

Priority Invertebrates

- 4.16. To determine potential impacts of the proposals on priority invertebrates and important invertebrate assemblages which may include specially protected taxa, a detailed invertebrate survey of the Site is recommended to be undertaken in line with good practice guidance³⁶.

Biodiversity Net Gain

- 4.17. The Environment Act 2021³⁷ recently received Royal Assent passing the Act into active legislation, mandating the achievement of quantifiable biodiversity net gain projects and plans in England. Whilst these provisions are currently in a transitional period, where mandating biodiversity net gain is not mandatory for two years after Royal Assent of the Act, this is superseded where a Local Authority's Local Plan already contains provisions for biodiversity net gain.
- 4.18. GMCA Biodiversity Net Gain guidance³⁸ states that 'For developments in Greater Manchester, the minimum level of Biodiversity Net Gain is considered to be achieved when the biodiversity units for the habitats (for example, area based habitats, rivers and/or hedges) impacted by the development is increased by 10% or more after the development. This means delivering 10% gain for area base habitats and 10% net gain for hedges and 10% for rivers if any of these habitats are present on the site.' Relevant staff at the local planning authority and Greater Manchester Ecology Unit should be contacted for guidance if needed. The biodiversity net gain assessment should follow methods set out in a suitable metric, such as Biodiversity Metric 3.0³⁹.

Mitigation

General

- 4.19. It is recommended that all works adhere to the Guidance on Pollution Prevention (GPP)⁴⁰ and the Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) C715 Environmental good practice on site handbook⁴¹.
- 4.20. Any excavations should be covered overnight to prevent mammals falling in. Where pits and trenches cannot be closed or filled on a nightly basis, ensure that a plank is placed into the excavation so an animal can use this as a means to escape if necessary. All excavations should be checked for animals the following morning before proceeding with works. If an animal is found, the animal should not be touched, and an ecologist should be contacted for further advice on how to proceed .
- 4.21. Contractors should ensure all rubbish and construction materials are collected and removed from Site on a regular basis to prevent trapping or injury to mammals.
- 4.22. If any protected species or evidence of legally protected species, or any INNPS, are unexpectedly encountered at any point during the works, all works should cease, and an ecologist should be contacted for further advice on how to proceed.
- 4.23. No night-time working (taken to be 30 minutes prior to sunset until 30 minutes after sunrise) should be undertaken to avoid impacts on nocturnal and crepuscular animals. If night-time working is required, this should be discussed with an ecologist prior to commencement to establish what mitigation measures are required.
- 4.24. Retained trees will be protected in line with guidelines provided in BS 5837 Trees in relation to construction⁴².
- 4.25. The lighting design throughout construction and operation of the Proposed Scheme should be designed to be sensitive to bats and other nocturnal/crepuscular species, avoiding important commuting and foraging routes such as the nearby woodland, wherever possible.

³⁶ [Good Practice Planning for Invertebrates | CIEEM](#)

³⁷ [Environment Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

³⁸ [gmca-bng-guidance-update_250221-final-edited.pdf \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](#)

³⁹ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6049804846366720>

⁴⁰ <https://www.netregs.org.uk/media/1418/gpp-5-works-and-maintenance-in-or-near-water.pdf#:~:text=Guidance for Pollution Prevention%28GPP%29 documents are based,will be committing a criminal offence. Following these>

⁴¹ Environmental Good Practice on Site Guide, CIRIA, Jan 2015, Edition 4

⁴² British Standards, "BS5837:2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. Recommendations," 2012.

Bats

- 4.26. Details of the necessary mitigation required with regard to bats in relation to the Proposed Scheme would be provided following the results of the PBRA and any relevant nocturnal surveys, if necessary (as informed by the PBRA).
- 4.27. If lighting during construction or operation is required, this should be designed in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust lighting guidance⁴³. The construction lighting design should take into account the need to avoid illuminating areas where bats may be roosting in locations such as the houses directly adjacent to the Site.
- 4.28. Removal of hedgerows, lines of trees, woodland and areas of scrub should be avoided wherever possible. If this is not possible, landscaping design should include the replacement of these areas of habitat.

Nesting Birds

- 4.29. It is recommended that vegetation clearance is kept to a minimum and is undertaken outside of the core nesting bird season (the core nesting bird season is 1st March and 31st August). If this cannot be achieved, then vegetation clearance should be undertaken following a PMW with respect to nesting birds. This PMW will include pre-works checks for nesting birds, no sooner than 24 hours prior to any vegetation clearance. If an active bird's nest is found, it will be left undisturbed with an appropriate buffer of vegetation (to be determined by a suitably qualified ecologist) until the young have fully fledged.

Priority Invertebrates

- 4.30. It is recommended that the Proposed Scheme is designed to minimise habitat loss and disturbance of habitats that may support invertebrates and that the landscape proposals maintain a habitat mosaic and include planting that is beneficial to invertebrate species. Where there will be habitat loss, following the invertebrate survey, this should be mitigated through habitat creation and enhancement.
- 4.31. Further measures with regard to priority invertebrates will be determined following suitable surveys.

Hedgehogs

- 4.32. Where areas of scrub are to be cleared, these should first be checked to ensure no hedgehogs are occupying the space.
- 4.33. Where fences are installed hedgehog highways (a 5 inch hole) should be installed within the fencing, in order to facilitate the movement of hedgehogs within the local area.
- 4.34. The general mitigation measures section above provides recommendations that encompass further provisions for hedgehogs.

Plants

- 4.35. Wild strawberry should be transplanted and incorporated into the planting design for the new housing. Translocation and incorporation into a landscape strategy would mitigate potential impacts to this IEF and ensure it would not be lost as part of the development. The species has a relatively wide range of tolerance and should easily be accommodated within a landscape scheme.
- 4.36. A specialist contractor should be engaged to advise on the management or removal of Japanese knotweed from within the Site.

Priority Habitats, Ancient Woodland and Designated Sites

- 4.37. Measures to protect priority habitats, ancient woodland and designated sites are outlined under the general mitigation above, further mitigation may be required following the required survey and consultation with the Local Planning Authority.

Habitats

- 4.38. Existing habitats such as hedgerow, trees, grassland and scrub will be retained as far as practicable to avoid and reduce loss and severance of habitats. Where possible, access routes and compounds

⁴³ Bat Conservation Trust (2009) Bats and Lighting in the UK. Bats and the Built Environment Series.

will be restricted to hardstanding. Habitat loss should be mitigated via landscaping design and biodiversity net gain, as detailed below.

Biodiversity Opportunities for Ecological Enhancements

- 4.39. Opportunities to include bat boxes or bricks as well as bird boxes or swift bricks within the Proposed Scheme design should be investigated.
- 4.40. Opportunities to incorporate green roofs or walls on any newly created structures, or to retrospectively fit them on existing structures should be considered.
- 4.41. The landscape and planting design of the Proposed Scheme should include native species that are beneficial to biodiversity. Trees, shrubs and plants that are beneficial to insects will in turn provide an increased foraging resource to bats. In addition, planting should seek to include species that provide suitable native year-round forage for birds by including a range of fruit and berry bearing species.

Report Validity

In the event of scope or programme changes or if works do not commence within 12 months of the date of this report then updates to the surveys may be required to ensure the validity of the data, as per CIEEM guidance⁴⁴.

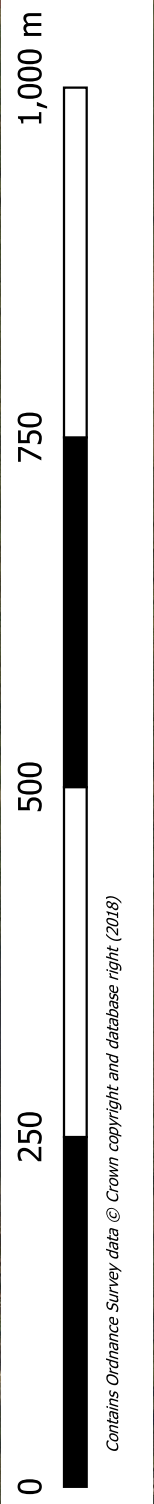
⁴⁴ CIEEM (2019) Advice Note on the Lifespan of Ecological Reports and Surveys

Appendices

Appendix A. Site Location and Scheme Drawings



Site Boundary



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right (2018)

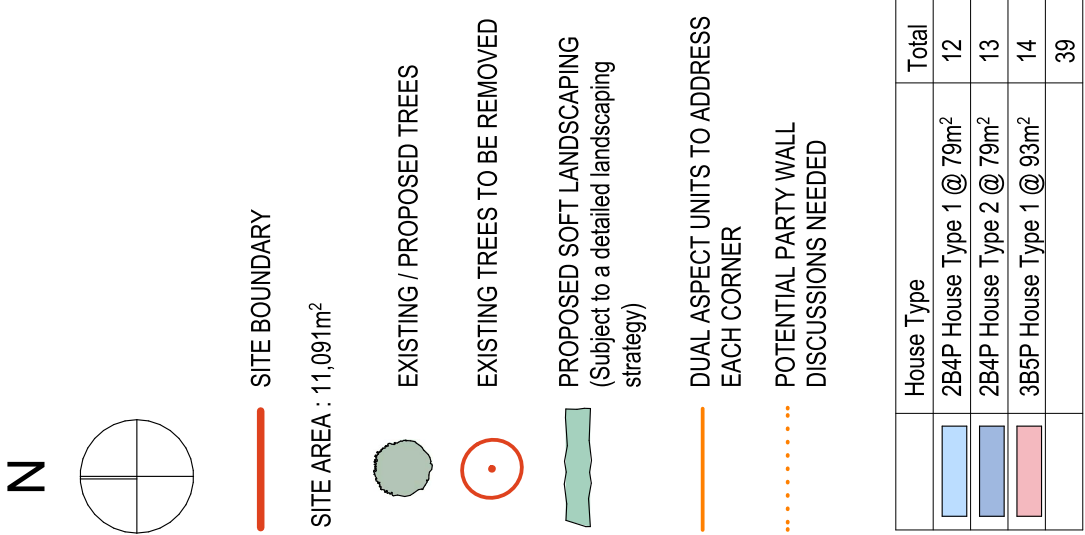
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Project: Former Whitemoss Day Care			
Client: Guinness Partnership			
Title: Site Location Plan			
Drawing number: 01			
Original scale			1:5,400
PAGE 1/1			
Drawn by: GW	Checked by: JS	Reviewed by: LMG	Approved by:
Date: Dec 21	Date: Dec 21	Date: Dec 21	Date: Dec 21

PROPOSED PLAN

PROPOSED MASSING

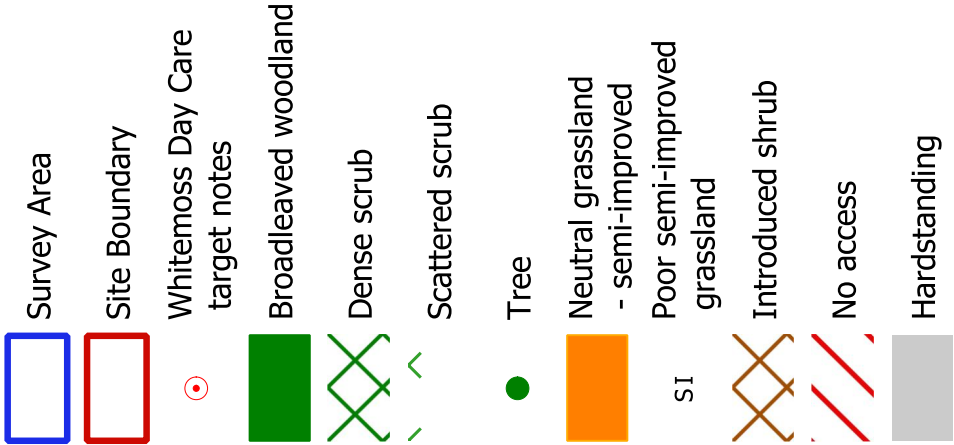
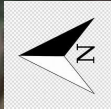


1 Proposed Site Plan 1:1000

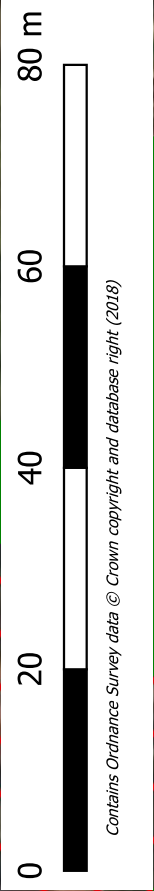
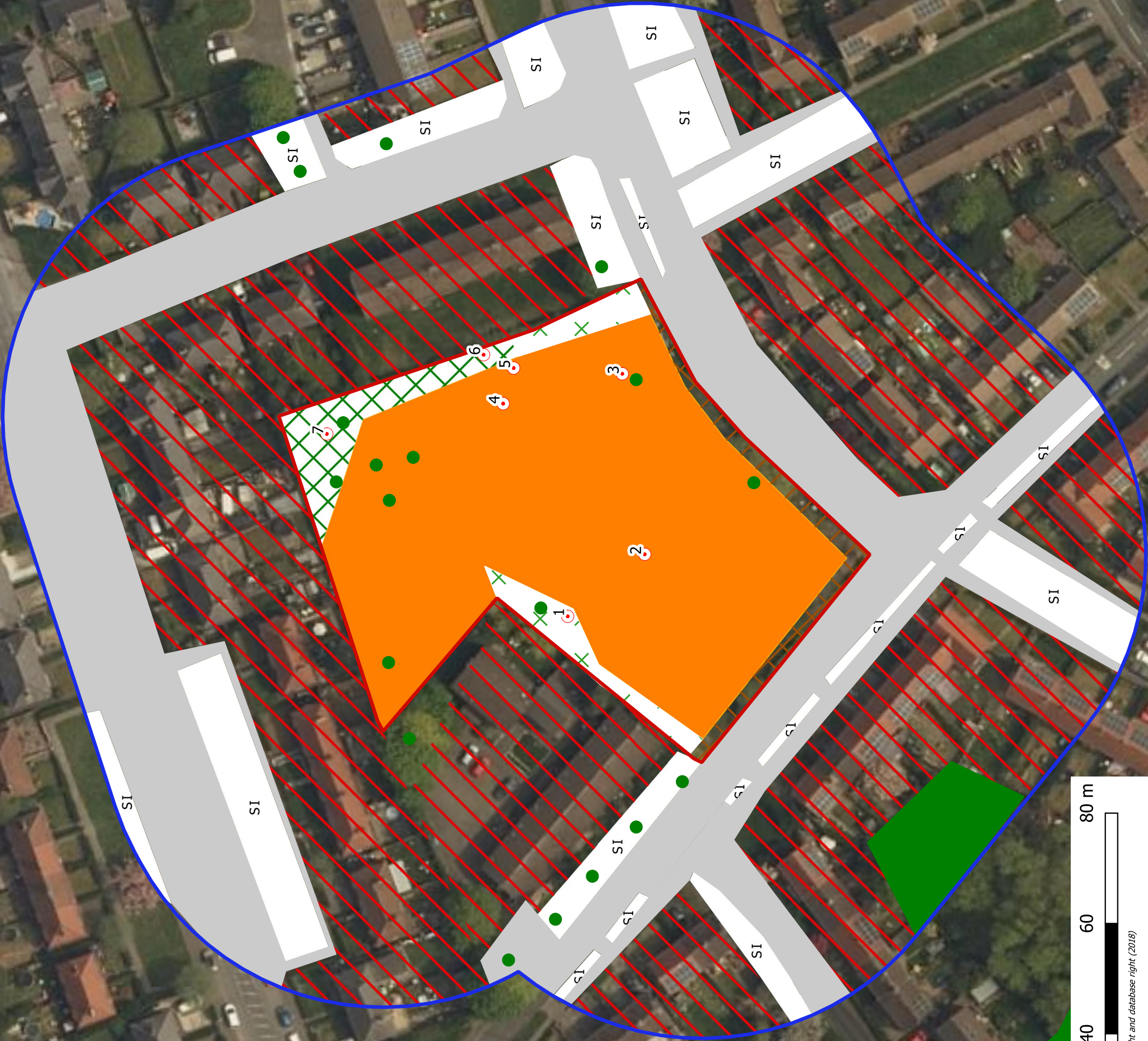


Appendix B. Extended Phase 1 Survey Plan, Priority Habitats and Baileys Wood SBI and Target Notes

Extended Phase 1 Survey Plan



Atkins Limited © Chadwick House Birchwood Park Warrington England WA3 6AE			Project: Former Whitemoss Road Day Care		
Client: Guinness Partnership			Title: Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan		
Drawing number: TBC			Original scale 1:750		
PAGE 1/1			Approved by:		
Drawn by: GW	Checked by: NC	Reviewed by: LG	Date: Dec 21		
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Priority Habitats and Baileys Wood SBI