

IMMINGHAM EASTERN RO-RO TERMINAL



Woodland Enhancement Management Plan (WEMP)

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1. Executive Summary

This document sets out Associated British Port's proposals for ecological enhancement measures that will be delivered as part of the Immingham Eastern Ro-Ro Terminal Development Consent Order. These measures will be delivered in an area of woodland known as 'Long Wood', which lies immediately to the east of the port estate, opposite the Port's East Gate. Long Wood is owned by Associated British Ports and protected by a Tree Preservation Order made by North East Lincolnshire Council. The woodland is dominated by mature oak and ash.

Measures to enhance the ecology of the woodland will be delivered, along with a long-term programme of woodland management and monitoring. These measures were discussed and agreed in principle with the North East Lincolnshire Council tree officer during a site meeting in May 2022.

Management will include targeted semi-mature tree and shrub removal to open up the canopy and encourage the development of a greater diversity of woodland ground flora, and the creation of log and brash piles using felled material. All mature oak and ash trees will be retained. Bird and bat boxes will also be installed within suitable locations within the woodland to provide additional nesting and roosting opportunities.

2. Introduction

Purpose of Document

- 2.1 This management plan has been prepared by AECOM Limited ('AECOM') on behalf of Associated British Ports (ABP). It sets out the ecological enhancements that will be delivered as part of the Immingham Eastern Ro-Ro Terminal (IERRT) Development Consent Order (DCO).
- 2.2 A linear band of woodland to the east of the Port of Immingham and south of Laporte Road lies within ABP ownership. It is this area that will be subject to various management interventions to improve its structure and ecological function. The measures proposed are also designed to create conditions supporting the development of greater species diversity (see Figure 1).
- 2.3 Whilst ABP is of the view that the IERRT proposals will not have an adverse environmental impact on flora and fauna within the operational port estate, ABP is also of the view that it would be entirely appropriate, in the context of its obligations as a responsible port operator and in recognition of the IERRT development proposals to include, if possible, an element of environmental enhancement in tandem with the delivery of the IERRT project.

Legal Framework

- 2.4 The woodland within which works are proposed as part of this Woodland Enhancement and Management Plan (WEMP) is subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) No. 107 made by North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) in 2002, referred to as the 'Order'. The Order covers the linear band of woodland spanning Laporte Road and is referred to within the Order as "*Long Wood, Laporte Road, Stallingborough*". A plan of the Order is shown in Appendix B. The northern section is referenced as 'W.1' and the southern section as 'W.2'.
- 2.5 The ecological enhancement works set out in this document relate solely to the southern section of the woodland (Ref: W.2, shown in Appendix B), which is located on the southern side of Laporte Road.
- 2.6 In addition, whilst the works identified fall within an area protected by a TPO, the proposed works are to be delivered only as part of the IERRT development and the provisions of the Order are only disapplied in connection with the IERRT scheme and in no other circumstances.

Consultation

- 2.7 A site meeting was held on 10th May 2022 attended by ABP, their appointed ecologist (AECOM) and NELC Tree Officer to discuss the proposals set out in this WEMP, and to agree in principle an approach that would be acceptable to NELC. A draft version of this document has also been reviewed by the NELC Tree Officer.

3. Baseline

Desk Study Data

- 3.1 Interrogation of freely available historic maps indicates that “Long Wood” woodland was present on the 1889 Ordnance Survey Map¹ where it was a continuous strip of woodland (Laporte Road having not been constructed at that time). It is therefore likely that this area has been wooded from at least the middle of the 19th century.
- 3.2 The following information has been determined through desk study:
- the woodland is covered by a TPO;
 - the woodland is not covered by any statutory or non-statutory nature conservation designations;
 - the woodland is not listed on the Natural England’s Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI); and
 - the woodland is listed on Natural England’s Priority Habitat Inventory as ‘Deciduous Woodland’.

Habitats

- 3.3 A walkover survey of the woodland at Long Wood on the south side of Laporte Road was undertaken in March 2022 to identify the baseline habitat conditions within the woodland at Long Wood and to inform suitable management interventions that would deliver ecological enhancement. This was updated in May 2022 during a walkover survey conducted with the NELC Tree Officer. The woodland, referred to as “Long Wood”, has been subject to some previous management by a local volunteer group, although not in recent years due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- 3.4 Long Wood is bordered by Laporte Road to the north, an area of scrubby disused land to the west (off Queen’s Road), industrial buildings and a waste-water treatment plant to the east, and by a railway line to the south.
- 3.5 The woodland is dominated by a closed canopy of mature pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) with some ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), semi-mature hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*), and a scrubby understorey of bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*) that is dense in parts. The cover of ground flora was generally sparse due to shading by the dense tree canopy cover, with some stands of common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), wood avens (*Geum urbanum*), cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and ground elder (*Aegopodium podagraria*). A few native bluebell plants (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) were present at the very southern end of the woodland (on the south side of the access track to the waste-water treatment plant). There was some evidence of self-seeded sapling tree growth, although this was generally inhibited due to shading by the surrounding mature specimens.
- 3.6 A small ditch runs south to north along the western boundary of the woodland and is culverted beneath Laporte Road, from where it continues north into the wider drainage network and eventually outfalls into the estuary via North Beck Drain. The ditch was shallow in profile and choked with leaf litter, heavily shaded and supported no water at the time of the surveys. The lack of evidence of aquatic/ marginal plants indicates that it does not support water regularly/ if at all. There is a scattered band of overgrown hawthorn trees along the eastern edge of the ditch, some of which show evidence of historic laying.
- 3.7 There were some areas of new tree whip planting (still in tree guards) evident as part of the relatively recent volunteer activity, although few of the specimens appear to have successfully established.
- 3.8 There is no public access into the woodland, but there is evidence of a path through the eastern part of the woodland connecting Laporte Road and the waste-water treatment access track/ Queens Road that is presumably informally used.

¹ Maps online accessed via the National Library of Scotland www.maps.nls.uk

4. Management and Enhancement

Purpose and Objectives

- 4.1 The purpose of the measures set out in this document is to improve the structure and function of the woodland to deliver measurable ecological enhancements through targeted management interventions.
- 4.2 This WEMP sets out how the following objectives will be met:
- reduction in understorey canopy cover to create open 'glades' to encourage the development of woodland ground flora, which is currently inhibited due to shading;
 - creation of more ecological niches for terrestrial invertebrates and amphibians;
 - increase nesting opportunities for breeding birds; and
 - increase opportunities for roosting bats.

Management

- 4.3 The method by which each of the objectives identified above will be met is set out in Table 1 below, along with seasonal timings as appropriate for each management intervention. A ten-year programme of management is also set out.
- 4.4 It is anticipated that management of the woodland habitats will commence alongside the DCO construction programme in early 2024.
- 4.5 Prior to commencement of monitoring works (as detailed in Table 2), a detailed habitat survey of the woodland will be undertaken in summer 2023 to establish a robust baseline against which the progress of the planned management towards the WEMP objectives can thereafter be measured. This will include the following elements:
- woodland ground flora survey and woodland NVC assessment, including detailed mapping of habitats;
 - identification and marking up of semi-mature trees to be selectively felled and areas of scrub to be cleared;
 - survey for evidence of ash die-back disease; and
 - identification and marking up of trees suitable for the installation of bird and bat boxes.
- 4.6 A plan showing the zones to be subject to selective felling/ scrub clearance is provided as Figure 1. The semi-mature trees/ shrubs to be cleared are all <20 cm diameter at breast height (DBH). No mature tree specimens will be felled (unless subsequent surveys identify evidence of ash die-back disease, in which case removal of diseased specimens will be agreed with NELC prior to felling). The areas for clearance have been chosen to allow the surrounding mature specimen trees to remain in place, and where opportunities to open up the canopy were considered most appropriate and potentially beneficial. A schedule of specimens to be felled is set out in Table A3 in Appendix A and will comprise the following:
- Zone A – removal of approximately 6 No. semi-mature hawthorn and 6 No. semi-mature elder;
 - Zone B – removal of 5 No. semi-mature hawthorn; and
 - Zone C – removal of approximately 7 No. semi-mature hawthorn.

- 4.7 The means by which ABP will be obliged to carry out the works identified within this Woodland Enhancement Management Plan will be by way of a Requirement included within the IERRT DCO.

Table 1: Woodland Management Interventions and Timetable

Management Intervention	Delivery	Comments	Timing	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Years 5-10
Selective felling of semi-mature trees	Small number of semi-mature hawthorn and elder trees to be felled to create open glades within existing woodland.	Felled material will be used to create log pile refuges within the woodland. No felling will be undertaken in the nesting bird season (March to August inclusive).	September to February	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Removal of ash showing evidence of ash die-back disease	Any trees showing evidence of ash die-back disease to be felled (to be agreed with the NELC Tree Officer and trees to be clearly marked on a plan).	Trees to be checked for bat roost potential by an ecologist prior to felling and mitigation for legislative compliance adopted as necessary (e.g. Natural England licence or soft-felling under ecological watching brief). Felled material will be used to create log pile refuges within the woodland. Some standing dead wood may be retained. No felling will be undertaken in the nesting bird season (March to August inclusive).	September to February	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Selective removal of encroaching scrub	Localised areas of dense bramble scrub clearance to support objectives for creation of open glades within existing woodland.	Cut in late winter/ early spring so berries provide feeding resource for winter birds. No scrub removal will be undertaken in the nesting bird season (March to August inclusive).	December – February	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
		Where necessary, thin scrub areas further in years 2 – 10 and use felled material to establish log piles on site.	December – February	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
Creation of log pile refuges and brash piles	Log and brash piles to be created using material from on-site tree felling and scrub clearance.	Felled material (trees, branches, brash etc.) from tree/ scrub removal to be used to establish log piles on site.	September – February	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
	Increase availability of refuges for terrestrial invertebrates and amphibians	Replenish log piles by adding additional felled material (e.g. trees, scrub, branches) where it becomes available.	September – February	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓

Management Intervention	Delivery	Comments	Timing	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Years 5-10
Install 10 No. bird nest boxes	Increase nesting opportunities for breeding birds	Installation in autumn/ winter so they are available for use the following spring/ summer.	September/ October	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
		Maintenance/ repair where damage/ loss occurs.	October – February	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
Install 10 No. bat roost boxes	Increase roosting opportunities for bats	Installation in autumn/ winter so they are available for use the following spring/ summer.	September/ October	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
		Maintenance/ repair where damage/ loss occurs.	October – February	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓

Monitoring and Triggers for Remedial Action

- 4.8 The woodland will be subject to a walkover survey in May/June every two years for the ten-year management plan period to monitor progress against the objectives set out in this WEMP, starting at Year 2 (with Year 1 being the year when the management interventions as set out in Table 1 commence).
- 4.9 A summary of the monitoring that will be undertaken, and the triggers for remedial action, is provided in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Monitoring and Triggers for Remedial Action

WEMP Target	Monitoring	Timing	Trigger for Remedial Action	Remedial Action	Year									
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Creation of open glades within woodland to improve diversity of ground flora	Habitat walkover survey	May/ June	>20% cover of bramble in open glade areas.	Removal of encroaching bramble scrub	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓
			Presence of invasive non-native species e.g. rhododendron, snowberry	Remove invasive species material in September/ October after nesting bird season. Arisings to be removed from site to prevent further spread.	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓
			Evidence of fly tipping	Remove fly tipped rubbish and improve measures to limit access for vehicles to discourage further fly-tipping	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓
Monitoring for ash die-back	Habitat walkover survey	May/ June	Evidence of ash die-back disease	Removal of trees showing evidence of ash die-back disease with ≥ 50% dead canopy ² .	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓
Creation of more ecological niches for terrestrial invertebrates and amphibians	Walkover survey	May/ June	Log pile refuges missing/ significantly reduced in size/ damaged	Replacement/ add replacement material to replenish	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓
Increase nesting opportunities for breeding birds	Walkover survey	May/ June	Missing/ damaged boxes	Replacement/ repair	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓
			No evidence of uptake by nesting birds	Consider relocation of boxes	x	x	x	x	x	✓	x	x	x	✓
Increase nesting opportunities for roosting bats	Walkover survey	May/ June	Missing/ damaged boxes	Replacement/ repair	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓
	Inspection by licensed bat ecologist	October/ November	No evidence of uptake by roosting bats	Consider relocation of boxes	x	x	x	x	x	✓	x	x	x	✓

² This is to ensure that any trees showing some resistance to ash die-back disease are retained. Removal of diseased specimens will be agreed with NELC prior to felling, and clearly marked on a plan.

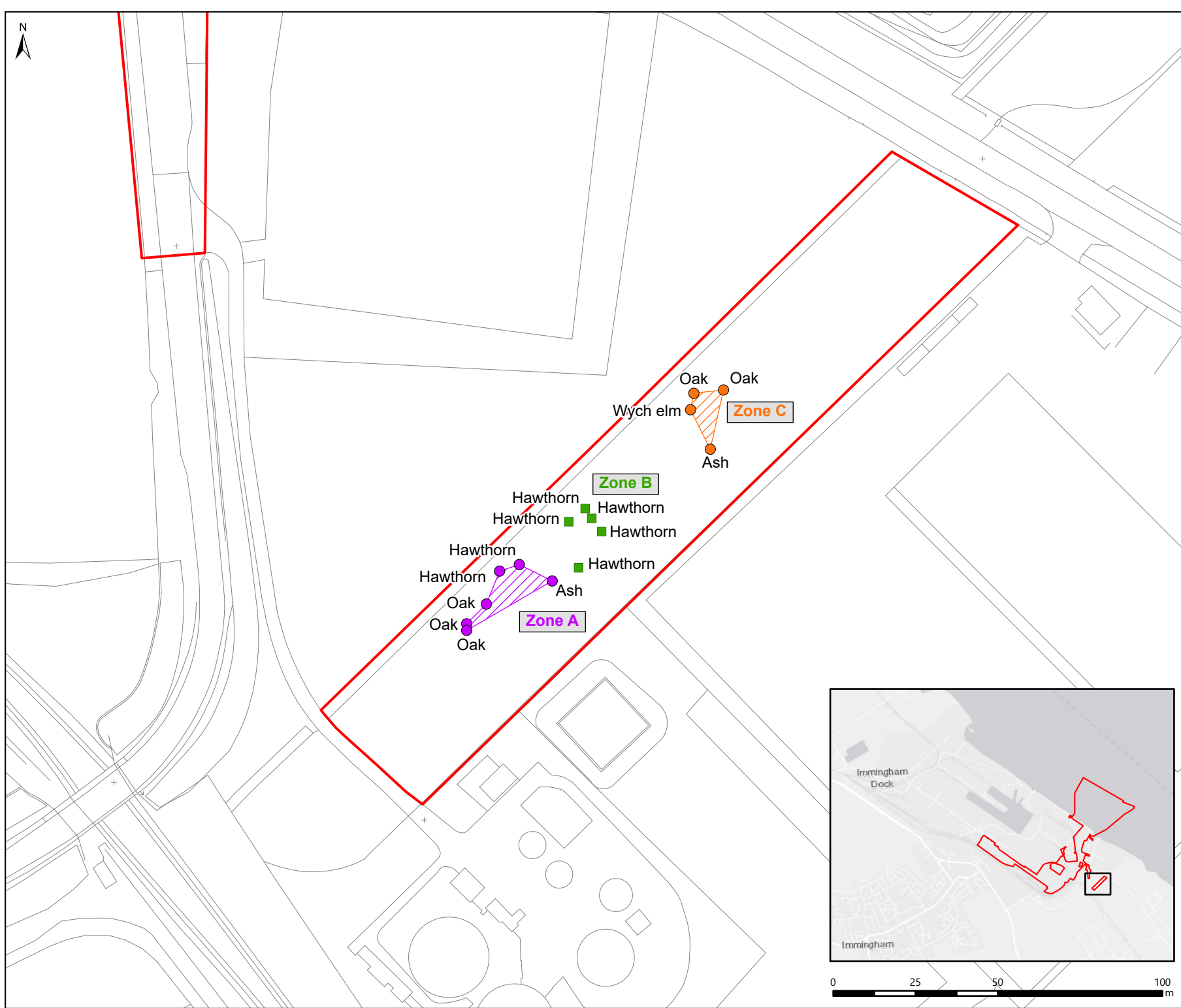
5. Reporting

- 5.1 A monitoring report will be prepared every two years setting out the progress towards achieving the targets for habitats and species listed in Table 2.
- 5.2 The monitoring reports will include the following:
- the dates, scope and results of monitoring surveys;
 - management interventions undertaken;
 - remedial action undertaken (if any); and
 - recommendations for following years in terms of alterations to type or frequency of management required to meet targets.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

- 6.1 The management of the woodland is the responsibility of ABP, who will appoint a suitably qualified landscape maintenance contractor to undertake the work.
- 6.2 The monitoring of the habitats on the site, and the preparation and submission of the annual monitoring report is the responsibility of ABP, who will appoint a suitably qualified ecologist to undertake the work.
- 6.3 If any mature trees require felling (e.g. ash showing signs of ash die-back disease with >50 % dead canopy), approval will be obtained from NELC in writing prior to any felling work of any trees commencing.

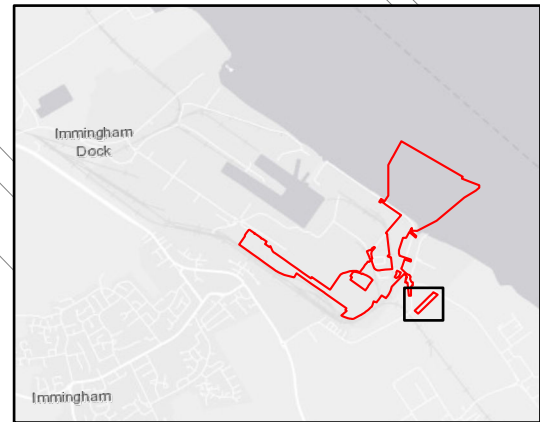
Figure 1: Location of Woodland Enhancements



- Legend**
- Proposed Application Site
 - Tree (semi-mature)**
 - Zone B
 - Tree (mature)**
 - Zone A
 - Zone C
 - Semi-mature tree clearance zone**
 - Zone A
 - Zone C

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 World Light Gray Reference: Esri, HEREContains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2020. © Crown copyright and database rights 2022. Ordnance Survey 0100031673

Date	By	QA
15/12/2022	MAB	JA
Projection	British National Grid	
Scale (A4)	1:1,500	
Project no.	60664611	
Project_Sugar_Maps_ES_2022.aprx		



**IMMINGHAM EASTERN
 RO-RO TERMINAL
 Location of Ecological
 Enhancements**

FIGURE 1

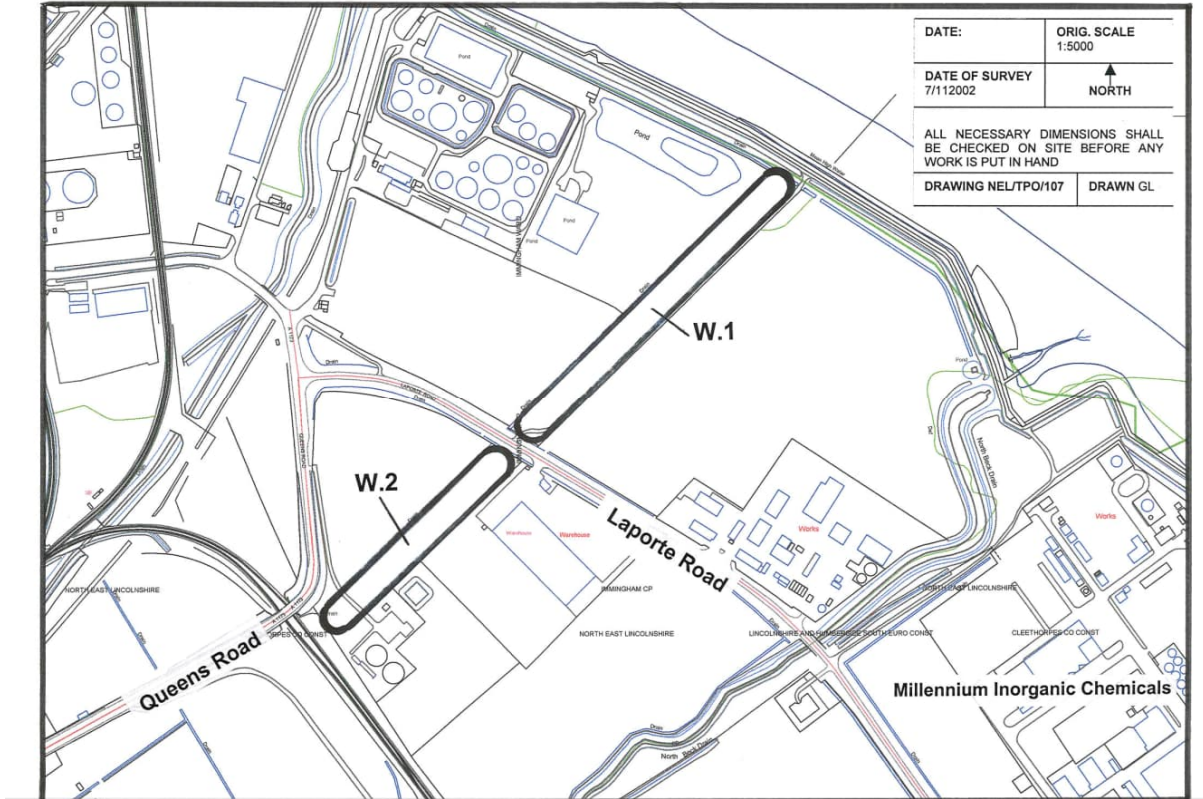
Appendix A Schedule of Semi-mature Trees to be Felled

Table A3. Schedule of Felling Works

Zone	Zone Reference	Grid Reference	Species	Felling?	Action
A	A1	TA 20813 15049	Oak	Retain	All mature tree specimens to be retained.
	A2	TA 20813 15051	Oak	Retain	Removal of all semi-mature trees (<20 cm dbh) within this area – grid referenced trees denote outer edge of clearance zone, which will be retained. These trees will be tagged for easy identification during the monitoring period.
	A3	TA 20819 15057	Oak	Retain	
	A4	TA 20823 15067	Hawthorn	Retain	
	A5	TA 20829 15069	Hawthorn	Retain	Approximately 6 No. semi-mature elder and 6 No. semi-mature hawthorn to be removed. These will be clearly marked with spray paint prior to removal, and only marked trees will be removed.
	A6	TA 20839 15064	Ash	Retain	
B	B1	TA 20847 15068	Hawthorn	Remove	All semi mature specimens referenced within this zone to be removed.
	B2	TA 20854 15079	Hawthorn	Remove	These will be clearly marked with spray paint prior to removal, and only marked trees will be removed.
	B3	TA 20851 15083	Hawthorn	Remove	
	B4	TA 20849 15086	Hawthorn	Remove	
	B5	TA 20844 15082	Hawthorn	Remove	
C	C1	TA 20887 15104	Ash	Retain	All mature tree specimens to be retained.
	C2	TA 20881 15116	Wych elm	Retain	Removal of all semi-mature trees (<20 cm dbh) within this zone – grid referenced trees denote outer edge of clearance zone, which will be retained. These trees will be tagged for easy identification during the monitoring period.
	C3	TA 20882 15121	Oak	Retain	
	C4	TA 20891 15122	Oak	Retain	Approximately 7 No. semi-mature hawthorn to be removed. These will be clearly marked with spray paint prior to removal, and only marked trees will be removed.

Appendix B Tree Preservation Order Plan

Plan extracted from TPO document:



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