodiversity and states that the council will:

*“Protect and enhance the broughs biodiversity, in particular, but not exclusively, the sites designated for their biodiversity and nature conservation value, including the connectivity between habitats”.*

The policy also outlines the requirement to implement the mitigation hierarchy at all stages of development.

Policy LP 16 relates to trees and development stating that the council will resist the loss of trees and development that may result in the damage or loss of trees.

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<sup>1</sup> Natural England Joint Publication (2022) Biodiversity Metric 3.1 (JP039). Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6049804846366720> Last accessed 06.10.2022.

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021). National Planning Policy Framework. Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1005759/NPPF\\_July\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005759/NPPF_July_2021.pdf) Last accessed 06.10.2022.

<sup>3</sup> Greater London Authority (2021). The London Plan 2021. Available at: [https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/the\\_london\\_plan\\_2021.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/the_london_plan_2021.pdf) Last accessed: 06.10.2022.

<sup>4</sup> London Brough of Richmond Upon Thames (2018). Local Plan. Available at: [Local Plan \(richmond.gov.uk\)](http://localplan.richmond.gov.uk) Last accessed 06.10.2022.

## Objectives

The primary purpose of a BNG Assessment is to provide a way of measuring and assigning numerical value to the habitats present within a site and the changes which will occur as a result of development or land management. The baseline habitats for the site are inputted into the metric, alongside any proposed retention, creation or enhancement of habitats (post-development). This then provides an overall score for habitats (habitat units) and linear features (hedgerow units) which can be used to measure the potential impact of a development.

## Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

This assessment uses the Biodiversity Metric 3.1 - Calculation Tool released by Natural England in April 2022. This new metric is a revised and updated version of metrics 2.0 and 3.0. The BNG assessment has been undertaken and presented in the Excel worksheet *ECO02709 Hampton Waterworks BNG metric.xlsm*.

## Baseline

The habitat condition assessment to inform the baseline of the BNG assessment was derived from the habitat survey conducted by Alenka Blatnik BSc MSc QCIEEM on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022<sup>5</sup> using the UK Habitat Classification<sup>6</sup> (UK Habs) methodology. See **Appendix 1** for baseline habitats.

The site was largely dominated by buildings and other developed land, with areas of modified grassland, mixed scrub and urban trees.

The strategic significance<sup>7</sup> of a site relates to the spatial location of a habitat area in relation to areas identified as important for biodiversity. In this instance, the site is considered to be of low strategic significance as it is not identified within the locals plans and is not considered to be an 'ecologically desirable' area.

The habitat areas, linear lengths, distinctiveness and condition scores are included in the BNG calculator tool excel spreadsheet attached to this application.

As part of the development, areas of developed land will be retained, and one tree will be retained in the final landscaping plans.

The existing site baseline provides **1.26** habitat units and **0.00** hedgerow units over a total site area of **0.57ha**.

## Description of Proposed Habitats with Biodiversity Benefits and Outline Management

Proposed habitat creation includes areas of wildflower meadow mix, native hedgerows mixed scrub, tree planting, modified grassland and vegetated gardens. See **Appendix 2** for post development habitats. Where

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<sup>5</sup> RPS (2022). Hampton Water Works London: Ecological Impacts Appraisal.

<sup>6</sup> Butcher, B., Carey, P., Edmonds, R., Norton, L. and Treweek, J. (2020). UK Habitat Classification – Habitat Definitions.

<sup>7</sup> Panks, S., White, N., Newsome, A., Potter, J., Heydon, M., Mayhew, E., Alvarez, M., Russell, T., Scott, S. J., Heaver, M., Scott, S. H., Butcher, B., & Stone, D. (2021) Biodiversity metric 3.1: Auditing and accounting for biodiversity – User Guide. Natural England.

a condition assessment is required, the condition has been assessed as being of 'poor' condition in order to give a realistically achievable result for the site.

The proposed habitat creation combined with the retained habitats on site (note developed land does not score in the matrix) gives a resulting score of **3.27** habitat units, an increase of **2.01** units giving a total net gain of **+159.44%**. The addition of **0.04km** of hedgerow provides **0.08** hedgerow units, giving a net gain of **+100%**.

It should be noted that the post development result for the site does not satisfy the trading rules as the amount of scrub lost is not fully compensated for in the final layout. In order to satisfy the trading rules, the same habitat of a similar area or smaller area of higher distinctiveness habitat would be required.

## Summary

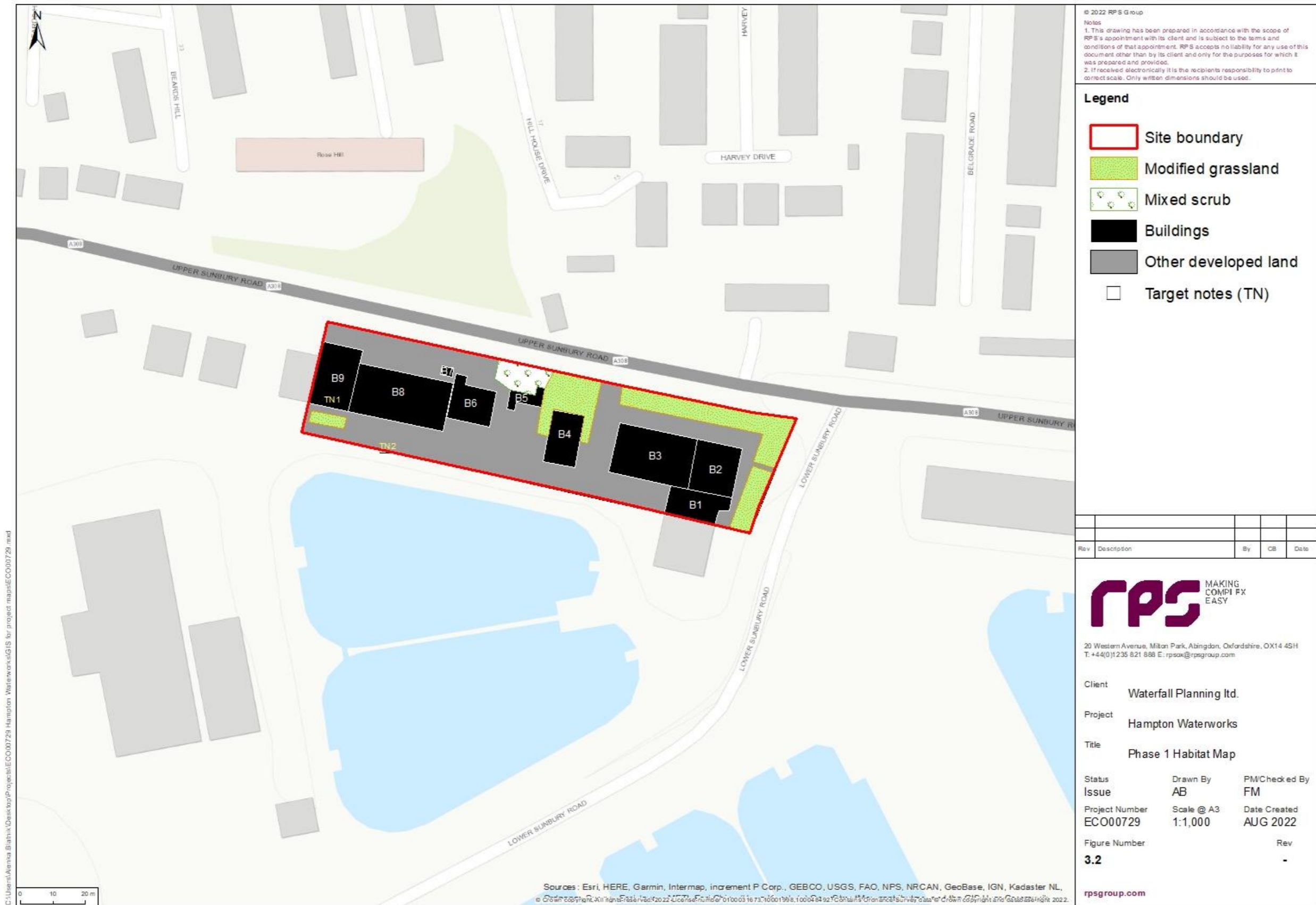
The pre-development site scores a total of **1.26** habitat units and **0.00** hedgerow units, with the post-development creation and retention providing **3.27** habitat units and **0.08** hedgerows units resulting in an overall net gain of **+159.44%** habitat units and **+100%** hedgerow units.

Yours sincerely,  
for RPS Consulting Services Ltd

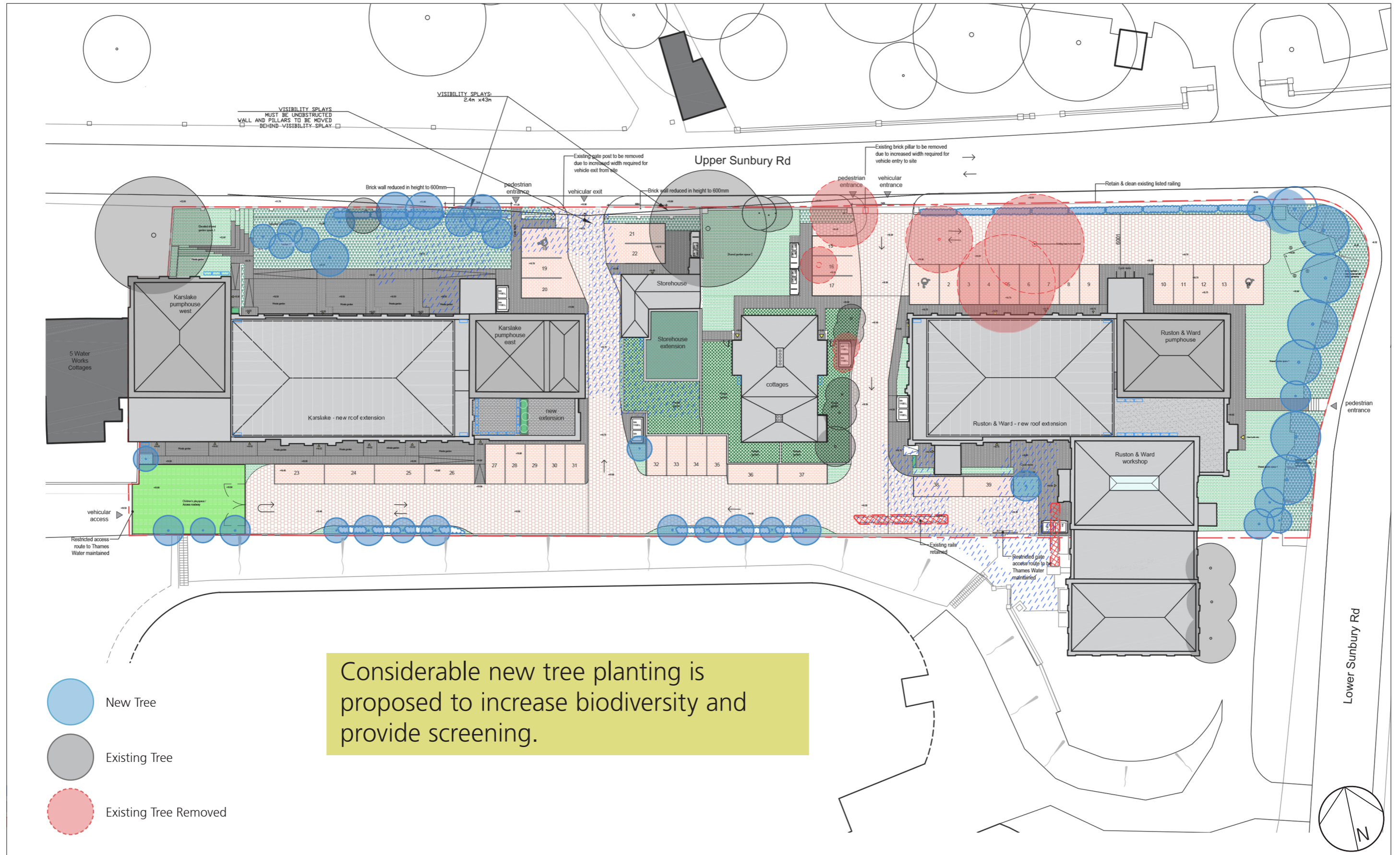
*Phillipa Mahalski*

**Phillipa Mahalski**  
Senior Ecologist

# Appendix 1



## 5.2 Soft scape - Trees



## 5.2 Soft scape - **Tree and plant types**

