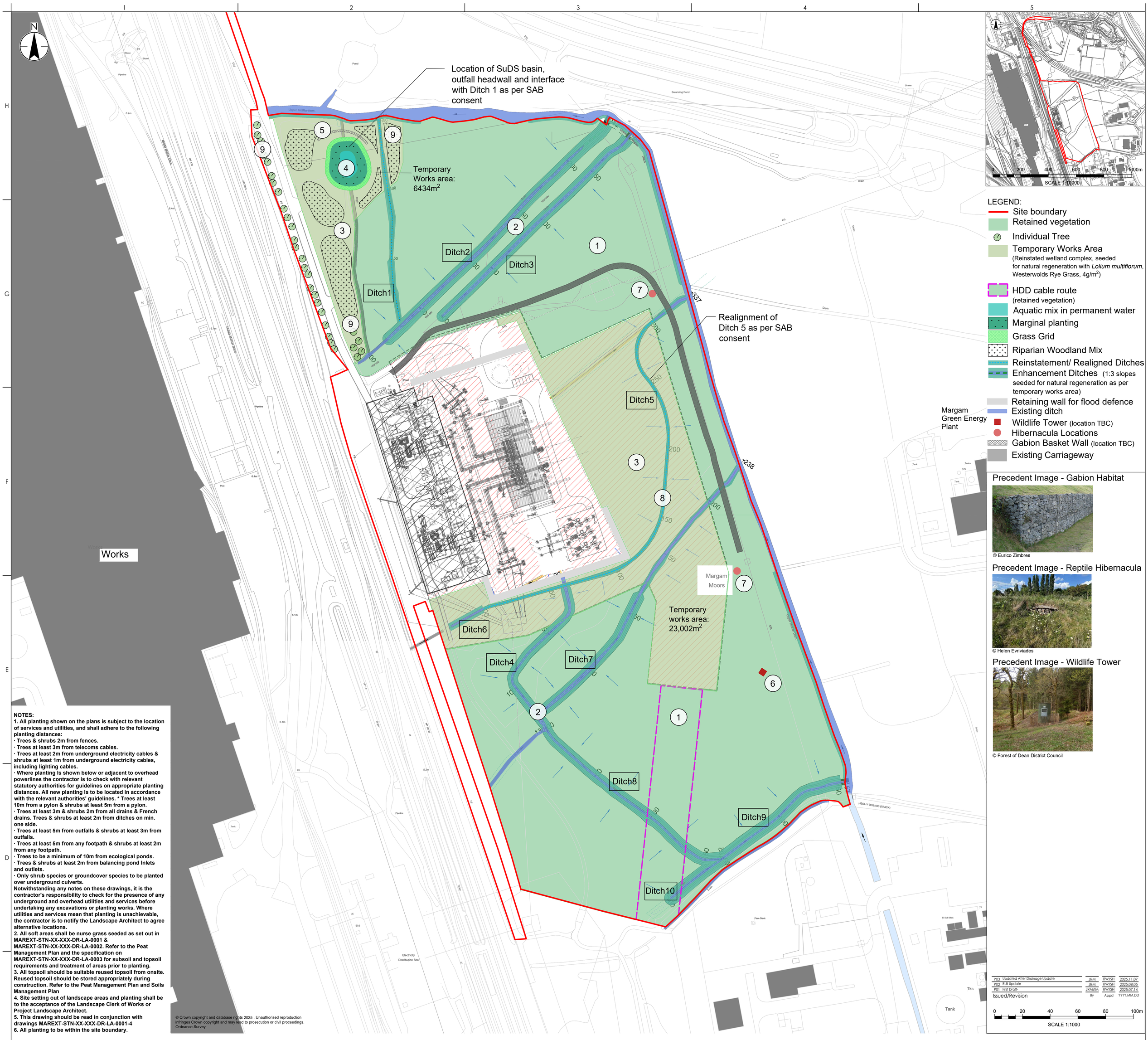

NOTES:

1. All planting shown on the plans is subject to the location of services and utilities, and shall adhere to the following planting distances:
· Trees & shrubs 2m from fences.
· Trees at least 3m from telecoms cables.
· Trees at least 2m from underground electricity cables & shrubs at least 1m from underground electricity cables, including lighting cables.
· Where planting Is shown below or adjacent to overhead powerlines the contractor is to check with relevant statutory authorities for guidelines on appropriate planting distances. All new planting Is to be located in accordance with the relevant authorities' guidelines. * Trees at least 10m from a pylon & shrubs at least 5m from a pylon.
· Trees at least 3m & shrubs 2m from all drains & French drains. Trees & shrubs at least 2m from ditches on min. one side.
· Trees at least 5m from outfalls & shrubs at least 3m from outfalls.
· Trees at least 5m from any footpath & shrubs at least 2m from any footpath.
· Trees to be a minimum of 10m from ecological ponds.
· Trees & shrubs at least 2m from balancing pond Inlets and outlets.
· Only shrub species or groundcover species to be planted over underground culverts.
Notwithstanding any notes on these drawings, it is the contractor's responsibility to check for the presence of any underground and overhead utilities and services before undertaking any excavations or planting works. Where utilities and services mean that planting is unachievable, the contractor is to notify the Landscape Architect to agree alternative locations.
2. All soft areas shall be nurse grass seeded as set out in MAREXT-STN-XX-XXX-DR-LA-0001 & MAREXT-STN-XX-XXX-DR-LA-0002. Refer to the Peat Management Plan and the specification on MAREXT-STN-XX-XXX-DR-LA-0003 for subsoil and topsoil requirements and treatment of areas prior to planting.
3. All topsoil should be suitable reused topsoil from onsite. Reused topsoil should be stored appropriately during construction. Refer to the Peat Management Plan and Soils Management Plan
4. Site setting out of landscape areas and planting shall be to the acceptance of the Landscape Clerk of Works or Project Landscape Architect.
5. This drawing should be read in conjunction with drawings MAREXT-STN-XX-XXX-DR-LA-0001-4
6. All planting to be within the site boundary.

KEY:

1) Retained Vegetation: Works areas have been minimised to reduce permanent and temporary impacts on retained areas of vegetation. The retained areas of vegetation will be managed and monitored to contribute to the delivery of Net Biodiversity Benefits for the scheme, whilst being mindful of National Grids ongoing operational requirements.

2) Managed vegetation at ditches: Across the retained areas of vegetation, habitat creation and enhancement works will take place alongside the ditches. Whilst this is primarily targeted to benefit water vole (see Margam Substation Water Vole Licence Method Statement), it is anticipated that the habitat creation and enhancement works proposed for the ditches will also overall benefit the habitat diversity within the site through allowing the ditch network to function and drain the site more effectively than currently. It is considered that this will enable the drier and more floristic marshy grassland to come back and reduce the dominance of the reed and large-sedge dominated areas of the existing site. Management of ditches to include the following measures:

- removal of encroaching scrub from banks and 5 m back from the watercourse
- removal of shrubs from banks and up to 5 m back, and removal of stumps
- retention of individual mature trees, to cover less than 10% of the ditch
- where present and where appropriate, the pollarding of more mature willow
- dredging of water channel up to a depth of 1.2a
- where needed, the planting of banks and marginal shelf with species of value to water voles as per the Marginal Mix detailed on drawing MAREXT-STN-XX-XXX-DR-LA-0002

3) Natural regeneration in construction swathe areas: Following construction, areas of land compacted by track matting, vehicles and working platforms would undergo subsoil aeration initially followed by sowing of nurse grass seed such as Westerwolds Ryegrass *Lolilium mulitflorum* or as agreed with Neath Port Talbot Council to encourage early establishment of natural regeneration processes. These areas would be allowed to succeed naturally with minimal management, thereby creating an open mosaic habitat, assimilating within the existing Site habitat over time.

4) SuDS with marginal planting: SuDS area (to be established following removal of the welfare compound) with suitable marginal planting to encourage use by aquatic wildlife and potentially oxygenate standing water.

5) Gabion basket CO_2 gardens: Multi-functional refugia to be created through the re-use of waste materials (appropriately screened slag) provided by Tata Steel to be used within 1m3/ gabion baskets - mesh size to be determined by size of slag rocks/stones provided by Tata for the fill along with incorporation of logs/cinder "bee" bricks etc. The gabion baskets are to be topped with site-won topsoil (reused) and floristic grassland mix (e.g. Emorsgate EM6, or similar). The detailed design and locations for these features are to be agreed with the Contractor and with Neath Port Talbot Council but options being considered include: along the access road to the north within National Grid land ownership and in areas of higher ground within the site (e.g. around the proposed SUDS pond) to avoid waterlogging.

6) Wildlife Tower: 1 no. appropriate for this site, Location is approximate and to be confirmed, along with the design type, to be agreed with NPT. The stand-alone wildlife towers could provide resource for bats (e.g. bat boxes on a pole to provide suitable roosting provision for crevice-dwelling bat species which are currently the most encountered species recorded during activity surveys; there is no current roosting opportunities for this species group within the National Grid land) Pole Mounted Roost Maternity Single/Double Bat Box or Eco Rocket Bat Box | Wildlife Services. Alternatively, the wildlife tower could comprise a multi-functional tower incorporating features for nesting birds and/or roosting bats in addition to features for invertebrates (e.g. How to build a wildlife tower - The Barn Owl Trust).

7) Reptile & Amphibian Hibernacula:
Locations of the reptile hibernacula have been provided by National Grid's contractor. The reptile hibernacula have been constructed prior to "Early Works" undertaken under Permitted Development. The Early Works Reptile Mitigation Strategy (RSK, 2025) described the reptile hibernaculum as follows: "to comprise a mix of stone and logs, topped with soil and turf (or be seeded). Each should comprise minimum size: 4 m (length) x 2 m (width) x 1.5 m (height) x up to 0.5 m (below-ground), and should be oriented east-west, to create a south-facing bank and constructed above-ground to avoid potential flooding.

8) Indicative Ditch Diversion: the permanent footprint of the proposed substation affects existing ditches. The ditches will be realigned and reinstated to include:

- creation of permanent water channel to a depth of 1.2 m and 2 to 3 m wide (as appropriate to the levels within the Site)
- profiling of banks to 45 degree angle
- planting of banks and marginal shelf with species of value to water voles

Indicative species list of planting suitable for SuDS / ditches:
(As described in the Margam Substation Water Vole Licence Method Statement – detailed specification to be agreed with relevant parties – see Notes)

Reeds; *Glyceria maxima* (Reed Sweet-grass), *Glyceria fluitans* (Floating Sweet-grass)

Aquatic plants; *Sagittaria sagittifolia* (Arrowhead), *Alisma plantago-aquatica* (Water-plantain), *Ceratophyllum demersum* (Hornwort), *Myriophyllum spicatum* (Spiked Water-milfoil), *Menyanthes trifoliata* (Bogbean), *Schoenoplectus lacustris* (Common Club-rush), Water-cress), *Caltha palustris* (Marsh- marigold)

Marginal plants; *Iris pseudacorus* (Yellow Iris), *Caltha palustris* (Marsh-marigold), *Cardamine pratensis* (Cuckooflower), *Filipendula ulmaria* (Meadowsweet), *Comarum palustre* (Marsh cinquefoil), *Lythrum salicaria* (Purple-loosestrife), *Apium nodiflorum* (Fool's Water-cress), *Angelica sylvestris* (Wild Angelica), *Galium palustre* (Common Marsh-bedstraw), *Myosotis scorpioides* (Water Forget-me-not), *Mentha aquatica* (Water Mint), *Veronica beccabunga* (Brooklime), *Valeriana officinale* (Common Valerian), *Lycopus europaeus* (Gypsywort)

Bankside rushes & sedge; *Juncus effusus* (Soft-rush), *Juncus conglomeratus* (Compact Rush), *Juncus acutiflorus* (Sharp-flowered Rush), *Carex acutiformis* (Lesser Pond-sedge).

9) Tree Planting: It has been agreed with Neath Port Talbot Council that the majority of the Site is not suitable for tree planting. This is because the majority of the Site lies within the Junction 38 Wetland Complex SINC and the area of the SINC within the Site is designated for its wetland and grassland habitats which who's interest has the potential to be adversely impacted by tree planting. The tree planting provided within the site will therefore be provided in suitable locations outside of the SINC boundary. Indicative locations are provided, subject to agreement with NPT. These are located within the north western corner of the site, where the area will be resetablished post-constructiona nd surrounding the SuDS pond.

Indicative species list of planting suitable for planting:
Alnus glutinosa (Alder), *Quercus robur* (Common Oak), *Acer campestre* (Field Maple), *Corylus avellana* (Hazel), *Crataegus monogyna* (Hawthorn), *Betula pendula* (Silver birch).

Notes:
The position of ditches and other features within this plan are approximate and have been transposed from plans submitted by RSK as part of the Water Vole Licence Application in 2024/2025.

Common plant species considered of value to water voles are provided, following those described in the Margam Substation Water Vole Licence Method Statement. As stated in that document, not all species listed will be suitable or acceptable at all locations/sites but native species from local provenance suitable to the geographic, hydrological, shade and soil factors should be chosen, in addition to those plant species which provide suitable food and cover for water vole. To be discussed and agreed with NPT. The emerging drainage design will influence the final landscape detailed plan, to be conditioned.

Issue Status
S5 - FOR REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE
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Project: Margam
Port Talbot

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Dwn Dsgn. Chkd. YYYY.MM.DD

Title
FIGURE L8
LANDSCAPE AND HABITAT STRATEGY PLAN

Project No. 331201497
A0 Scale 1:1000
Revision P03
Drawing No. MAREXT-STN-XX-XXX-DR-LA-0004

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Plotted: 07.11.2025 2025.11.07 11:26:05 AM By: Rainford Mendez, Jenifer