Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan

For use with

Small Sites Metric

(Statutory Biodiversity Metric)



Site Name:	Stoke Fields Farm, Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding Nuneaton, Leicestershire, CV13 6HR
Date:	29/10/2026
Version:	V1.1
Small Sites Criteria Met	The site fulfils the criteria for use of the Small Sites Metric (Statutory Biodiversity Metric) calculation tool. Yes ☒ No ☐ If 'No' use the Main HMMP Template for the full statutory biodiversity metric instead of this one.

Author:

Client:

Template Document User Guide

Context – The Small Sites Metric

The Small Sites Metric Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan Template (SSM HMMPT) is designed to complement The Small Sites Metric (Statutory Biodiversity Metric) (SSM) calculation tool. It follows the same criteria as the SSM.

The SSM calculation tool can only be applied to 'small sites' as defined in **The Small Sites Metric (Statutory Biodiversity Metric) User Guide**.

This means:

- residential development where the number of dwellings is between 1 and 9 on a site of an area 1 hectare or less, or if the number of dwellings is unknown, the site area is less than 0.5 hectares, or
- commercial development where floor space created is less than 1,000 square metres or total site area is less than 1 hectare, or
- development that is not the winning and working of minerals or the use of land for mineral-working deposits, or
- development that is not waste development

It is not possible to use the SSM, and SSM HMMPT, on all sites defined as 'small sites'. The following criteria also need to be met to use the SSM:

- where only the habitats available in the SSM are present on-site
- where no priority habitats are present on-site (except some hedgerows and arable field margins that are medium distinctiveness)
- where no statutory protected sites or habitats are present
- where no European protected species are present

Supporting documents

SSM HMMPT Habitat Guide

Tools and Guidance

GOV.UK Statutory biodiversity metric (small sites) tools and guides

GOV.UK Government Collections Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)-Guidance

Template User Guide

This template provides a series of tables, figures and text boxes. Complete these to show how you'll create, enhance, manage, and monitor the biodiversity net gain (BNG) habitats.

Small Sites HMMPT Habitat Guide

The accompanying **Habitat Guide** provides descriptions of proposed habitat types and conditions allowed in the Small Sites Metric (SSM). These are to assist authors in preparing the habitat creation, enhancement, management and monitoring activities and instructions (the 'prescriptions') in sections 3 (SM-T02) and 4 (SM-T04), to achieve the required BNG outcomes. The guide includes target habitat descriptions for a range of typical habitats that can be assessed through the SSM calculation tool. The descriptions illustrate what target habitats should look like in line with the range of conditions possible in the SSM.

Use the guide to help you prepare your plan to achieve the outcomes needed for the habitat(s) selected in your metric calculation. Factor the site-specific conditions of your site into the design. Refer to reputable sources and competent professionals to inform the creation and management methods most suitable to deliver the specific habitat outcomes targeted.

Formatting

The Template uses standard Microsoft Word formatting that has not been locked for editing. Adjust it, as required, to tailor your HMMP for the specific site and according to your preferences. You can increase or reduce the text box sizes, or increase or reduce the size of images, to fit the requirements of your plan.

You can provide and reference additional photographs and plans as separate appendices if required. Provide the reference number of the appropriate appendix. If necessary to include in a separate report, reference the location using the appropriate box within the template. Provide at least one photograph for each relevant area habitat, hedgerow or watercourse feature.

Text in grey is provided as a prompt. Replace grey text with your own words. Remember to change to black text then delete any remaining grey 'prompt' text.

Each text box in this HMMPT has a unique ID to assist reviewers. Do not change the reference code of any Boxes or Tables.

Template published by Natural England. We acknowledge the significant input from the HMMPT user-testers and production on Natural England's behalf by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd.

Checklist of Contents SM-T01

Please complete the table below to confirm the sections in this Template that have been completed.

Checklist of Contents Completed		Sections completed (please tick)
1.	Project Background	
1a	Project Information	☒
1b	Planning Condition	☒
1c	Roles and Responsibilities	☒
1d	Site Boundary Plan	☒
1e	Land Use Summary	☒
1f	Site Photos	☒
1g	Site Proposals Plan	☒
2.	Management Plan Aims and Objectives	
2a	Site Aims and Objectives	☒
2b	Retained and Enhanced Habitats Protection Measures	☒
2c	Habitat Management Proposals	☒
3.	Establishment and Management	
3a	Creation, Enhancement and Management Targets and Prescriptions	☒
4.	Monitoring	
4a	Monitoring Strategy for Each Habitat, Hedgerow and Watercourse Present On-Site	☒

Version Control SM-T02

Version control is used for updates to the content. Record the initial version and further version control details in this table each time the management plan is adapted throughout the management and monitoring period.

Version	Issue Status	Prepared by / Date	Approved by / Date
V1	Review issue	James Hodson- 29/10/2026	Cherece Snook 29/10/2026

Document Details

Provide ownership, copyright and licensing information within this table.

Authorship Details SM-B01

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1. Project Background

Summarise the key aspects of your management plan in this section. Tables can be extended to suit the specific needs of individual projects.

Project information SM-T01	
Project type	Proposed Agricultural Building
Development Name and Address	Stoke Fields Farm, Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding Nuneaton, Leicestershire, CV13 6HR
Author	James Hodson-Director and Senior Ecologist at Eco-Check Ltd
Landowner	Mr Guy Stripp
Land Management Organisation	Stoke Fields Farm
Period covered by this management plan	2026-2056
Planning authority	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Planning reference	25/00555/FUL
Central OS grid reference	SP 406970
Total Site Area	2,078m^2

Planning Condition

Details of Planning Conditions to be Discharged by this Document SM-B02

6. Prior to commencement a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) for significant on-site enhancements, prepared in accordance with the approved Biodiversity Gain Plan, shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by the local authority, prior to commencement of development, including:

a) the roles and responsibilities of the people or organisation(s) delivering the HMMP;
b) the planned habitat creation and enhancement works to create or improve habitat to achieve the on-site significant enhancements in accordance with the approved Biodiversity Gain Plan;
c) the management measures to maintain habitat in accordance with the approved Biodiversity Gain Plan for a period of 30 years from the completion of development;
d) the monitoring methodology in respect of the created or enhanced habitat to be submitted to the local planning authority; and
e) details of the content of monitoring reports to be submitted to the LPA including details of adaptive management which will be undertaken to ensure the aims and objectives of the Biodiversity Gain Plan are achieved.
Notice in writing shall be given to the Council when the:

o initial enhancements, as set in the HMMP, have been implemented; and
o habitat creation and enhancement works, as set out in the HMMP, have been completed after 30 years.

The created and/or enhanced habitat specified in the approved HMMP shall be managed and maintained in accordance with the approved HMMP. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, monitoring reports shall be submitted in years 1, 2, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 to the Council, in accordance with the methodology specified in the approved HMMP.

Roles and Responsibilities

Provide details of the responsible people and organisation(s) delivering this management plan and the legal and funding mechanisms in place to secure the habitat outcomes proposed.

Author Responsible for Preparing HMMP SM-B03			
Name or Initials / Role	James Hodson		
Organisation	Eco-Check Ltd		
Responsibility Start Date	October 2026	End Date	October 2027
Statement of Competency			

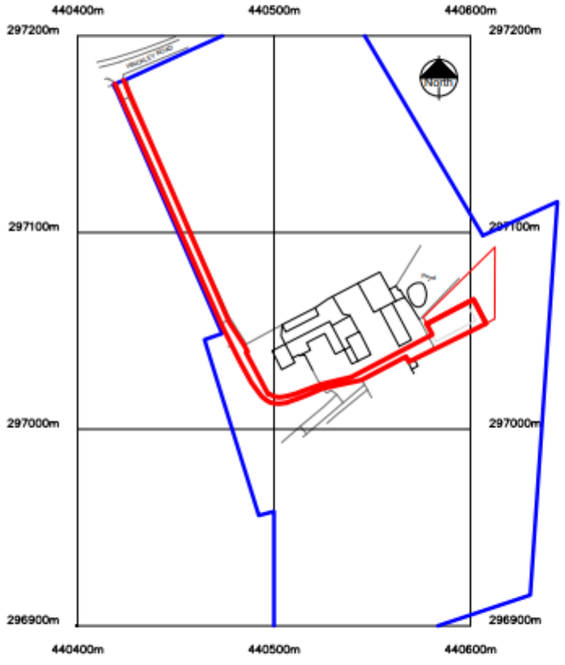
My name is James Hodson. I am the director and principal ecologist at Eco-Check Ltd, an environmental and wildlife consultancy business established in 2007 and based in Norfolk. I hold the degree of Master of Sciences in Environmental Impact Assessment and the Honors Degree of Batchelor of Sciences from the University of East Anglia. I am registered with Natural England and hold personal licenses for both bats and great crested newts (Bat Survey License 2017-30927-CLS-CLS, Great Crested Newt Licence 2018-36283-CLS-CLS).

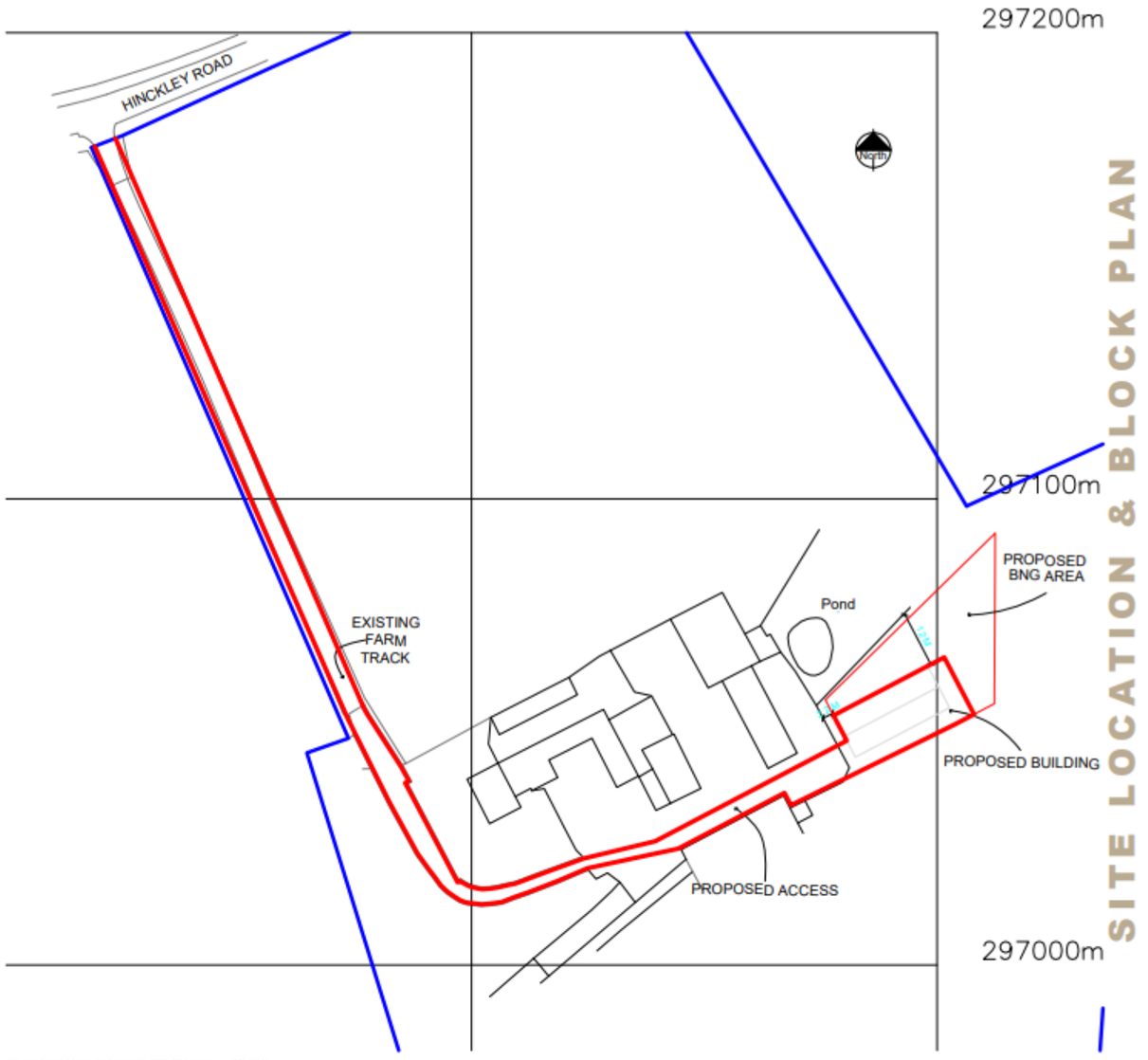
I have 19 years professional experience as an ecologist, during which time I have undertaken numerous ecological assessments (including Habitats Regulations Assessment) on behalf of government, government agencies and private clients throughout the UK for major infrastructure and other projects including pipelines, renewable energy, highways, leisure and tourism facilities and other industrial, residential and commercial development. This work has included the development of ecological mitigation and enhancement measures at a site scale for development projects, as well as for strategic and landscape-scale projects covering more extensive areas of land. I have also prepared and managed a number of HMMP's and submitted monitoring reports as required. Pending discharge of planning condition, I will be responsible for overseeing the project and HMMP requirements for an initial one-year period. It is proposed that the responsibility of undertaking the works within the HMMP will be until the land manager is appointed and a provisional date is October 2027.

Landowner / Management Organisation Responsible for Delivering HMMP SM-B04			
Name or Initials / Role	Mr Guy Stripp		
Organisation	Stoke Fields Farm		
Responsibility Start Date	October 2026	End Date	October 2056
Statement of Competency			

The site owners or employees of the farm are responsible for the site management and extending principally over areas of modified grassland, other neutral grassland, scattered trees, hedges and other habitats within the site.

Site Boundary Plan SM-F01





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LOCATION PLAN Scale 1:1250

NOTES:
1. Use written dimensions only. All dimensions to be checked on site and any discrepancies reported to ACORUS immediately. If in doubt ask.
2. Where relevant, significant hazards have been identified on the drawing. Hazards which should be obvious to a competent contractor or unforeseeable have not been identified.
3. This drawing is confidential and remains the exclusive property of ACORUS.

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BLOCK PLAN Scale 1:500

1:1250 0 50 m 100 m 150 m 200 m 250 m

1:500 0 10 m 50 m 100 m

Ownership Boundary

Site Boundary

STRIPP
STOKEFIELDS FARM STOKE GOLDING CV13 6HR

SITE LOCATION PLAN
PROPOSED BLOCK PLAN

SCALE	DATE	DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY
AS SHOWN @A1	03/25	HK	LG

JOB NO	DRAWING NO	REVISION
25-03-005	100_01	A

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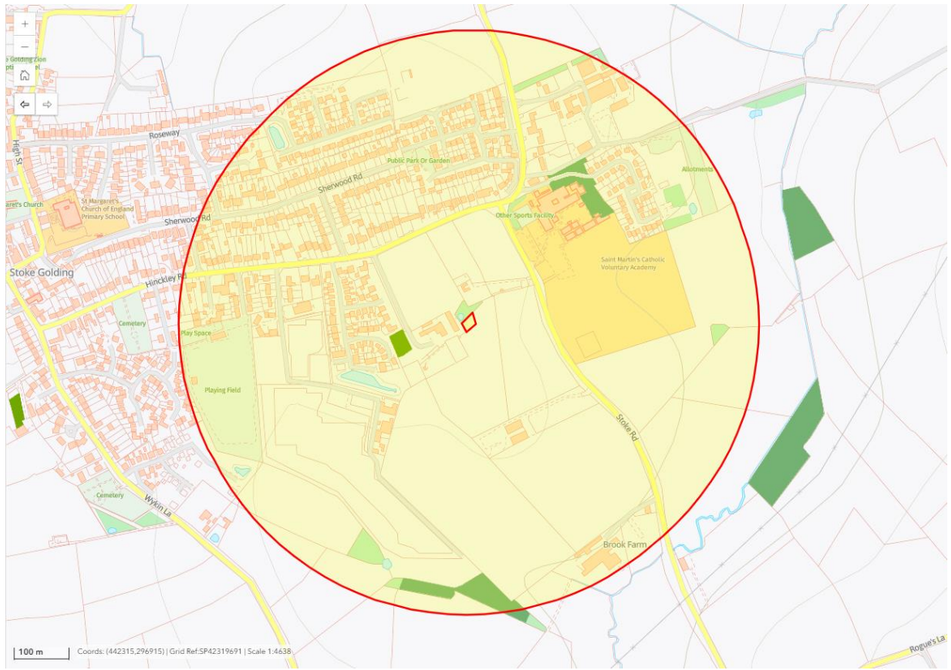
DESIGNATED SITES (as shown on the Council's Development Plan Proposals Map)
Internationally; Special Protection Area (SPA) Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Ramsar Site
Nationally; Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) National Nature Reserve (NNR)
Regional and local; County Wildlife Sites (CWS) Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

PRIORITY HABITATS (Habitats of Principal Importance for Biodiversity under S.41 of the NERC Act 2006) (BAP)

- Arable field margins
- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
- Hedgerows
- Lowland calcareous grassland
- Lowland dry acid grassland
- Lowland fens
- Lowland heathland
- Lowland meadows
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (both ancient and secondary)
- Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land
- Ponds
- Purple moor-grass and rush pastures
- Reedbeds
- Rivers
- Traditional orchards
- Wet woodland
- Wood-pasture and parkland

. **LOCAL CHARACTER BAP HABITATS**
(as identified by the Local Biodiversity Partnership - see paragraph 84 ODPM Circular 06/2005))

- Urban / Built Environment (*e.g.* parks, gardens, allotments, road verges and railway embankments)







Land Use

Description of Site Use - Baseline SM-B05

The site area extends to 2,078m^2 and the majority of this area is sealed surfaces forming the access road and farm hard standings and the proposed building extends onto an area of nutrient enriched modified grassland. The surrounding land within the farm contains further fields of pasture grassland, farmhouse, farm buildings and the village of Stoke Golding to the north and west.

Stokefields Farm extends to 5.3 hectares (13 acres) and has been owned by the applicants for the past 5 years. When they purchased the holding, it had been derelict for 3 years and they subsequently tidied up the fields and obtained planning permission in February 2023 to increase the farmhouse, including change of use of 2 linked barns to form part of the living area. The land is down to grass for hay which is sold from the farm. The applicants also cut and bale hay at another farm which is carted back to Stokefields Farm and sold on. They are planning to increase the farm business this year by introducing sheep and cattle to graze the land, which will arrive on site in the spring and sent to slaughter in the autumn to be sold in local farm shops

Description of Site Use - Proposed SM-B06

The holding lacks modern agricultural buildings and is therefore proposed to erect a 22.8 metre x 10 metre hay and fodder barn with eaves and ridge heights of 4.7 metres and 6.3 metres respectively. The barn will be of steel framed constructed, enclosed to three sides with profiled plastisol steel sheeting and open to the gable end, which will be accessed from existing hardstanding. The roof will be fibre cement sheeting. The building will be sited adjacent an existing tarmac area.

The existing sealed access and hard standing extends to 1,124m^2 and the area of modified grassland within the site where the building and BNG area is located extends to approximately 954m^2. Approximately 573m^2 of modified grassland is to be fenced off from grazing and enhanced to an area of other neutral grassland (meadow).

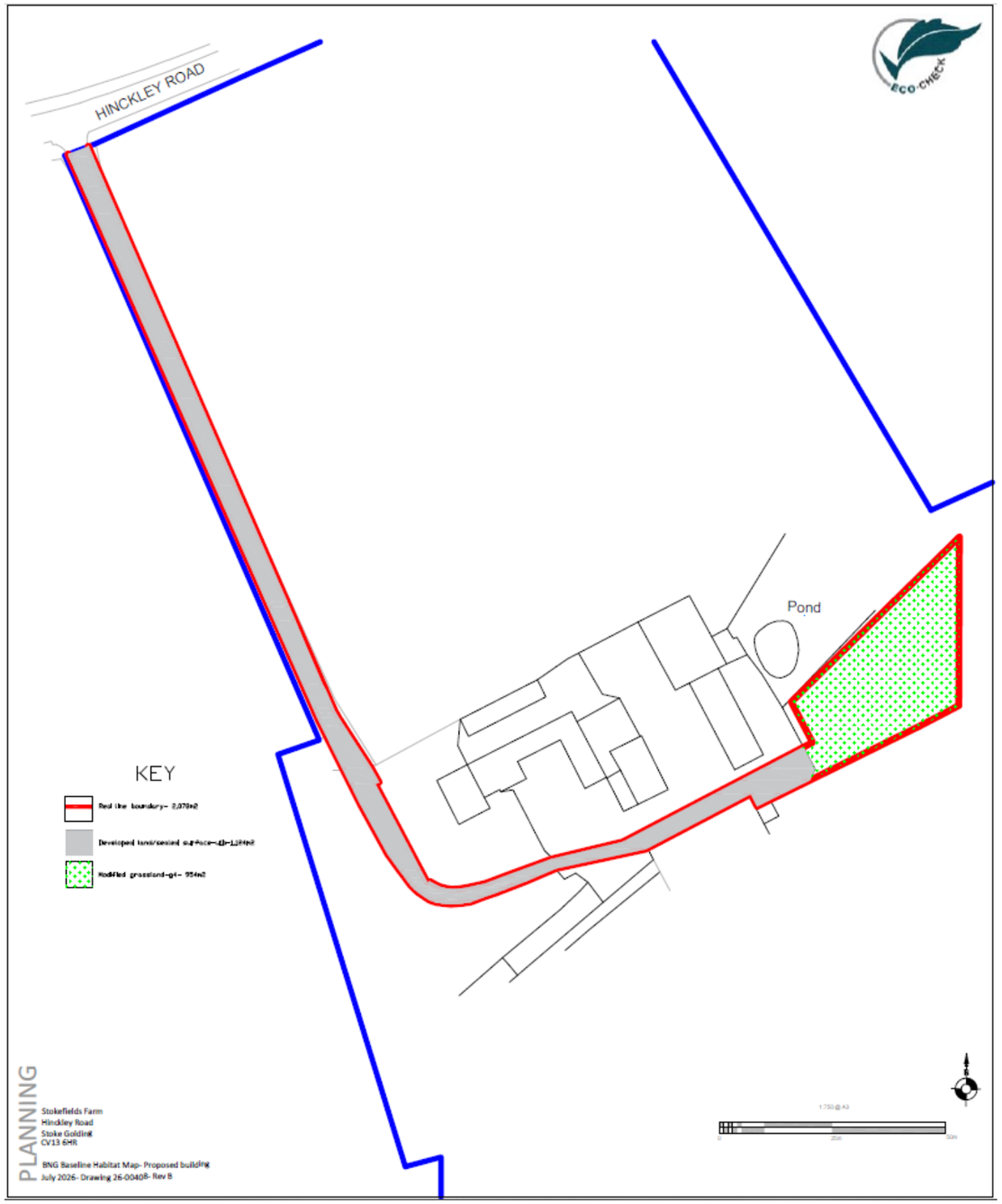
Site Photos SM-F03

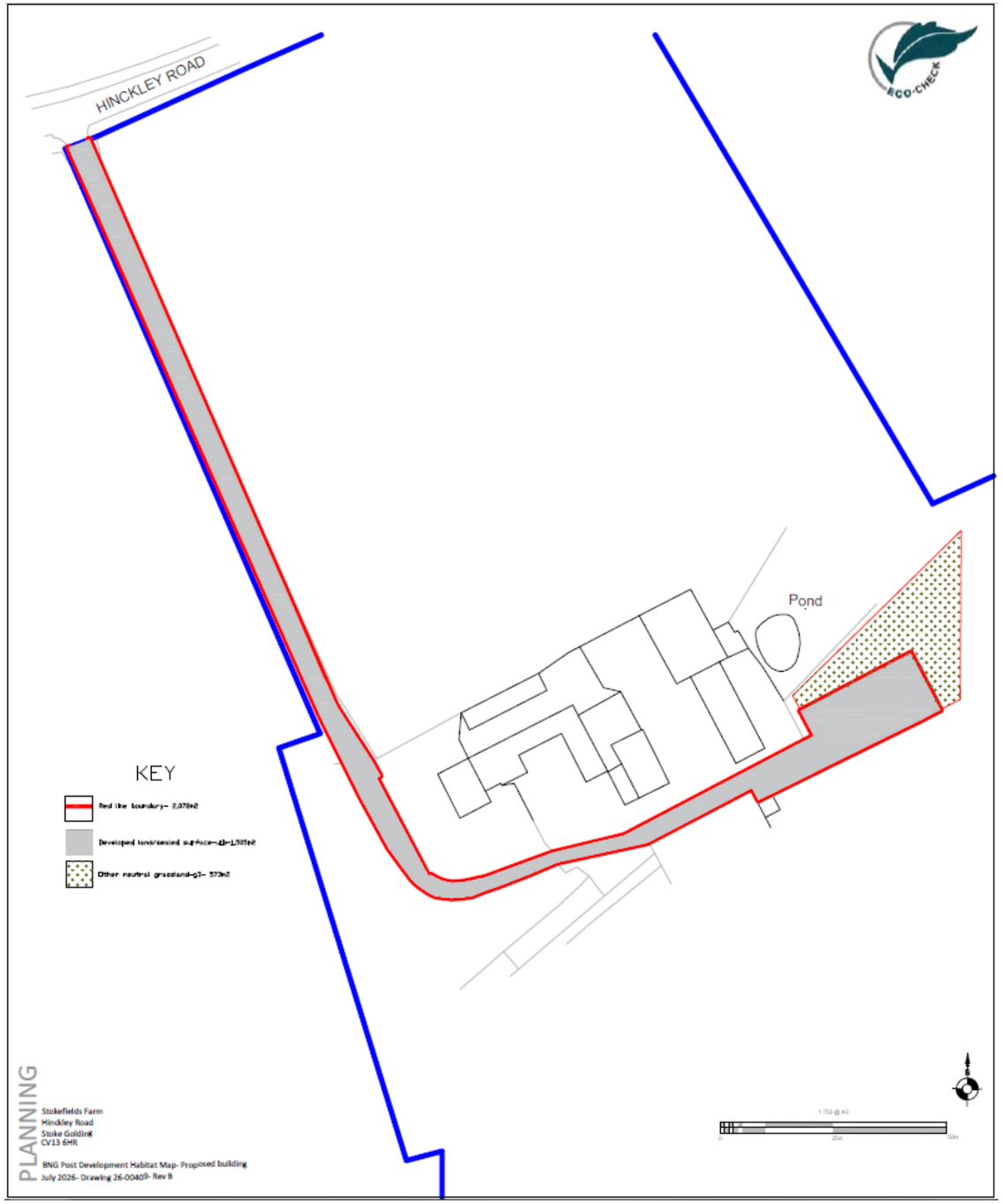




Site Proposals Plan SM-F04

As a minimum, show all the proposed habitats to be retained, created or enhanced.
The map could be on an aerial photo, or a sketch map showing mapped habitat polygons. Include parcel references if possible. It is also helpful to include a north arrow and scale.





2. Management Plan Aims and Objectives

Overview of Proposed Habitat Aims and Objectives SM-B07

The proposal seeks to retain the existing farm access and hard standings within the farmyard. Some repairs and upgrading may be undertaken however the access will remain a sealed surface and used to access the new building.

The proposal seeks to enhance approximately 573m^2 of existing modified grassland to other neutral grassland in 'good' condition to the north and east of the new building and which will form an area of less intensively managed and enhanced grassland using Emorsgate EM4 meadow mix for clay/ loamy soils. This area will be fenced off with post and rail fencing or equivalent to prevent unwanted grazing from cattle and ground disturbance. The area of other neutral grassland will be created with over-seeding and repeated cultivation and then annual or biannual cutting and weed pulling.

Retained and Enhanced Habitats Protection Measures SM-B08

Retained grassland will be protected as far as possible during clearance and construction. The existing hard standing and areas of bare ground will be used for storage of building materials and machinery to avoid unwanted damage to the pasture grassland.

Summary of Adaptive Management Approaches SM-B09

James Hodson of Eco-Check to undertake site survey in year 1 to check initial implementation and then in years 3 and 5 and then every 5 years, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 thereafter to check that the habitat creation as proposed have been implemented and to assess if any changes to the grassland management regime are required such as increasing or decreasing the mowing regime, if any additional seeding is required and to check that required sward structure is appropriate. A habitat condition assessment of the grassland to be undertaken by the suitably qualified ecologist (ECoW) using quadrat measurement and results fed into the monitoring plan.

Habitat Management Proposals

Habitat Baseline Description SM-B10

Modified Grassland (UK Classification g4): The area of the proposed building and BNG enhanced grassland is currently modified grassland and is species poor and agriculturally improved. The modified grassland is managed, and the sward height was variable at approximately 10-25cm within these areas and had a high proportion (approximately 70% or more) of Perennial Ryegrass (Lolium perenne), with frequent annual meadow grass (Poa annua). Forbs were recorded to be similarly scattered and rarely occurring and included white clover (Trifolium repens), yarrow (Achillea millefolium), daisy (Bellis perennis), bristly oxtongue (Helminthotheca echioides), creeping thistle (Cirsium arvense), nettle (Urtica dioica), ribwort plantain (Plantago lanceolata), docks (Rumex spp).

Condition: Poor – Lacks sufficient diversity in the sward of vascular plants and forbs failing essential Criteria A of the condition assessment to achieve moderate or good condition.

Sealed surface (UK Habitat Classification u1b)- The main site entrance and farm hard standing comprise a mixture of concrete and tarmac sealed surfaces with no ecological value.

Retained Habitats SM-B11

The site access and hard standing area are to be retained as it is and access and compound for material storage to be on the hard standing within the farm. An area of grassland to the north and east of the building to be retained and enhanced to other neutral grassland habitat. The hedgerow and trees to the north and east field boundary to be retained and suitably protected during development. These habitats falls outside of the red line boundary but are adjacent and therefore considered necessary to be protected.

Enhanced Habitats SM-B12

Modified Grassland MG4 to be enhanced to Other Neutral Grassland G3. The grassland to be enhanced through a change in management regime with less intensive mowing and supplementary over-seeding using Emorsgate EM4 meadow mix, and grassland managed to achieve 'good' condition. EM4 contains a good range of the wild flowers and grasses once common in unimproved flower-rich lowland meadows. Loamy soils are medium textured soils: a mixture of clay, silt and sand with none predominating. They are usually found in low lying areas developed from alluvium and other material, frequently over chalky or limestone bedrocks and so are often neutral to alkaline.

Created Habitats SM-B13

NA

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (medium, high and very high distinctiveness)			
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types			
Grassland - Lowland calcareous grassland **Grassland - Lowland dry acid grassland** **Grassland - Lowland meadows** **Grassland - Other lowland acid grassland** **Grassland - Other neutral grassland** **Grassland - Tall herb communities (H6430)** [Not to be confused with the Tall forbs secondary code – see UKHab guidance for details.] **Grassland - Upland acid grassland** **Grassland - Upland calcareous grassland** **Grassland - Upland hay meadows** **Sparsely vegetated land - Calaminarian grassland**			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-Site	**Survey date and Surveyor name**	NA- Proposed Targets to achieve 'Good' condition
Limitations (if applicable)		**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	
Grid reference	SP 406970	**Habitat parcel reference**	Ref 2
Habitat Description			
Proposed creation of area of ONG in good condition-Condition assessment sheet to show criteria targeted for 'good condition'			
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification			

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relevant to the specific habitat type (and relative to Footnote 3 suboptimal species which may be listed in the UKHab description).[1] **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**	Yes	Emorsgate EM4 Meadow Mix contains 6 types of grasses and 19 species of flowering plants.
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	Yes	Appropriate cutting regime to provide areas of shorter grassland along the margins
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens[2].	Yes	Create and maintain an area of bare soil exposure.
D	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.) is less than 5%.	Yes	Bracken cover to be monitored and controlled if necessary, by pulling or herbicide.
E	Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition[3] and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area. If any invasive non-native plant species[4] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[5]) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	No	
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types			
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m^2 present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 3 and 5 cannot contribute towards this count). **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**	Yes	EM4 Meadow Mix contains 19 vascular plant species
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		Yes	
Number of criteria passed		5	

Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓
Acid grassland types (Result out of 5 criteria)			
Passes 5 criteria		Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria		Moderate (2)	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria		Poor (1)	
Non-acid grassland types (Result out of 6 criteria)			
Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F.		Good (3)	*
Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A.		Moderate (2)	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F.		Poor (1)	

3. Creation, Enhancement and Management

Creation, Enhancement and Management Targets and Prescriptions SM-T02

Complete the planned prescriptions for each area habitat, hedgerows and watercourse proposed on-site in the table below to confirm how created and enhanced habitats will be established and managed. Include details on how retained habitats will be managed. At a minimum, list each area habitat, hedgerow or watercourse entered into the Small Sites Metric (Statutory Biodiversity Metric) calculation tool in the 'Habitat/Feature Type' column in the table below (SM-T02) and provide specific creation or enhancement and management prescriptions. If preferred, provide multiple rows for the same habitat/feature type where different prescriptions are to be used in different parcels/features, hedgerows or watercourse. Refer to the SSM HMMPT **Habitat Guide** for additional guidance on target habitat types and conditions to guide your prescriptions. If appending any additional documents that contain prescriptions or work schedules, please tick here and provide a reference: ☐ Reference: Click or tap here to enter text.

Habitat/Feature Type	Target Condition	Parcel/ Feature Ref	Habitat Creation or Enhancement and Management Prescriptions
Other Neutral Grassland- ONG 573m^2	Good	Ref 2	**Soil Test-** A soil test will be undertaken at the site of the proposed ONG. Turf is first removed from the test area and then a hole approximately 6" dug with a spade. A soil scrape is then taken from the subsoil in the hole and put into the test tubes as per the manufacturer's instructions. The results of the soil tests will indicate the soil conditions are acceptable for seeding with EM4 and that nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium levels are suitably low to implement a typical neutral grassland community. Suitable topsoil to be added if required to allow the seed mix to establish. **Seed Mix Composition**- EM4 is a complete mix composed of 20% native wild flowers and 80% slow growing grasses (by weight). The flower and grass components are also available to order separately as EM5F for the flower component and EG5 for the grass component. The species composition is detailed below **Wild Flowers – 20%** 0.60% *Achillea Millefolium* – Yarrow 0.80% *Agrimonia eupatoria* – Agrimony 0.40% *Betonica officinalis* – Betony 3.00% *Centaurea nigra* – Common Knapweed 0.60% *Daucus carota* – Wild Carrot 1.60% *Galium verum* – Lady's Bedstraw 1.60% *Knautia arvensis* – Field Scabious 0.10% *Leontodon hispidus* – Rough Hawkbit 2.00% *Leucanthemum vulgare* – Oxeye Daisy 0.20% *Lotus corniculatus* – Birdsfoot Trefoil 2.40% *Malva moschata* – Musk Mallow 2.60% *Plantago lanceolata* – Ribwort Plantain 1.20% *Poterium sanguisorba* – Salad Burnet 0.80% *Primula versis* – Cowslip 0.20% *Ranunculus acris* – Meadow Buttercup 0.10% *Ranunculus bulbosus* – Bulbous Buttercup 1.00% *Rumex acetosa* – Common Sorrel 0.40% *Silene vulgaris* – Bladder Campion 0.40% *Vicia cracca* – Tufted Vetch **Grasses – 80%** 1.60% *Anthoxanthum odoratum* – Sweet Vernal-grass (w) 3.20% *Briza media* – Quaking Grass (w) 56.00% *Cynosurus cristatus* – Crested Dogstail 10.40% *Festuca rubra* – Red Fescue 8.00% *Agrostis capillaris* – Common Bent

			0.80% *Trisetum flavescens* – Yellow Oat-grass (w) **Species Rich Wildflower Grassland Areas-Modified Grassland to Other Neutral Grassland- Emorsgate EM4** There are two key stages to achieving this, the first being ground preparation, the second timing and technique of sowing seeds. These are summarized below. *Ground preparation-* *Good preparation is essential to success so aim to control weeds and produce a good quality seed bed before sowing. To prepare a seed bed first remove weeds by hand pulling and then harrow or rake through the grassland to loosen the topsoil and create a suitable tilth for seeding. No herbicides to be used.* *Sowing-* *Seeds need both warmth and moisture to grow and may be sown at any time of year when these conditions are met. August-September and March-April usually produce the best conditions for sowing outside in most parts of the UK. Seed is best sown in the autumn or spring but can be sown at other times of the year if there is sufficient warmth and moisture. The seed must be surface sown and can be applied by machine or broadcast by hand. To get an even distribution, and avoid running out, divide the seed into two or more parts and sow in overlapping sections. Do not incorporate or cover the seed, but firm in with a roll, or by treading, to give good soil/seed contact. Sowings into existing grass work best in autumn. Some plants need to be sown at particular times to fit in with their life cycles or biology. Cornfield Annuals need to be sown in the autumn or before May in the following spring to get a flowering display. Yellow rattle must be sown in autumn.* *First year management- Years 1* *Growth and establishment of wild grasses may be slow initially, especially at low sowing rates (2-5g/m2). There will often be a flush of annual weeds from the soil in the first growing season. This weed growth is easily controlled by topping or mowing on an annual basis as detailed above. Where mowing is the selected maintenance method, the emerging meadow needs to be cut in the first year in order to maintain a vegetation height of 100–150 mm, and not below 50 mm. Mowing must be timed to avoid conflict with ground-nesting birds. The grassland will be seeded at between 10-15g/m^2. Herbicides are not to be used but unwanted weed species such as nettle, ragwort, thistle etc. to be pulled by hand and removed from site. If weed growth is required to be controlled, it is recommended that this is performed mid to late summer to avoid accidental cuts of targeted species.* *Management once established- Years 2-30* *In the second and subsequent years grass sowings can be managed in a number of ways which, in association with soil fertility, will determine the character of the grassland. The sowing can be managed as a meadow by allowing the grasses to grow tall, flower and seed from May through to July/August. In the second year and thereafter, the meadow requires cutting at least once, preferably in late summer/early autumn, to a height of 50 mm after the plants have flowered. A spring cut, as necessary, will keep rank species in check; cuttings will contain seed from these plants and so should be removed. Grassland which is not cut or grazed each year will eventually become coarse and tussocky in character. Herbicides are not to be used but unwanted weed species such as nettle, ragwort, thistle etc. to be pulled by hand and removed from site. If weed growth is required to be controlled, it is recommended that this is performed mid to late summer to avoid accidental cuts of targeted species. Wildflower seed can be added after the grasses have established and weed problems have been dealt with. The sward will need preparation for sowing into existing grass. Flower establishment will not be as good as compared with sowing the grasses and flowers together on to bare soil, as the grasses have a 'head start'. Generally, when sowing grasses without wild flowers the sowing rate may be increased to 10-15g/m2 without compromising the development of diversity.* ***Monitoring*** A habitat condition assessment of the grassland to be undertaken by the suitably qualified ecologist (ECoW) using quadrat measurement and results fed into the monitoring plan, primarily with regards to the mowing regime and requirement for additional seeding. With monitoring this may require increasing to two additional cuts in the spring and early summer (i.e. April/May). Cutting at this time reduces the grass's vigor, results in a shorter sward and a later flowering. The hay cut is taken in early August, when the cuttings must be removed, followed by an aftermath cut in the autumn. Spring Flowering meadows have their first cut taken in late June. A second cut can be made in late July/early August followed by an aftermath cut in the Autumn. This management regime encourages spring flowering wildflowers (e.g. Cowslips, Cuckoo flowers) and the shorter wild flowers (e.g. Birdsfoot Trefoil, Daisies and Selfheal) during the summer. Late Summer flowering meadows can be encouraged by only cutting in the autumn; but adding one or two spring cuts if especially fertile.

Risk Register and Proposed Remedial Measures SM-T03

Complete the risk register by identifying likely risks that could impede the successful delivery of target habitats, hedgerows or watercourses. List all risks that could reasonably be anticipated. This should not be an exhaustive list as it will not be possible to anticipate all potential risks.

Risk Factor	Habitat/Hedgerow/Watercourse Type	Trigger for Action	Remedial Measure
Grassland gets mown at the incorrect height or the wrong time of year.	Modified/other neutral grassland	Site check by appointed ECoW or contractor	In the first instance a discussion with the land owner or site manager and if necessary, signage to be provided on site detailing the areas as meadow grassland and excluded from the usual site mowing regime.
The created grassland does not contain a consistently high proportion of indicator species, that the grass is subject to poaching or disturbance from cattle or other wild herbivores or that bracken cover exceeds 20% or bramble scrub by 5% or that the grassland does not have a variable sward height and area of bare soil exposure	Other neutral grassland	Habitat condition assessment results	A-Grassland to be supplemented with additional meadow grass seed mix and/or plug planting of indicator species. B- Management group contacted to discuss the required mowing regime and how to cut leaving a varied sward height as required C- Remove an area of turf or spray off to leave a suitable area of bare ground Target of between 5m^2 and 28m^2 of bare ground. D- Bracken/scrub growth monitored and removed by hand if required.

4. Monitoring

Monitoring Strategy for Each Habitat, Hedgerow and Watercourse Present On-Site SM-T04

Provide details of the methods you will use to monitor the progress towards the targets stated in the management plan and as agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

Habitat/Feature Type	Monitoring Methods	Monitoring Interval and Timing
Other Neutral Grassland G3 573m^2	The JNCC (2004) reports that monitoring of lowland grassland habitats should include: • Extent of the grassland establishment: % ground cover, bald patches and presence of leaf litter. • Sward composition: grass to herb ratio, positive indicator species, negative indicator species, species with local distinctiveness. • Checks of other criteria required for 'good' condition criteria targeted.	*Years 1, 3 and 5 and then every 5 years, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30* *Surveys to be completed between May and August.* *This monitoring will be undertaken by the appointed ECoW within the approved monitoring periods and any adjustments to the management regime made accordingly. This will be documented, and a copy kept by both the ECoW and site manager. Statutory BNG habitat condition assessment template to be used to assign a condition score. Statutory BNG habitat condition assessment template to be used to assign a condition score.*

Monitoring Reporting SM-B14

Organisation Responsible for Submitting the Monitoring Reports	Eco-Check Ltd	Organisation Receiving and Responsible for Reviewing Reports	Eco-Check Ltd

A monitoring report template will be submitted to the LPA detailing the initial site works, details of sward height and species composition of the enhanced grassland, habitat condition assessments of the grassland to be undertaken in Years 1, 3 and 5 and then every 5 years, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and documented along with photographic evidence.