



Biodiversity Enhancement - Condition 3

Removal of existing canopy and lockers within the car park and associated works to the car parking spaces at Asda Pengarnddu Industrial Estate Dowlais, Merthyr Tydfil

30 January 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL AND
SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTANTS

Document Control

Date of first Issue	Revision	Date of Revision	Issued By	Checked by
30 January 2025	-	-	LR	MB

Executive Summary

This document has been produced in response to the following Planning Condition for the Full Planning Permission P/24/0070 relating to works at the existing Asda superstore in Merthyr Tydfil:

3 BEFORE WORKS COMMENCE ON SITE a scheme for biodiversity enhancement, including a timescale for implementation, shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the local planning authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details and retained in perpetuity thereafter.

The report provides details of the existing the existing habitats on site within the areas of proposed work and in proximity. The existing habitats and their condition have been assessed and calculated using the latest Defra BNG Metric in order to provide a baseline against which the proposed biodiversity can be measured in order to confirm that an increase in biodiversity can be achieved.

There are opportunities to enhance the ecological value of the site post-development. These include the planting of 3 new native trees of benefit to pollinators, birds and other urban wildlife in the locations indicated on the appended Biodiversity Enhancement Plan drawing reference A6780-01.

The proposals will result in a Biodiversity Net Gain in excess of 100% and therefore confirms that the development will provide an enhancement in biodiversity and comply with relevant policy in order to discharge Condition 3 above.

1. Introduction

The proposed works at the Asda store at Merthyr Tydfil include the removal of existing canopy and lockers within the car park and associated works to the car parking spaces. The locations incorporate areas of semi-natural vegetation and one area also includes non-native planted shrubs.

The semi-natural vegetation in both areas comprises species-poor grassland with no plant species of any note recorded.

2. Proposal and Remit

2.1 Proposal

It is proposed to remove the existing click and collect drive through and a new click and collect installed including amendments to white lining and signage.

2.2 Remit

To undertake a detailed botanical survey of those areas within red line boundaries shown on the existing site plan provided by the architect. Those areas within the red line boundaries are the proposed locations for the alteration works.

3. Methodology

The survey was conducted over one hour on 14th January 2025 by Phil Quinn MCIEEM a field ecologist with over thirty-five years' experience of botanical survey and habitat assessment throughout the UK.

Each of the two survey areas was subject to a detailed botanical survey whereby all the vascular plants present in those two areas, and identifiable at the time of the survey, were recorded to species level or genus level.

The relative abundance of these species/genera was recorded according to the DAFOR scale where:

D = Dominant

A = Abundant

F = Frequent

O = Occasional

R = Rare

It is to be noted that mid-January is a sub-optimal period during which to undertake botanical surveys, in particular of short mown grasslands and particularly on a site which is at a relatively high altitude. However, the surveyor's extensive experience of botanical survey throughout the UK during all seasons allowed for a satisfactory level of survey effort here.

4. Site Description

4.1 General

The two survey areas are small, disjunct and located within the northern part of the car park at the ASDA store in Merthyr Tydfil within Merthyr Tydfil County Borough.

The store is located to the north-east of the Merthyr Tydfil urban area and north of the A465 public highway at Ordnance Survey grid reference S0075084. This site is a terraced landform on a hillside with a southerly aspect and lies at approximately 380m above sea level.

4.2 Detailed

The easternmost survey area is here called 'Area A' whilst the westernmost survey area is here called 'Area B.'

4.2.1 Area A

The larger of the two sites it is located immediately south-west of the small roundabout which in turn lies south-west of the petrol station. Included within this survey area is the covered Click-and-Collect unit and areas of tarmac.

With regard to vegetated part of this area approximately one third, along the eastern edge, comprises short species-poor grassland which would appear to be mown on a fairly regular basis. The remainder of the vegetated area here comprises non-native shrubs approximately 1.25m in height and apparently trimmed on a fairly regular basis.



Above: the grassland area and the eastern edge of the Introduced Shrub vegetation in Area A



Above: the western edge of the Introduced Shrub vegetation in Area A

4.2.2 Area B

The smaller of the two survey areas this is located immediately north of the store. Approximately one third of Area B is vegetated whilst the rest is a tarmac surface. The vegetated area comprises the foot of a small slope with both easterly and southerly aspects and which supports a species-poor grassland community which would appear to be infrequently managed.



Above: Area B - looking south-west



Above: the northern half of Area B - looking north-west

5. Baseline Results

5.1 Area A

Approximately two thirds of Area A supports non-native Introduced Shrubs planted as part of the store's landscaping strategy. These could not be identified to species level but amongst others a dogwood species *Cornus* sp. was present; in addition there is a small amount of bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. here.

The remainder of Area A supports a short and species-poor grassland community which is essentially neutral in character but does demonstrate a slight affinity towards a marshy grassland as both marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre* and jointed rush *Juncus articulatus* are present in very small quantity.

Due to the short nature of the sward and the sub-optimal time of year in which to conduct a grassland survey it was not possible to determine an accurate record of the grass species present here nor their relative abundance but it would appear that bents *Agrostis* spp., meadow-grasses *Poa* spp., perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne* and fescues *Festuca* spp predominate with some cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata* also present.

Herbs are poorly represented but creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens* is locally frequent. Occasional species include daisy *Bellis perennis*, dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* agg., sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, black medick *Medicago lupulina* and common mouse-ear *Cerastium fontanum*. Other herbs recorded here, but rarely, are common ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*, greater plantain *Plantago major*, field madder *Sherardia arvensis*, procumbent pearlwort *Sagina procumbens* and common cat's-ear *Hypochaeris radicata*.

5.2 Area B

The vegetation here is entirely a species-poor neutral grassland dominated by unmanaged grasses where creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera* appears to be very common and cocksfoot is frequent. Creeping buttercup is locally abundant here but other herbs are rare. Present here in small quantity are meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, sorrel, a willowherb species *Epilobium* sp., common mouse-ear, dandelion, black knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, daisy, thyme-leaved speedwell *Veronica serpyllifolia*, and tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia caespitosa*.

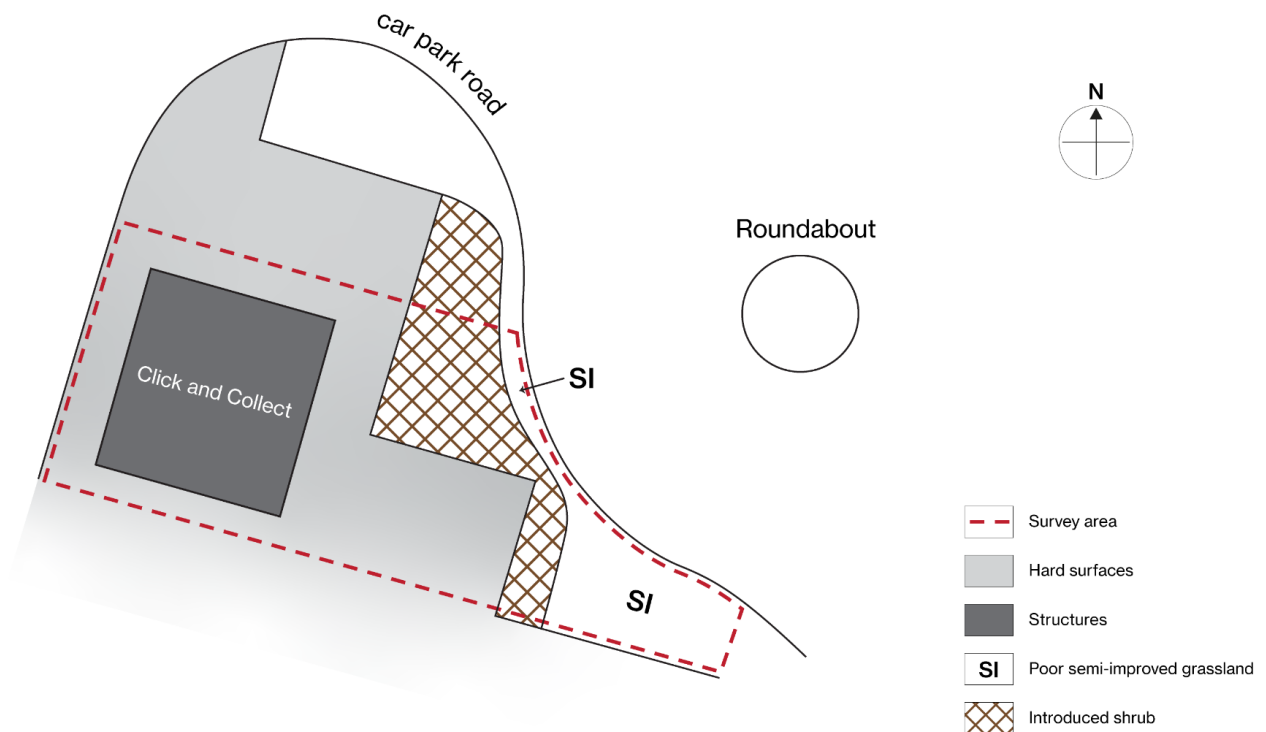
6. Conclusions

Both areas subject to survey support species-poor neutral grasslands with no species of any note recorded. Area B is particularly species-poor.

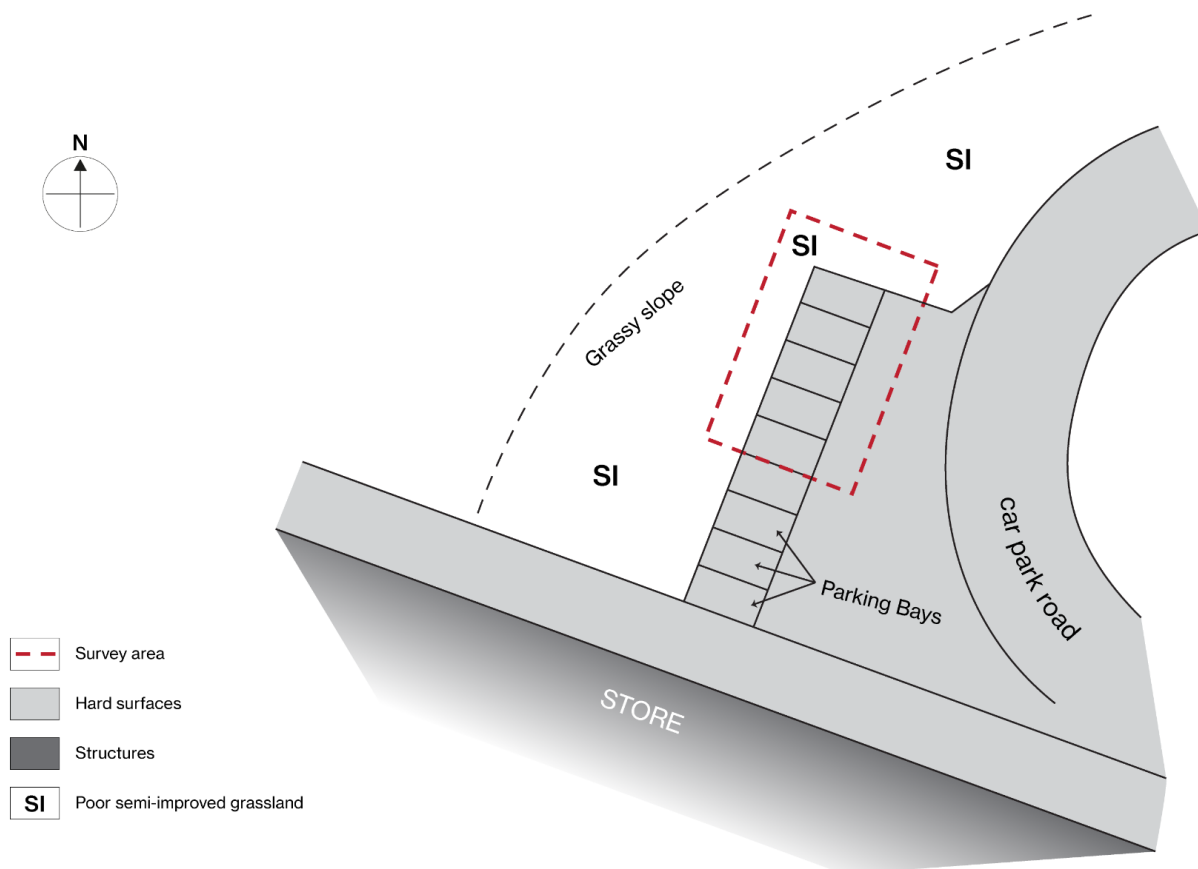
The Introduced Shrub community in Area B comprises non-native shrubs with low ecological value. The grasslands also have low ecological value.

7. Existing Site Plans

Proposed Store Enhancement: ASDA, Merthyr Tydfil (Botanical survey) January 2025 Area A



Proposed Store Enhancement: ASDA, Merthyr Tydfil (Botanical survey) January 2025 Area B



8. Biodiversity Net Gain

8.1 Introduction

A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) calculation has been undertaken for the proposed development, using the Natural England/Defra Biodiversity Method. The existing conditions are based on the findings of the site survey as set out above. Post-development habitats are based on the Biodiversity Enhancement Plan drawing number A6780-01 appended to this report. This chapter summarises the results of the BNG calculation, the full calculation is provided in a separate excel spreadsheet showing the habitat baseline and habitat creation results.

8.2 Calculation

The figures used in the BNG calculation are provided in the following tables and summarised below:

- The existing habitats biodiversity value of the site is 0.03 habitat units.
- The post-development habitats biodiversity value will be 0.04 units, a net gain of 0.01 habitat units (+101.29%).

8.3 Conclusion

The proposals will result in a Biodiversity Net Gain in excess of 100% and therefore confirms that the development will provide an enhancement in biodiversity and comply with relevant policy in order to discharge Condition 3.

Table 1. Habitat baseline

Broad habitat	Habitat type	Area (ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Retained (ha)	Enhanced (ha)
Urban	Developed land; sealed surface	0.0331	V. low	N/A - Other	-	-
Grassland	Modified grassland	0.0124	Low	Poor	-	-
Urban	Introduced shrub	0.0042	Low	Condition Assessment N/A	-	-

Table 2. On-site Habitat Creation

Broad habitat	Habitat type	Area (ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Retained (ha)	Enhanced (ha)
Urban	Developed land; sealed surface	0.0344	V. low	N/A - Other	0.0331	-
Grassland	Modified grassland	0.0124	Low	Poor	0.0124	-
Urban	Introduced shrub	0.0029	Low	Condition Assessment N/A	0.0042	-
Individual trees	Urban tree	0.0122	Medium	Moderate	-	-

9. Summary and Conclusions

9.1 Summary

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Asda Merthyr Tydfil

Headline Results

Scroll down for final results [Δ](#)

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results menu

On-site baseline	Habitat units	0.03	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.07	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.03	101.29%
	Hedgerow units	0.00	0.00%
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%

Off-site baseline	Habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.00	0.00%
	Hedgerow units	0.00	0.00%
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%

Combined net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.03	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	Habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	

FINAL RESULTS

Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.03	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	101.29%	
	Hedgerow units	0.00%	
	Watercourse units	0.00%	
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓		

10 Biodiversity Enhancement Plan



KEY TO LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS

Proposed Planting Details & Specification

Planting should take place during the dormant planting season ie October to March.

Tree Planting

Standard specimen trees planted in locations indicated as per the following specification:

Excavate tree pit, plant tree, backfill with 600mm subsoil and 300mm topsoil and secure in an upright position with timber stake and rubber tie with spacer.

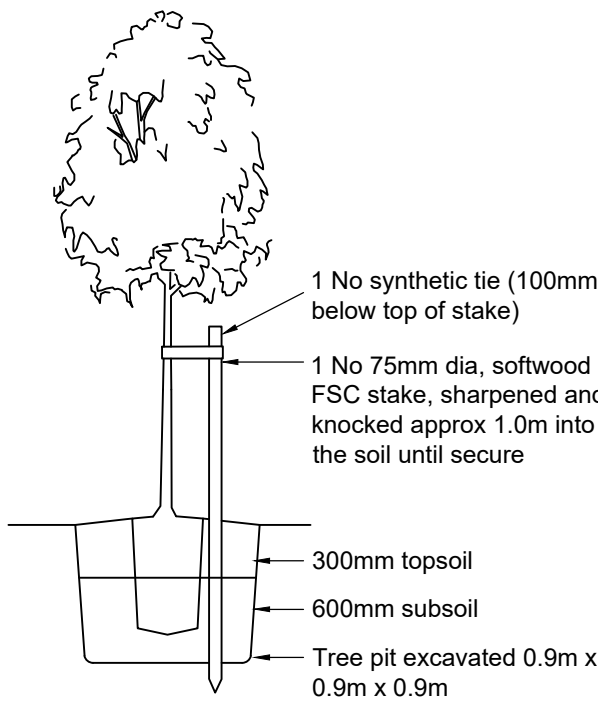


Native Tree Planting (3 no.)

3.5-4.0m high, 12-14 cm girth Heavy Standard root balled trees (supplied by Barcham Trees or similar approved) to be pit planted as per tree pit detail opposite.

1 x Acer campestre (Field Maple) - Ac
2 x Betula pendula (Silver birch) - Bp

Tree Pits & Support



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Notes:

This drawing is based on:

- 4164_MerthyrTydfil_SE_A_00_90_100_Proposed ExternalWorksDetailsPlan_D_WCA_08112024 by Whittam Cox Architects
- Biodiversity Enhancement Report by Encon Associates dated 30 January 2025

Rev	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked
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Client

Asda

Project

Asda Pengarnddu Industrial Estate
Dowlais, Merthyr Tydfil
Click and Collect

Title

Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

Drawing Status

DISCHARGE PLANNING CONDITION 3

Drawn	MB	Checked	LB
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Date	30.01.25	Scale (A1)	1:250
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Environmental Consultants to the Construction Industry
BREEAM - Code for Sustainable Homes Assessors - Landscape Architecture - Transportation
Life Cycle Costing - Energy Assessment - SAP - EPC - SBEM - Daylight Calculations

Job Number	Drawing Number	Rev
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