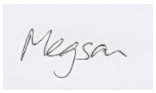
GRAY'S ECOLOGY

Symphony – UK Habitats assessment of Symphony Nature Reserve to populate the Biodiversity Metric

Version control

Version	Prepared by	Status	Date
1.0	Graham Megson, MSc Ecology	Final	11/01/2021
			

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Planning application: 2020/1032.

Symphony Nature Reserve

Introduction

Symphony has proposed the creation of the Symphony Nature Reserve (SNR) within their compound in order to help compensate for the loss of habitats on the development site and the loss of 20 pairs of breeding ground-nesting bird (as well as brown hare, common toad and some invertebrate species). It is important to have a baseline of the existing habitats within the SNR in order to calculate any biodiversity uplift. Therefore, the existing habitats and their condition have been assessed using the UK Habitats classification system and the data have been used to populate the Defra Biodiversity Metric 2.0 (Symphony version 9), including justification for condition assessments where applicable.

Constraints

Due to time pressures of the planning process a more comprehensive habitat assessment was not possible. Gray's Ecology had visited the site on seven occasions during previous ecology work and UK Habitats information was compiled from these visits. Full botanical species lists, ground cover abundance (DOMIN) and frequency (DAFOR) information are not available, however, records of plants, birds and butterflies have been assessed from site walkovers.

All of the habitats are to be retained, with one area enhanced through the creation of a wildlife pond, therefore the Defra Biodiversity Metric shows a biodiversity uplift.

The SNR is centred on national grid reference SE 40680 08034 and covers an area of 1.55 ha.

Plan of nature reserve site



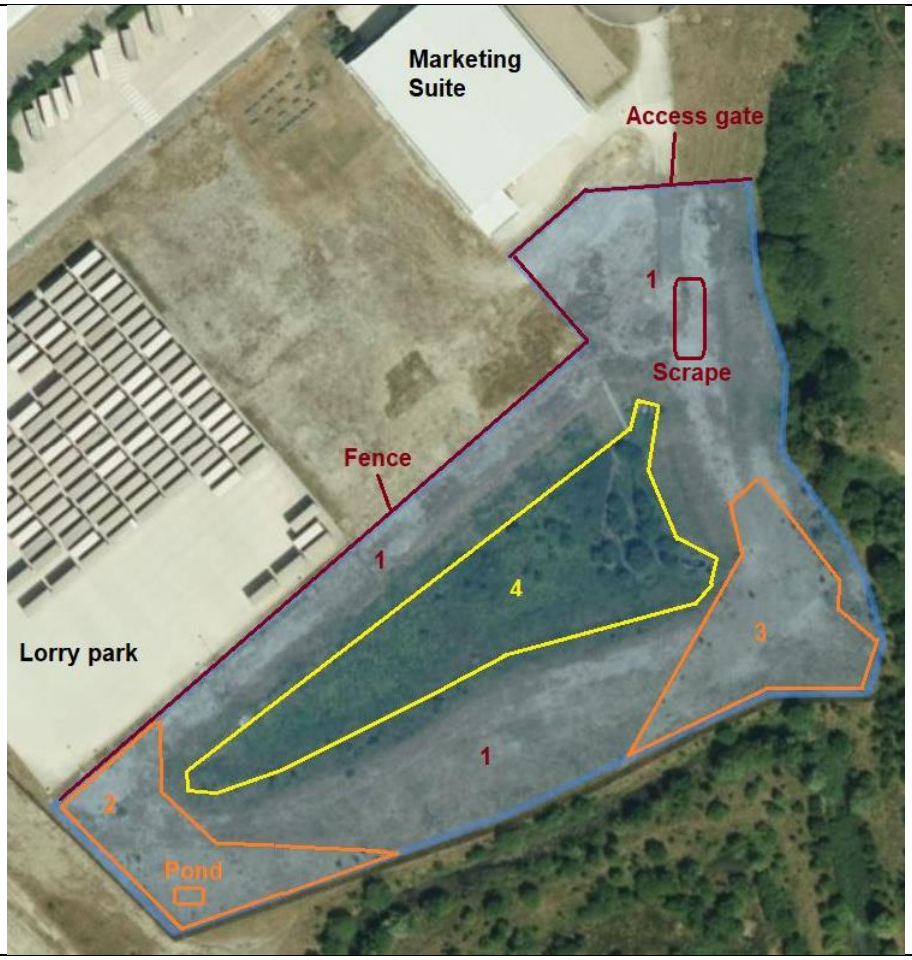
Dates and weather conditions of site visits
Visit 1. 05/09/2019, SW2, 6/8, warm, occasionally sunny, dry.
Visit 2. 20/03/2020, NE2, 2-4/8, cool, sunny, bright, dry.
Visit 3. 20/04/2020, E3, 0/8, sunny, bright, dry.
Visit 4. 03/05/2020, calm, 6/8, cloudy, bright, recent rain.
Visit 5. 17/05/2020, calm, 5/8, bright.
Visit 6. 07/06/2020, N3, 8/8, rain, dull, cool.
Visit 7. 20/06/2020, SW2, 8/8, dry, mild.

Objectives
This report was compiled using the UK Habitat Classification Working Group (2018) User Manual V1.0, along with the Working Group's Habitat Definitions V1.0 and Habitat Classification V1.0. The Biodiversity Metric 2.0: Auditing and accounting for biodiversity value: technical supplement (Beta version, July 2019), Natural England and the Biodiversity Metric 2.0: auditing and accounting for biodiversity value User guide (Beta Version, July 2019). Natural England, were used.

The project objective is given above and fits level 4 of the classification scheme where appropriate. Reference was made to OS maps, aerial and site photographs and information held by Gray's Ecology. The Minimum Mapping Unit (MMU) selected for use was 400m^2.

Key
NGR – National Grid Reference.
OMH - Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land.

Plan of compartments



UK Habitats

Compartment	Existing UK Habitat	Target UK Habitat	Area (ha)
1	g3c	Retain + 4x10m scrape	0.97
2	Urban: 351 Vacant/ derelict land	Retain + 6x10m Pond	0.12
3	Urban: 351 Vacant/ derelict land	Retain	0.16
4	Urban: 1190 sustainable urban drainage feature	Retain	0.30
Total			1.55

Compartment descriptions

Compartment 1
UK Habitat g3c - Grassland - Other neutral grassland

Description A relatively sparce grassland, with closed turf over much of its extent. The berms and slopes of the SUDS basin typically support false oat grass, broad-leaved dock, black knapweed, wild carrot, coltsfoot and bird's-foot trefoil (supporting common blue and dingy skipper butterfies).
Compartment 2 UK Habitat Best fit is Urban: 351 Vacant/ derelict land

Description An area of mostly bare gravel, likely to be from the construction of the SUDS feature. Several plants beginning to establish, notably some grasses and dog rose.

Compartment 3
UK Habitat
Best fit is Urban: 351 Vacant/ derelict land



Description
An area of mostly bare gravel, likely to be from the construction of the SUDS feature. Several plants beginning to establish, notably some grasses, dog rose, bramble and dog-wood. Some herbs noted including *Hieracium* sp. and bird's-foot trefoil.

Compartment 4
UK Habitat
Urban: 1190 sustainable urban drainage feature



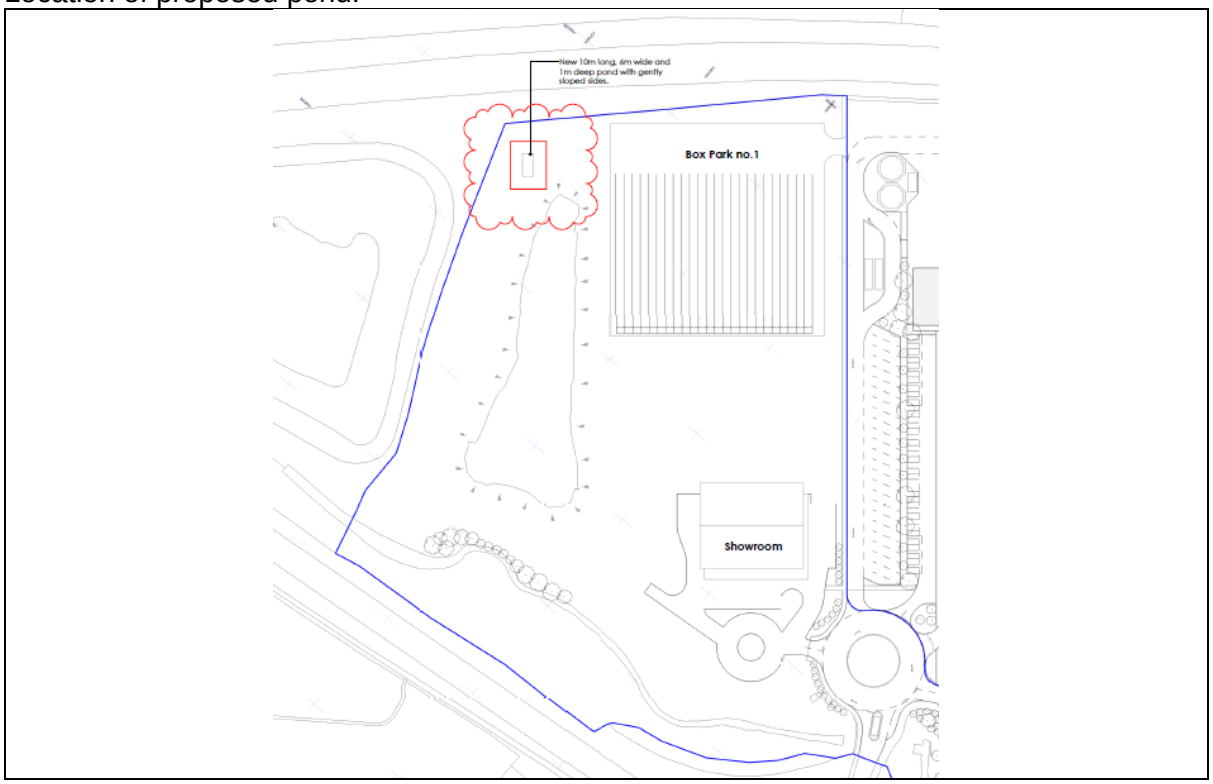
Description
A mosaic of more lush vegetation communities including reeds (common reed), swamp (reedmace), willow scrub, marshy grassland (meadow buttercup) and tall herb (greater willowherb; reed canary grass). An area of shallow standing water was present on some visits.

Habitat enhancement

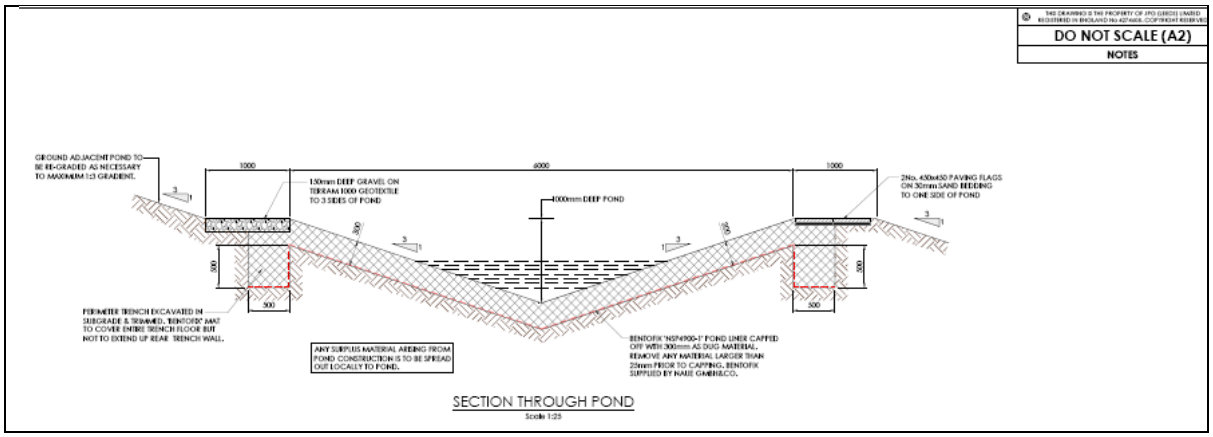
Brief details of the proposed pond are included. A set of full drawings have been submitted by the applicant.

In the Biodiversity Metric (v9) the pond has been entered as Lakes - Ponds (Non- Priority Habitat) with the condition set as good, with the attached comment: 'A 6x10 m pond will be created and left to colonise naturally. Condition is entered as good because it will have matured and be functional within ten years. A management plan will be provided'. The pond delivers 0.19 habitat units.

Location of proposed pond.



Section through proposed pond.



SNR Management Plan

Should the planning application be approved it is expected that a SNR Management Plan will be a condition. This will include details of a new 6x10x1m pond and its long-term management, and a 10x4x0.25m scrape.

Symphony employees will be discouraged from accessing the SNR through the erection of a post and rail fence and signage, to reduce disturbance.

A shallow scrape will be created to encourage ground-nesting birds. It is anticipated that the area will support one pair of lapwing.

Bibliography

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A – Natural England, B – Imperial College, University of London, C – Environment Agency, D – Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

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