

# Biodiversity Strategy Statement



**Tyler  
Grange**

**Himley Village, Bicester  
– Phase 2A  
16th January 2025**

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Plan 1: 15525/P18 Phase 2A Habitat Features



# Section 1: Introduction

## Introduction

- 1.1. This report has been prepared by Tyler Grange Group Ltd. on behalf of Cala Homes in respect to Phase 2A of the Land at Himley Village, Oxfordshire, OX26 1RT hereafter referred to as the 'site'. The site is centred on National Grid Reference SP 55436 23155. See **Figure 1.1** for the indicative site boundaries.



**Figure 1.1.** Indicative wider site boundary shown in blue and Phase 2A boundary shown in red (© Google Aerial Imagery)

- 1.2. An outline planning application for the phased development of up to 1,700 residential dwellings (Class C3), flexible commercial floorspace (Classes A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, B1, C1 and D1), social and community facilities (Class D1), land to accommodate one energy centre and land to accommodate one new primary school (up to 2FE) (Class D1) was submitted to Cherwell District Council (Application Ref: 14/02121/OUT) in 2014.
- 1.3. Outline planning permission was granted for the site in January 2020 with a number of conditions attached. Several conditions were later amended as part of a non-material amendment in December 2022 (Planning Ref: 22/03492/NMA), with Condition 10 stating:

### *Condition 10*

*"Prior to or alongside the submission of any application for approval of reserved matters for phase 1, a Bio Diversity Strategy for the site shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to the determination of the reserved matters application for phase 1. Each reserved matter application shall be accompanied by a statement setting out how the proposed development will contribute to achieving the Bio Diversity Strategy and net biodiversity gain. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved Bio Diversity Strategy."*



- 1.4. Tyler Grange has since produced a site wide Biodiversity Strategy in December 2023 (**15525\_R03D\_Biodiversity Strategy\_18122023**) as part of the Reserved Matters (RM) application and pursuant to Condition 10. This Biodiversity Strategy report included an updated redline boundary for the wider site and detailed the results of update habitat and protected species surveys in 2023, along with a biodiversity net gain (BNG) assessment for the entire wider site, which includes all phases of the development. The site wide Biodiversity Strategy report has since been approved and should be viewed in conjunction with this report.

## Purpose

- 1.5. This report has been prepared to fulfil the remaining requirements of Condition 10 as part of the Reserved Matters application for Phase 2A of the development. It outlines the specifics of the Phase 2A development and assesses how the proposals align with the mitigation and enhancement measures outlined in the Biodiversity Strategy.



## Section 2: Phase 2A

### Phase 2A Context and Habitats

- 2.1. Phase 2A of the development comprises the first residential phase of the development, with access provided by Phase 1B.
- 2.2. The habitat present within the Phase 2A boundaries is dominated by modified grassland, which is of low ecological importance, along with a length of hedgerow H4 which comprises a species-rich hedgerow with trees (see **Plan 15525/P18**).

### Proposed Development

- 2.3. Phase 2A comprises the first residential phase of the development and includes the new residential units, internal access roads, pathways and parking, residential gardens, and areas of ornamental and amenity planting.
- 2.4. The proposals will require the removal of the modified grassland to facilitate the development, along with a small section of hedgerow for a new footpath. The remainder of H4 will be buffered from any new development and new habitat created and enhanced wherever possible.

### Biodiversity Enhancements

- 2.5. The Phase 2A proposals includes a range of new habitats that will be created within the hedgerow buffer. This includes the creation of other neutral grassland (wildflower grassland) swards along hedgerow margin, a mix of native scrub planting to create a thick and dense hedgerow that provides new sources food and refugia for wildlife, and new native tree planting.
- 2.6. Furthermore, the hedgerow H4 will be enhanced via infill planting to improve the overall structure and through appropriate management for the benefit of biodiversity.
- 2.7. The proposed habitat creation and enhancement will provide new opportunities for a range of faunal groups, including bats, nesting and foraging birds, badger *Meles meles*, hedgehog and other small mammals, along with contributing to a net gain in biodiversity.
- 2.8. While primarily urban in nature, the new residential gardens and amenity planting within the development will also provide new habitats for a range of fauna, including common garden birds and small mammals.
- 2.9. The newly created, retained, and enhanced habitats will be sensitively managed for the benefit of biodiversity, as detailed within the submitted Landscape Habitat Management Plan (LHMP) (report ref: **15525\_R04F\_LHMP\_08042024\_JS\_RC**).
- 2.10. While not measured as part of a biodiversity net gain assessment, other species-specific enhancements will take place as part of the Phase 2A development to provide new



opportunities to a range of faunal groups. This includes incorporation of bat and bird bricks/boxes into the new residential units to provide new roosting and nesting opportunities, and provisioned such that there is one bat or bird box provided per dwelling. In addition, bee/insect bricks will be provisioned in every other dwelling to provide further opportunities for invertebrates.

## **Biodiversity Net Gain**

An overall net gain in biodiversity has been achieved at the site, as detailed within the Biodiversity Strategy. This net gain has been achieved site wide and resulting from the proposed habitat creation and enhancement measures specified for each phase. Collectively, each phase of development contributes to achieving this overall net gain in biodiversity post-development.



## Section 3: Conclusion

- 3.1. Phase 2A comprises the first residential phase of the development, along with areas of new habitat creation and enhancement.
- 3.2. New habitat to be created and enhanced as part of the 2A proposals include new wildflower grassland, new native scrub planting, new native tree planting, and infill planting of the existing hedgerow to improve species diversity and structure.
- 3.3. The newly created and retained habitats will provide new opportunities for a range of faunal groups within the site, and management of these habitats will be sensitive and at the benefit for biodiversity.
- 3.4. Other species-specific enhancements such as the installation of bat, bird and insect bricks into the new residential developments will provide additional features of importance for a range of wildlife.
- 3.5. The provision of these features and the creation and enhancement of habitat with each phase of the development will ensure an overall net gain in biodiversity is achieved and opportunities for wildlife are enhanced, in line with the Biodiversity Strategy.

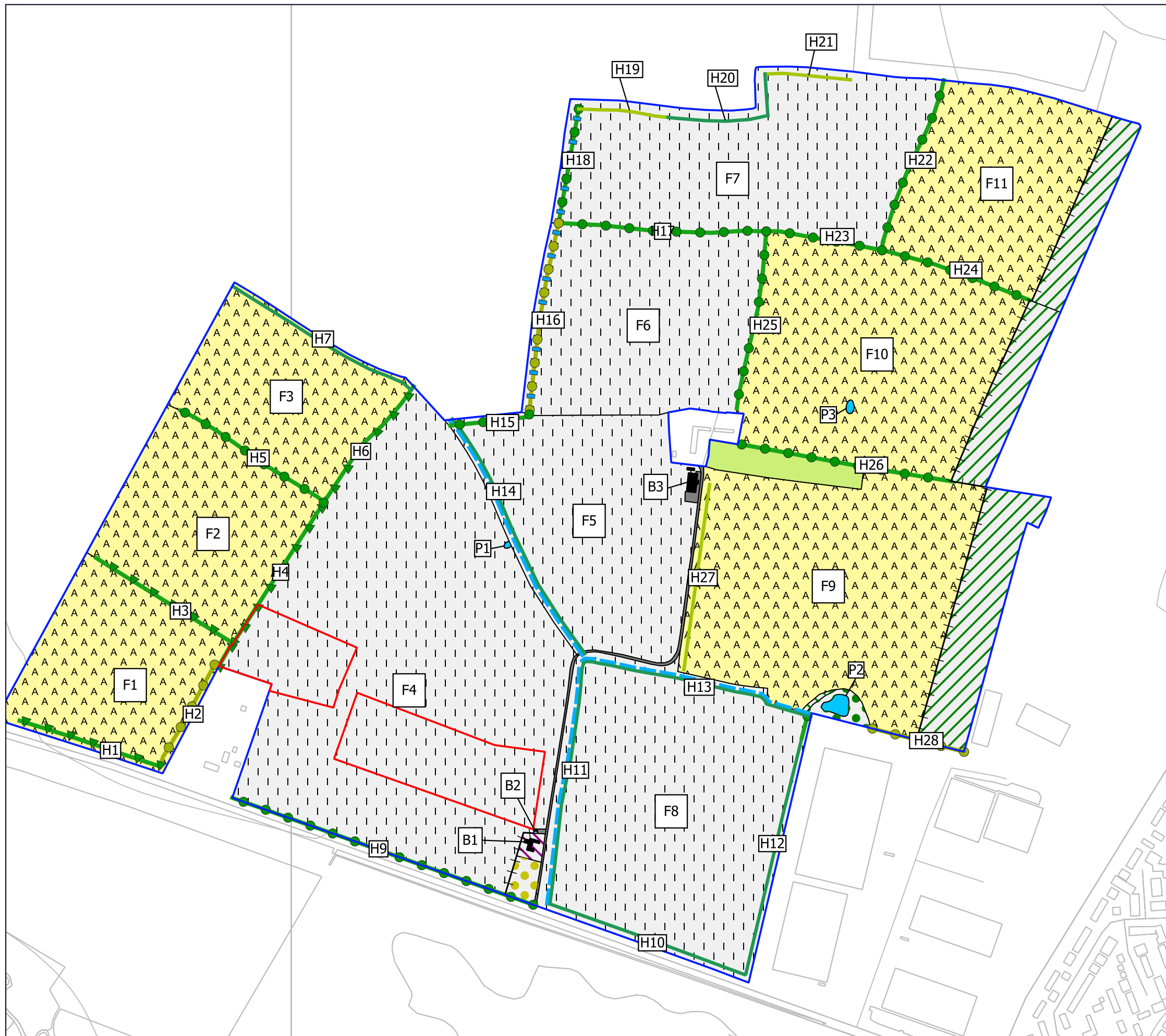




# Plans

Plan 1: **15525/P18 Phase 2A Habitat Features**





- Phase 2A
- Wider Site Boundary
- Baseline Habitats 2023**
- Arable
- Buildings
- Broadleaved parkland
- Broadleaved woodland plantation
- Hardstanding
- Modified grassland
- Orchard
- Ponds (P1 - P3)
- Modified grassland
- Scattered scrub
- Vegetated garden
- Ancient species rich hedge with trees
- Species poor hedge with trees and dry ditch
- Species rich hedge with trees and dry ditch
- Species poor hedge with trees
- Species rich hedge with trees
- Species poor hedge
- Species rich hedge
- Species rich hedgerow with dry ditch
- Fence



Project	Himley Village, Bicester
Drawing Title	Phase 2A Habitat Features
Scale	As Shown (Approximate)
Drawing No.	15525/P18
Date	June 2024
Checked	JS/RC



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