

Green Infrastructure Statement:

Minor Development

Site Address: Tesco Gwyns Drift Pontardawe SA8 3AZ

Proposed Development: Proposed Foul Water Sewer

Site description: The majority of the Site comprises developed land; sealed surface in the form of the existing delivery road for the adjacent Tesco, and extends into an area of mixed scrub, bare ground, other neutral grassland and lowland mixed deciduous woodland where the pipe will connect to an existing sewer manhole cover.

Surrounding Area description: Surrounding the Site is an extension of the scrub and woodland habitats which are found along the pipeline route, as well as developed land; sealed surface in the form of the existing Tesco store and associated access roads and car park to the south of the pipeline route (see **Figure 1**, below). The River Tawe is located approximately 15 m at the nearest point to the Site and runs along the north of the pipeline route.

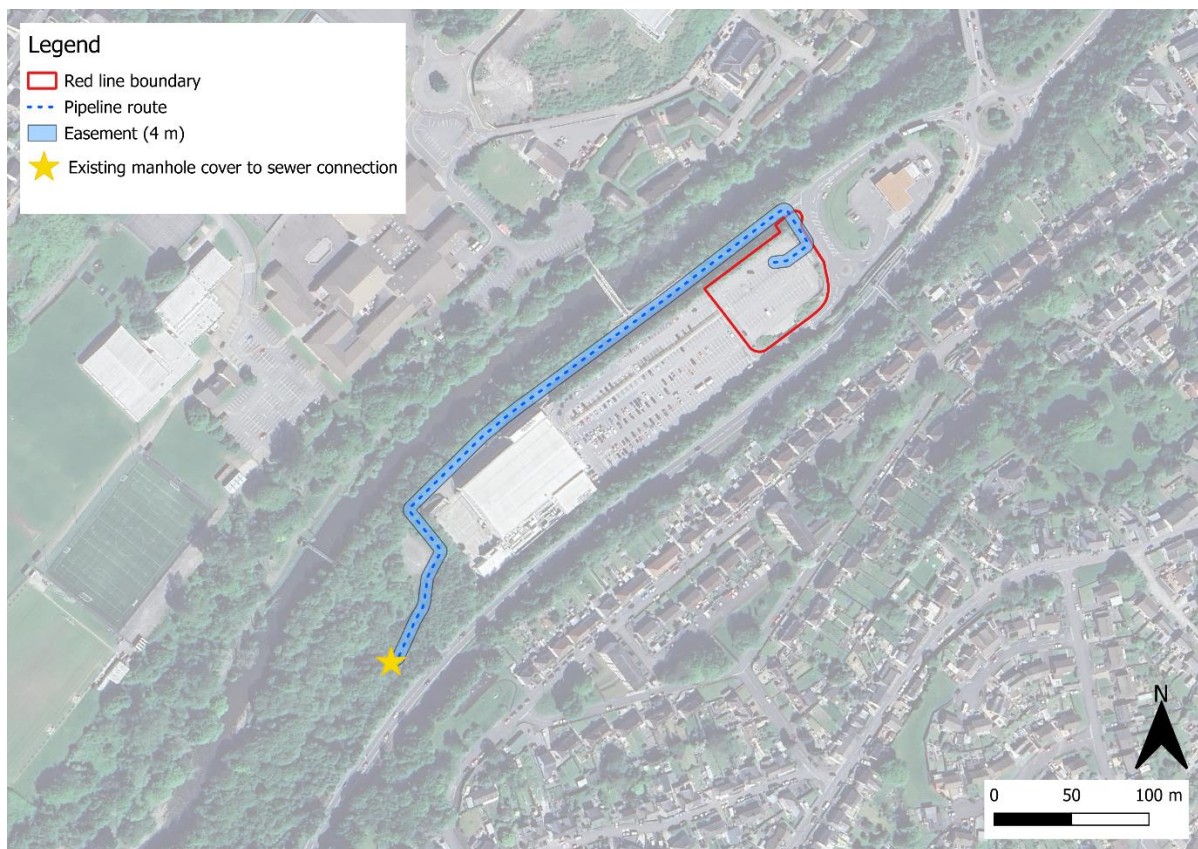


Figure 1: Location of the proposed pipeline route and Site context within wider area and surrounding habitats. Basemap Google Satellite (2025).

Development Impacts:

There is a potential risk to the River Tawe from dust generation, surface water run-off and pollution incidents during construction if appropriate measures are not undertaken to mitigate against these risks. Any pollution incidents will also impact species including otter (*Lutra lutra*) that are present in the river.

The spread of invasive plant species listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is likely to occur should they be disturbed during the installation of the pipeline. Invasive species present are Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*). These species are present along the pipeline route within the woodland and adjacent to the existing manhole cover.

A small area of mixed scrub with scattered trees will need to be removed to facilitate the proposed pipeline route. Small areas of grassland, scrub and woodland understorey may be temporarily impacted during the installation of the pipeline and connection to the existing sewer.

The proposed pipework installation and sewer connection may kill or injure individuals of species including reptiles, common amphibians, small mammals and great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) if present at the time of works during any clearance, or as a result of inappropriate storage of materials and machinery. There is also a risk of entrapment if any excavations or pipework are left uncovered overnight without provision of means to escape.

Nesting bird habitat in the form of mixed scrub will be removed to facilitate the proposed development and there is a risk of destroying active nests if undertaken during the nesting bird season. Some nesting bird habitat in the woodland understorey may also be removed during installation and nesting birds disturbed during the works including potential disturbance of nesting Schedule 1 species.

No direct impacts to bats are anticipated. Minor indirect impacts include discrete areas of foraging habitat removal, however this is not considered significant as the majority of habitats are being retained and will remain unaffected by the proposals.

Mitigation

To mitigate against potential impacts to the River Tawe, and the adjacent woodland during construction, a suitable buffer in line with guidance will be required. This will include adequate fencing to prevent accidental damage and storage of materials, and the implementation of a Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEcMP). The implementation of a CEcMP will prevent dust generation, control surface water run-off, limit intrusion into root protection zones and reduce the risk of pollution incidents during construction. The CEcMP will also include measures to ensure vehicles and machinery do not track any invasive and non-native species offsite, and mitigations for nesting birds, reptiles, otter, small mammals and common amphibians. Further details of mitigations for protected and notable

species include sensitive timings and methods of working for each species and can be found in the letter report produced for the Site¹.

Root and tree/hedgerow protection measures (in line with the British Standard for trees in relation to construction BS 5837:2012) must be installed in the pre-construction phase and maintained throughout the construction phase.

Biodiversity Enhancements Proposed

Replacement planting of native species that are already present within areas of woodland which may be impacted during the installation to prevent a loss of habitat and biodiversity. The habitat types that may be affected during installation, with the exception of the area immediately surrounding the man hole cover, shall be allowed to naturally regenerate where possible. This will also prevent long term impacts to species which use the habitats onsite and the surrounding area post-development, and allow them to continue to use the habitats as prior to development once re-established.

Any deadwood from impacted vegetation will be placed elsewhere in the woodland to provide additional habitat for reptiles, common amphibians, small mammals and invertebrates.

An invasive and non-native species specialist shall be consulted for the removal of Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam which will be disturbed during the works, and to prevent the spreading of both species into the wider area. The removal of invasive species will also allow for more natural regeneration of the woodlands' native species.

Conclusion

It is considered that, subject to the above, the proposed development will maintain and enhance biodiversity, retain resilient ecological networks and deliver net benefits for biodiversity by reinstating lost habitat, habitat creation and removal of invasive non-native species which compete with native species.

Thus, ensuring that any adverse environmental effects are mitigated and compensated for.

Signed

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Dated

27th October 2025

¹ L250109 McDonalds Gwyns Drift Pontardawe Pipeline Practical Ecology Ltd V1 Sep25