3.10 Site 10. Thorpe Marriott Greenway

Photographs

Key Facts

3.10.1 Size of the Site: 3.67ha

3.10.2 Habitats present: **Other woodland; mixed**

3.10.3 Tree Preservation Orders, Conservation Areas, County Wildlife Sites (CWS), Roadside Nature Reserves, Priority Habitats, Statutory Designated Sites present on site? **Partially in a Strategic Area. Partially in an Area that Could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity in LNRS. Priority Habitat woodland.**

3.10.4 Recommended habitat measures in LNRS: **None.**

Baseline Habitat Description and BNG Calculation

3.10.5 Thorpe Marriott Greenway comprised a mixed deciduous and coniferous woodland belt around the Thorpe Marriot housing estate with a central path and walking route through the trees. The woodland dates from the late twentieth century and prior to its establishment was proceeded by agricultural hedgerows with boundary trees.

3.10.6 The woodland was assessed to be in **moderate condition** overall.

3.10.7 The canopy comprised mostly of semi-mature Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris* and ash. Mature oaks (from the previous field boundary) were present on the north-west boundary, silver birch was occasional and hornbeam was rare. Non-natives including larch *Larix decidua* and walnut Juglans regia were rarely present within the woodland.

3.10.8 The understorey was diverse with 12 native shrub species including frequent hawthorn and hazel and occasional field maple and ash. Non-native shrubs were also present including Norway maple, Portuguese laurel *Prunus lusitanica* and frequent cherry plum *Prunus cerasifera*. Very infrequent and invasive cherry laurel was present in the understorey.

3.10.9 The flora of the woodland was a mixture of typical grassland and woodland species which reflected the relatively young age of the woodland and its ongoing transition to shaded woodland flora species. Grassland species such as cocksfoot, false goat grass, dandelion and ragwort were present as well as woodland species including false wood brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, foxglove and hedge woundwort *Stachys sylvatica*. The non-native invasive Schedule 9 species variegated yellow archangel was present in the north-west corner of the Site. The northern strip of woodland was noted to be slightly more floristically diverse likely due to it's better light regime.

3.10.10 In total, the habitats on Site represent **29.34 Habitat Units** as shown in Table 15 below.

Table 15. Baseline BNG Calculation for Habitats

Habitat	Area (hectares)	Ecological Distinctiveness	Condition	Habitat Units (HU)
Other woodland; mixed	3.67	Medium	Moderate	29.34
Total	**3.67**			**29.34**

3.10.11 A map of the baseline habitats is provided in Figure 10, Appendix 1.

Proposed Biodiversity Enhancements

- Remove invasive cherry laurel and variegated yellow archangel;
- Monitor ash dieback and remove dead/dying individuals where a safety risk exists;
- Thin dense stands to allow in more light to encourage better ground flora; and
- Install five bird and five bat boxes on trees.

Specification of Management Actions

3.10.12 Proposed biodiversity enhancements are shown on Figure 10, Appendix 2.

<u>Invasive Species:</u>

- A small number of cherry laurel shrubs were observed in the woodland. These will be removed using a chainsaw/hand held saw and poisoning the stump to prevent regeneration. Non-native variegated yellow archangel patches in the north-west of the tree belt will also be removed by targeted herbicide applications. Checks for three years following removal/herbicide application will be undertaken to check and treat any regrowth.

Ash:

- Ash dieback disease was noted affecting some of the ash within the woodland as evidenced by thin canopies of semi-mature trees. Once 50% of the canopy has thinned, ash trees should be removed and the wood retained as woodpiles (rather than woodchip) within the woodland belt.

Thinning:

- Thin trees particularly along the north-west/south-east belt to allow more light penetration to the field layer and encourage ground flora. Preferentially thin non-native trees such as sycamore and Scots pine as well as diseased ash. Dense stands of holly can also be thinned. All tree removal will take place during September-mid February to avoid the bird nesting season.
- Protect new native broadleaf regeneration from browsing with brash/dead hedging/removed trees surrounding saplings.

Bird and bat boxes:

- Five bird boxes and five bat boxes will be installed on suitable trees as per the guidance in Appendix 3.

Five Year Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

3.10.13 Following the management specification and guidance above, the Table below provides the timing of management actions over five years.

Habitat	Management Action and Timing				
	2025/2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Other woodland; mixed	Remove and treat cherry laurel and variegated yellow archangel. Create five new woodpiles.	Inspect cherry laurel and variegated yellow archangel and remedy any regrowth. Thin dense holly stands. Remove suitable ash with ash dieback. Use brash to create woodpiles.	Inspect cherry laurel and variegated yellow archangel and remedy any regrowth.	Inspect cherry laurel and variegated yellow archangel and remedy any regrowth.	Inspect cherry laurel and variegated yellow archangel and remedy any regrowth.
Bird and bat boxes	Install five bird boxes and five bat boxes on trees.	Check bird and bat boxes remain securely fixed.	Check bird and bat boxes remain securely fixed.	Check bird and bat boxes remain securely fixed.	Check bird and bat boxes remain securely fixed.

Annual Monitoring Checklist

3.10.14 The checklist below is devised as a quick annual check to be carried out and completed by the responsible Community Asset Manager to ensure that the recommended enhancements measures above have taken place. The items in the checklist below have been replicated in a separate Annual Monitoring excel spreadsheet for ease of completion.

Annual Monitoring Checklist for Thorpe Marriott Tree Belt

Habitat	Management Action	Tick relevant column if completed				
		2025/2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Other woodland; mixed	Cherry laurel and variegated yellow archangel removed and checked?					
	Ash with canopies affected more than 50% removed?					
	Non-native trees thinned, particularly in north-west to south-east belt?					
	Native regeneration protected with brash?					
Bird and bat boxes	Installed?					
	Annually checked to make sure still safely secured to tree?					

Post-enhancement BNG Calculation

The proposed enhancements will produce no BNG uplift. This is because it is not considered feasible to change the woodland character from mixed woodland to a higher distinctiveness broadleaved woodland without considerable felling of Scots pine which would not be desirable. Similarly, the condition of the woodland is unlikely to reach 'good' condition given the narrow nature of the woodland and its current mostly uniform age structure.