

Mulberry Farm, Stoke Golding

BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Client	Stronghold Homes

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Disclosure:

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CONTENTS

1	Introduction	4
1.1	Purpose and scope	4
1.2	Site Location.....	5
1.3	Baseline information	6
1.3.1	Existing information	6
1.3.2	Ecological baseline	7
1.3.3	Proposed development.....	8
1.3.4	Roles and responsibilities for implementation of the BEMP.....	8
2	Management Features and Prescriptions	10
2.1.1	Ecological constraints to management.....	10
2.1.2	Other neutral grassland	10
2.1.3	Modified grassland	15
2.1.4	Mixed scrub.....	17
2.1.5	Individual native trees	19
2.1.6	Native hedgerows	20
2.1.7	Barn owl	23
2.1.8	Bats.....	23
2.1.9	Birds	24
2.1.10	Hedgehog.....	25
2.1.11	Hibernacula	26
2.1.12	Invertebrates.....	28
3	Management Schedule	29
4	Monitoring Schedule	33

5 **References** 34

6 **Appendices**..... 35

1 INTRODUCTION

Croft Ecology was commissioned by Stronghold Homes to prepare a Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan (BEMP) for the proposed development for the *“Demolition of the existing Mulberry Farm buildings, retention of Mulberry Farmhouse and proposed erection of 25no. residential units with associated parking facilities, amenity space, landscaping, village green, drainage and paddock”* at Mulberry Farm, Stoke Golding, Leicestershire, CV13 6HA (central grid reference: SP 39715 97425).

1.1 Purpose and scope

The purpose of this BEMP is to:

- Provide details of the proposed habitat creation and biodiversity enhancement measures to provide a net gain to biodiversity post-development, in line with the Statutory Biodiversity Net Gain Metric assessment for the proposed development.
- Provide details of the management prescriptions and long-term maintenance and monitoring schedule for the habitat features.

The scope of this document is provided by the wording in Condition 5 of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council planning permission 22/00661/FUL:

“5. Prior to the commencement of the development, a Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan (BEMP) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The BEMP shall be accompanied by a Biodiversity Net Gain metric demonstrating measurable biodiversity net gain. The plan shall include:

A) description, evaluation and location of the ecological features and biodiversity enhancement measures to be created and managed (including integrated bird and bat boxes, and native planting)

B) ecological trends and constraints on site that might influence management

C) aims and objectives of biodiversity enhancements and their management including for protected species

D) appropriate management options for achieving the aims and objectives of the project

E) prescriptions for management actions

F) preparation of a work schedule

G) details of the body or organisation responsible for implementation of the plan

H) on-going monitoring and remedial measures

The development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved BEMP.

REASON: To enhance the ecological value of the development hereby approved in accordance with Policy DM6 of the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD 2016 and the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework.”

1.2 Site Location

The land within the red line boundary of Figure 1 below is hereafter referred to as the ‘Site’.

The Site was located to the west of High Street in the village of Stoke Golding, Leicestershire. The Site comprised a series of agricultural and previously residential buildings, a sheep grazed grassland field bounded by hedgerows and areas of tall ruderal vegetation and scattered scrub. The immediate land to the north and west comprised further pasture fields dissected by hedgerows and bounded by the Ashby de la Zouch Canal. To the south and east were residential properties and businesses within Stoke Golding. The wider environment was dominated by fields dissected by further hedgerows and two solar panel farms.

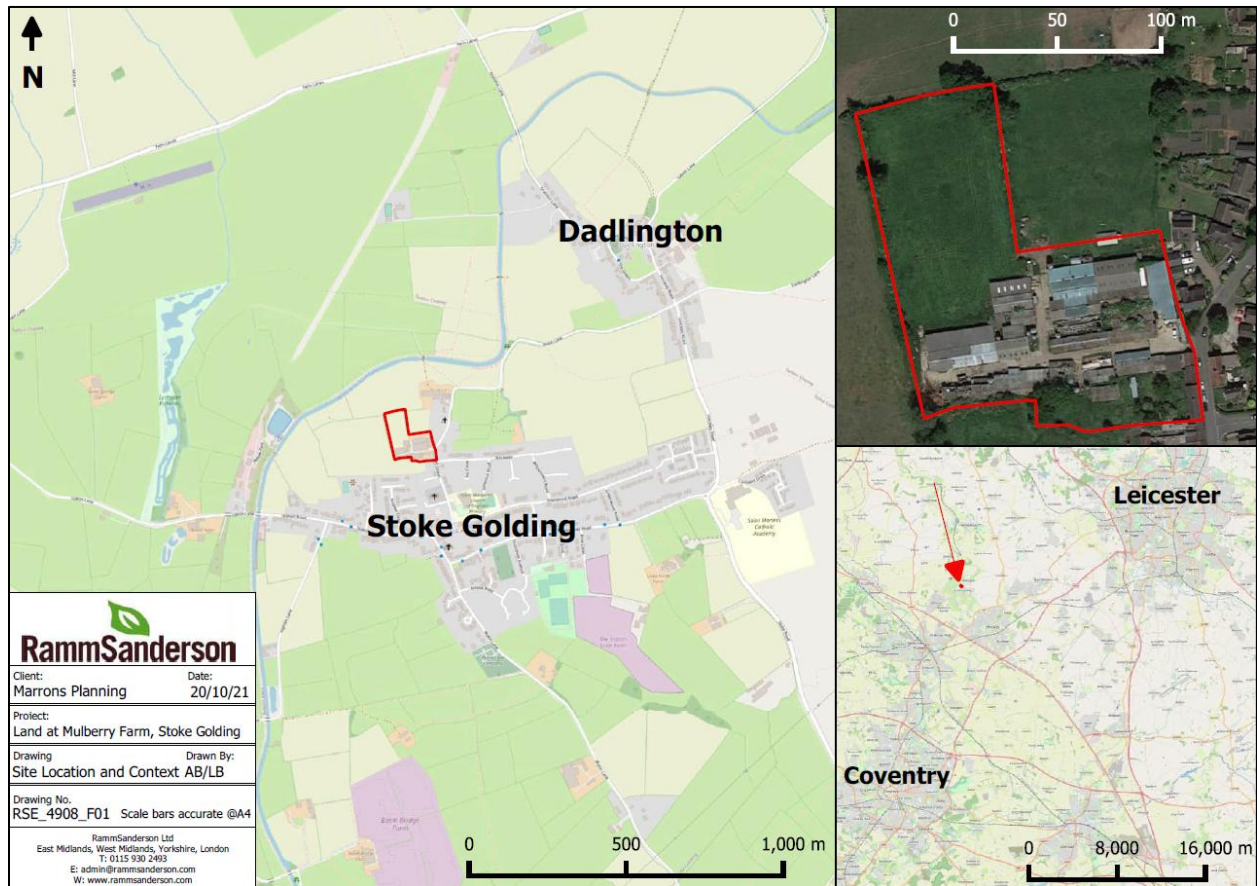


Figure 1. Site boundary (source – Ecological Impact Assessment Report, RammSanderson Ecology Ltd, 2024)

1.3 Baseline information

1.3.1 Existing information

An extended Phase 1 habitat survey was undertaken of the Site in 2021 by RammSanderson Ecology Ltd; an update habitat survey was undertaken in January 2025 by Croft Ecology to determine if the habitats on Site had changed since the initial suite of ecology surveys. The January 2025 survey indicated no changes at all to the habitats present on Site including their type, extent or condition.

Protected species surveys for great crested newt (eDNA survey), roosting bats (nocturnal emergence surveys), and badger were also undertaken in 2021 by RammSanderson Ecology Ltd. An update badger survey was undertaken in January 2025 with trailcam monitoring undertaken in May 2025 by Croft Ecology to determine if the status of badger on Site had changed since the original survey.

The results of the initial suite of ecology surveys are reported in the Ecological Impact Assessment Report prepared by RammSanderson Ecology Ltd (2024).

Additionally, the following information sources have also been reviewed in detail:

- Add update badger report (Croft Ecology, June 2025)
- Planning Committee Report 19th November 2024 for 22/00661/FUL
- Site Layout – Revised Scheme (Hayward Architects Ltd, November 2024, drawing ref: 21/39 40K – P)
- Biodiversity Metric 3.1 prepared by RammSanderson Ecology Ltd in 2024.

1.3.2 Ecological baseline

A review of the Ecological Impact Assessment Report, and update habitat survey results in 2025, detailed that the majority of the Site comprised numerous existing buildings and hardstanding, bare ground, scattered scrub, tall ruderal vegetation and modified grassland. All of these habitats were assessed to be of limited ecological importance due to their low botanical diversity; however, some of the habitats still had value for protected and notable species.

Of greater ecological interest were the broad-leaved scattered trees and hedgerows on Site; the latter of which all qualified as Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI's) under the NERC Act (2006). The hedgerows are considered to have some floristic and conservation value and are also important landscape features to both support and facilitate the dispersal of fauna and flora into the wider landscape.

Four trees on Site had potential to support roosting bats: two apple trees (T1 and T2) in the south of the Site were assessed as having low potential to support roosting bats, whilst a black mulberry (T3) also in the south was assessed as moderate. An ash tree (T4) within H2 was assessed as having high potential, including suitability to support a hibernation roost. T3 was

subject to three nocturnal emergence surveys; however, these did not record any bats emerging from or re-entering the tree, therefore bats are considered likely absent from T3.

B1 was assessed as having moderate potential to support roosting bats; however, three further nocturnal emergence surveys did not record any bats emerging from or re-entering the building during the survey; therefore, bats are considered likely absent from B1.

A well-used breeding main sett (Sett 2) and partially-used subsidiary sett (Sett 1) were identified on Site within the western and eastern boundaries, respectively. Field signs including badger hairs, latrines and prints were also recorded as well as well-used mammal paths crossing the Site. It is recommended both setts be retained, where possible. The updated badger survey in 2025 identified that Sett 2 along the western boundary was still active but Sett 1 was not currently active. Additionally, a possible sett was identified in the south of the Site under a collapsed building, although further trailcam monitoring in May 2025 did not confirm this to be a sett. Further details of the update badger survey are provided in the Badger Survey Report prepared by Croft Ecology (2025).

The Site also has potential to support foraging and commuting bats, common nesting birds in the buildings and vegetation, barn owl in some of the buildings, reptiles, and hedgehog.

1.3.3 Proposed development

The proposed development is for the *“Demolition of the existing Mulberry Farm buildings, retention of Mulberry Farmhouse and proposed erection of 25no. residential units with associated parking facilities, amenity space, landscaping, village green, drainage and paddock”*.

In order to facilitate the development, there will be a loss of scattered scrub, some of the scattered trees, some modified grassland, tall ruderal vegetation, the buildings, bare ground, and hardstanding. Additionally, a small section of the defunct species-poor hedgerow will require removal.

1.3.4 Roles and responsibilities for implementation of the BEMP

The implementation of the management actions outlined in this BEMP, and any remedial measures (if required) will be the responsibility of Stronghold Homes. Stronghold Homes will also ensure that funding is provided for all ecological responsibilities.

2 MANAGEMENT FEATURES AND PRESCRIPTIONS

The proposed development will include the enhancement of modified grassland to other neutral grassland, and the creation of modified grassland, other neutral grassland, mixed scrub, individual trees, and native hedgerows, some of which will be species-rich hedgerows with trees.

Features for protected and notable species will include an integrated barn owl box, bat and bird boxes, including for swifts and house martins, hedgehog highways, invertebrate boxes, hibernacula, and bee banks.

Refer to the BIA Proposed Habitat Plan and Biodiversity Enhancements Plan in Appendices A and B for specific locations of these measures.

2.1.1 Ecological constraints to management

It will be necessary to implement management prescriptions in line with the management schedule provided in Section 3 as this has been prepared to avoid seasonal constraints in relation to protected species.

Management to woody vegetation (scrub and trees) will be undertaken between November and February to allow fruiting species to provide food for wildlife and to avoid the nesting bird season.

Due to the integrated nature of many of the wildlife installations, there will not be any maintenance requirements; however, if the house martin nests need replacing, this will also need to be undertaken outside the nesting bird season.

The annual inspection and removal of debris from the hedgehog houses will need to be undertaken in mid-late spring (April-May) when hedgehogs have finished hibernating, so disturbance impacts are avoided.

2.1.2 Other neutral grassland

Other neutral grassland will be created in the west of the developed area and enhanced from modified grassland in the northern field. It is recommended that the Naturescape N5 Long

Season Meadow Mixture is used for the majority of the grassland with a strip of Emorsgate EM10 Tussock Mixture along the northern boundary of the northern field, to provide a tussocky vegetation structure to benefit small mammals, which in turn would provide prey for barn owl. Species lists are provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Other neutral grassland seed mixes

Species (latin name)	Species (common name)	Composition
Naturescape N5 Long Season Meadow Mixture		
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	3%
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common knapweed	5%
<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	Greater knapweed	3%
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild carrot	5%
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's bugloss	2%
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's bedstraw	6%
<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Meadow cranesbill	2%
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Common cat's-ear	2%
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field scabious	3.50%
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow vetchling	2%
<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	Rough hawkbit	2%
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye daisy	5%
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Common toadflax	1%
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot trefoil	4%
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk mallow	3%
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary plantain	2.50%
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip	3%
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	7%

<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow buttercup	5%
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous buttercup	5%
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow rattle	6%
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common sorrel	5%
<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>	Small scabious	3%
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red campion	4%
<i>Stachys officinalis</i>	Betony	3%
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's bit scabious	2%
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Wild red clover	2.50%
<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>	Dark mullein	1.50%
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted vetch	2%
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common bent	3%
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum (N)</i>	Sweet vernal grass	3%
<i>Briza media (N)</i>	Quaking grass	2%
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested dog's-tail	22%
<i>Festuca Trachyphylla</i>	Hard fescue	22%
<i>Festuca rubra ssp. commutata</i>	Chewing's fescue	22%
<i>Festuca rubra ssp. litoralis</i>	Slender creeping red fescue	13%
<i>Hordeum secalinum (N)</i>	Meadow barley	1%
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Smooth stalked meadow grass	10%
<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>	Yellow oat-grass	2%
Emorsgate EM10 Tussock Mixture		
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	0.80%
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony	0.60%
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser burdock	0.20%

<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common knapweed	2.00%
<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	Greater knapweed	1.00%
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild carrot	2.00%
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Wild teasel	1.60%
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	0.60%
<i>Galium album</i>	Hedge bedstraw	1.80%
<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Meadow crane's-bill	0.40%
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field scabious	0.80%
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow vetchling	0.40%
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye daisy	1.60%
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk mallow	0.40%
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain	1.80%
<i>Poterium sanguisorba</i>	Salad burnet	0.80%
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion	1.20%
<i>Vicia Cracca</i>	Tufted vetch	0.40%
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder campion	1.60%
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common bent	4.00%
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow foxtail (w)	8.00%
<i>Carex divulsa ssp divulsa</i>	Grey sedge (w)	4.00%
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested dog's-tail	24.00%
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot (w)	4.00%
<i>Festuca ovina</i>	Sheep's-fescue	4.00%
<i>Festuca rubra ssp rubra</i>	Slender-creeping red fescue	16.00%
<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>	Smaller cat's-tail (w)	8.00%

<i>Schedonorus arundinaceus</i> (<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>)	Tall fescue (w)	8.00%
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Establishment

For the created other neutral grassland, the seed supplier instructions should be followed, however in summary this is likely to include:

- Create a sowing area that is not highly fertile and is unlikely to have a problem with perennial weeds. Subsoil from elsewhere in the development Site could be used to reduce the soil fertility.
- Harrow or rake the soil to produce a medium tilth.
- Roll or tread the soil to produce a level firm surface.
- Sow the seed by machine or broadcast by hand; the seed must be surface-sown at the density recommended by the seed supplier.
- Firm in with a roll, or by treading, to give good soil/seed contact.

For the enhanced other neutral grassland, prior to sowing the northern field should be grazed or cut hard before vigorously harrowing the existing sward. Open up approximately 40-50% new space within the existing sward and then overseed the seed mix by machine or by hand. The seed must be surface-sown and then rolled in to increase soil contact.

Both seed mixes will be sown in the autumn or spring to achieve the best results.

First year management

After sowing there will be a flush of annual weeds; however, cutting should be resisted until mid to late summer (early August) to allow the young meadow seedlings to establish. When the summer cut is undertaken, the arisings should be removed and composted elsewhere to keep nutrient levels low throughout the grassland. The grassland can then be regularly cut or grazed from early-August through to the end of March of the following year. Any residual perennial weeds should be dug out and removed.

Long-term management

Implement a relaxed mowing regime by allowing the grassland to grow, flower, and set seed between March and August, and then undertaking a 'hay cut' in August; this involves cutting

the grassland to c.50mm. Ensure that 20% of the grassland area is left tall to achieve a varied sward height; this could be located around the field edges. Once the grassland is cut, leave the 'hay' to dry and shed seed for 1-7 days then remove all the arisings from the Site. Mow any regrowth to maintain a sward height of at least 50mm (leaving 20% tall at the field edges) through to late autumn and again in spring if necessary.

2.1.3 Modified grassland

Multiple areas of modified grassland will be created throughout the developed area. It is recommended that the Emorsgate EL1 Flowering Lawn Mixture is used to maintain a good species diversity and create a grassland that responds well to regular mowing. A species list is provided in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Modified grassland seed mix

Species (latin name)	Species (common name)	Composition
Emorsgate EL1 Flowering Lawn Mixture		
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	1.00%
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney vetch	1.00%
<i>Betonica officinalis</i>	Betony	0.40%
<i>Centurea nigra</i>	Common knapweed	1.50%
<i>Galium album</i>	Hedge bedstraw	0.40%
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's bedstraw	1.50%
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field scabious	0.40%
<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	Rough hawkbit	0.50%
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye daisy	1.00%
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black medick	1.00%
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain	0.40%
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary plantain	2.00%

<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip	2.00%
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	0.40%
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow buttercup	0.40%
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous buttercup	1.60%
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover (ag)	4.00%
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common bent	8.00%
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested dog's-tail	28.00%
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red fescue	24.00%
<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>	Smaller cat's-tail	4.00%
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Smooth-stalked meadow-grass	16.00%

Establishment

Follow the seed supplier instructions, however in summary this is likely to include:

- Create a sowing area that is not highly fertile and is unlikely to have a problem with perennial weeds. Subsoil from elsewhere in the development site could be used to reduce the soil fertility.
- Harrow or rake the soil to produce a medium tilth.
- Roll or tread the soil to produce a level firm surface.
- Sow the seed by machine or broadcast by hand; the seed must be surface sown at the density recommended by the seed supplier.
- Firm in with a roll, or by treading, to give good soil/seed contact.

The seed mix will be sown in the autumn or spring to achieve the best results.

First year management

Mow regularly, every 7 to 10 days throughout the growing season, to 40-60mm to help develop a good sward structure and enable slower growing species to establish well and not be outcompeted by fast growing grasses. Regular mowing will also help to control annual weeds. Any residual perennial weeds should be dug out and removed.

Long-term management

Mow regularly as a lawn to approximately 25-40mm. It is recommended that mowing is relaxed between March and August to allow species to flower and set seed; mowing can resume when the sward becomes untidy. Heavy quantities of cuttings should be collected and removed from Site. During the relaxed mowing period, paths could still be mown throughout the grasslands to achieve a variation in sward height and allow residents to still make use of the grassland areas.

2.1.4 Mixed scrub

Mixed scrub will be created in the centre of the northern field to add vegetation structure and a variety of ecological niches that will benefit invertebrates, small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, nesting birds, and badger. Species combination will depend on availability at time of planting but will need to include at least three, preferably more, of the species shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3 – Scrub species

Species (latin name)	Species (common name)	Abundance (%)
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	10%
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	15%
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	15%
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle	10%
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Box	10%
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common juniper	15%
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild privet	10%
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Buckthorn	15%

Planting

The shrubs will be planted between November and March and according to the supplier instructions, which is likely to include the following:

- Mark out planting areas, ensuring that a scalloped edge is designed into the scrub block, and ensure that the ground is free from weeds prior to planting. Scrub species will be planted in clusters of five to seven plants.
- Shrub transplants will be notch planted and backfilled to the existing nursery root collar with the excavated soil.
- Each transplant will be supported with a bamboo cane driven approximately 25cm into the ground, secured with natural gardening twine, and protected with a biodegradable spiral guard.

First year management

To ensure that the shrubs can establish successfully in the first year, the following management actions must be carried out:

- Water the shrubs regularly throughout the growing season (March to October). Do this every 1-2 days during hot weather, or if there is no substantial rainfall for more than one week.
- Monitor the weed growth around each shrub and hand weed as necessary.
- Apply mulch to shrubs annually (either in late autumn or early spring) when the ground is still damp.

Long-term management

Shrubs will continue to be weeded, watered, and mulched as necessary to promote successful establishment and continued growth. Any shrubs that fail to establish within the first five years will be replaced like for like.

Once established, the scrub edge will need to be cut back to avoid it encroaching into the adjacent other neutral grassland habitat. Ensure that each cutting rotation always leaves at least 50% of the scrub edge uncut so that there is always a well-developed edge present.

Additionally, management should create clearings and glades within the scrub to allow ground flora to colonise and develop and prevent the scrub from becoming too dense.

2.1.5 Individual native trees

Native broadleaf trees, 16x medium and 12x small, will be planted throughout the grassland in the northern field and throughout the developed area. Species combination will depend on availability at time of planting but should include the species shown in Table 4 below.

Table 4 – Individual tree species

Species (latin name)	Species (common name)	No.	Recommended location
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field maple	3	Northern field
<i>Quercus robur</i>	English oak	6	Northern field
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse chestnut	3	Northern field
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver birch	4	Northern field
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	4	Developed area
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam	3	Developed area
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild cherry	5	Developed area

Planting

The trees will be planted between November and March and according to the supplier instructions, which is likely to include the following:

- Mark out planting areas and ensure that the ground is free from weeds prior to planting.
- Dig a planting pit that is approximately one third larger than the rootball of the standard tree. Removed soils will be retained, mixed with a peat free compost, and used to backfill the pit once the tree has been positioned and staked.
- Each tree will be staked for additional support. The stake will be driven into the ground approximately 1ft below the bottom of the planting pit. A rubber tree tie will be used to secure the tree and ensure that the stake does not rub against the bark. Once staked, the planting pit can be backfilled with the retained soil and compost mix.
- Lightly firm the soil around each tree and apply an even layer of mulch, approximately 2 inches thick.

First year management

To ensure that the trees can establish successfully in the first year, the following management actions must be carried out:

- Water the trees regularly throughout the growing season (March to October). As a general rule, soak the ground at least one metre in diameter around each tree with enough water to completely saturate the soil twice a week. Do this every 1-2 days during hot weather, or if there is no substantial rainfall for more than one week.
- Monitor the weed growth around each tree and hand weed as necessary.
- Monitor the condition of the tree stakes and replace as necessary. Firm into the ground if they have become loose and adjust the rubber ties to accommodate tree growth and prevent rubbing.
- Apply mulch to trees annually (either in late autumn or early spring) when the ground is still damp.

Long-term management

Trees will continue to be weeded, watered, and mulched as necessary to promote successful establishment and continued growth. Any trees that fail to establish within the first five years will be replaced like for like.

Once the trees have matured, management will be biodiversity led and allow the trees to flower and fruit so they can provide a food resource for wildlife. Pruning will therefore be avoided between March and October and allow the trees to blossom and fruit. This will have the added benefit of avoiding the nesting bird season.

2.1.6 Native hedgerows

Native hedgerows, some of which will be species-rich hedgerows with trees, will be planted at the boundaries of the developed area. Species combination will depend on availability at time of planting but should include a minimum of six species from the list shown in Table 5 below.

Table 5 – Hedgerow species and standard trees

Species (latin name)	Species (common name)	Recommended abundance (%)
Hedgerow species		
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	10%
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	15%
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	25%
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	15%
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder rose	10%
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field maple	15%
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	10%
Standard tree species		
<i>Quercus robur</i>	English oak	30%
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	20%
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam	10%
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Crab apple	15%
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild cherry	25%

Planting

The shrubs / trees will be planted between November and March and following the supplier's instructions, which is likely to include the following:

- Mark out planting areas and ensure that the ground is free from weeds prior to planting. Hedgerow shrubs will be planted at a density of six to eight plants per metre in two staggered rows approximately 35cm apart. Standard trees will be planted at 50m intervals in the species-rich hedgerow with trees.
- Shrub transplants will be notch planted and backfilled to the existing nursery root collar with the excavated soil.

- Each transplant will be supported with a bamboo cane driven approximately 25cm into the ground, secured with natural gardening twine, and protected from browsing with a biodegradable spiral guard.
- The standard trees will be planted following the guidance provided in section 2.1.5 above.

Establishment

To ensure that the shrubs / trees can establish successfully in the first year, the following management actions must be carried out:

- Water the shrubs / trees regularly throughout the growing season (March to October). Do this every 1-2 days during hot weather, or if there is no substantial rainfall for more than one week.
- Monitor the weed growth around each shrub / tree and hand weed as necessary.
- Apply mulch to shrubs / trees annually (either in late autumn or early spring) when the ground is still damp.

Long-term management

Shrubs / trees will continue to be weeded, watered, and mulched as necessary to promote successful establishment and continued growth. Any shrubs / trees that fail to establish within the first five years will be replaced like-for-like.

After the first year of growth, cut the hedgerow trees / shrubs back by 50% to encourage them to begin developing a denser structure. Do not cut back the standard trees. Following this, cut the hedgerow twice a year during the initial establishment period three to five years from planting.

Once established, the hedgerow can then be cut on a two-year rotational cycle, ensuring that only 50% of the hedgerow is cut at any one time. This will allow the uncut hedgerow species to fruit in the autumn and provide a food source for birds and other wildlife throughout the autumn and winter. Ensure that hedgerow cutting is avoided between March and October to avoid the nesting bird season.

After ten years from establishment, the hedgerow can be laid in the Midlands style to encourage density at the base. Hedge laying to be repeated every 30 years thereafter if cut as prescribed, or every 15 years if uncut.

Once the standard trees have matured, management will be biodiversity led and allow the trees to flower and fruit so they can provide a food resource for wildlife. Pruning will therefore be avoided between March and October and allow the trees to blossom and fruit. This will have the added benefit of avoiding the nesting bird season.

2.1.7 Barn owl

An integrated barn owl box will be incorporated into the roof of Plot 14 in the north of the development, so that it can overlook open countryside, particularly the northern field with the other neutral grassland and mixed scrub creation (see Appendix B). Figure 2 below shows the dimensions of an indoor barn owl box and more information about their installation can be found at <https://www.barnowltrust.org.uk/>.

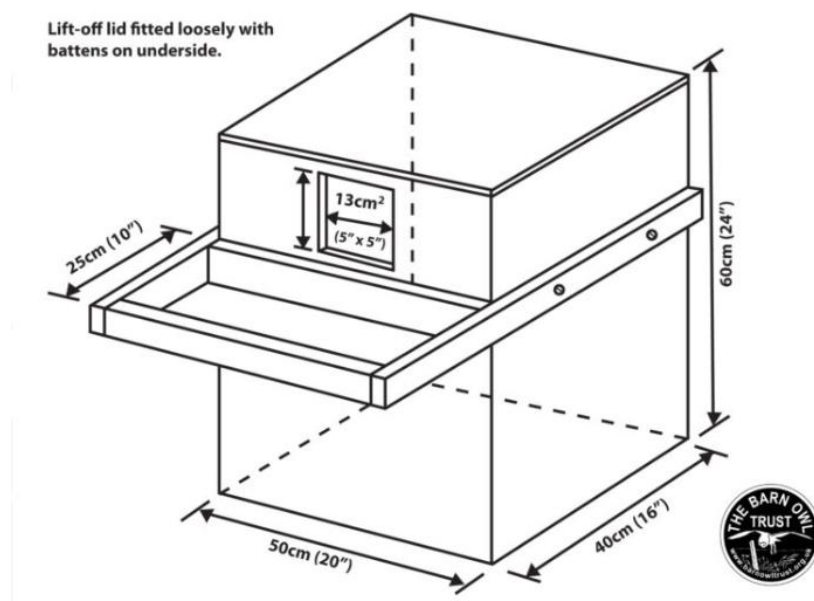


Figure 2 – Dimensions for an indoor barn owl box

2.1.8 Bats

Opportunities for roosting bats will be provided through the installation of ten integrated bat boxes: five Habibat 001 bat boxes and five Schwegler 1WI Summer and Winter bat boxes across Plots 8-14 (See Appendix B). These boxes should be erected at least 4m above the ground between southern to western aspects, in areas where there is a clear flight path to adjacent

habitat, and away from nearby lighting. These boxes will provide roosting opportunities for bats in the summer months.



Plate 1. Habibat 001 bat box



Plate 2. Schwegler 1WI Summer and Winter bat box

Maintenance – No maintenance will be required due to the integrated nature of the bat boxes. Additionally, the design of the boxes allow bat droppings to fall out naturally without the need for annual cleaning.

All bat boxes are available from <https://www.nhbs.com/>.

2.1.9 Birds

Opportunities for nesting birds will be provided through the installation of an integrated swift brick on each property and the provision of ten house martin nests, which will be sited in groups of at least two on Plots 13, 15 and 16 (see Appendix B), as house martins often nest in colonies. Swift bricks will be sited under the eaves, ideally 5m from the ground on a gabled wall and facing north or east; house martin nests will be sited underneath the eaves on exterior walls of the buildings, at a minimum height of 2m above the ground.



*Plate 3. PRO UK Rendered Build-In Swift
Box*



*Plate 4. Vivara Pro WoodStone house martin
nest*

Maintenance – No maintenance will be required due to the integrated nature of the bird boxes.

All bird boxes are available from <https://www.nhbs.com/>.

2.1.10 Hedgehog

Due to the potential for hedgehog to use the Site, it is appropriate to provide some sheltering opportunities for this species; this will include the provision of two hedgehog houses. Additionally, hedgehog fence gaps will be cut at the base of residential boundary fences, measuring 13cm high and 13cm wide, to prevent fragmentation of the home range and enable continued access through gardens and beyond.

The hedgehog boxes will be provided along the western boundary of the public open space, and the hedgehog fence gaps will be provided within all boundary fencing, as shown in Appendix B.



Plate 5. Hedgehog House with Feeding Shelter



Plate 6. Eco Hedgehog Hole Fence Plate

An annual inspection of the hedgehog houses and removal of debris should be undertaken mid-late spring (April-May) when hedgehogs have finished hibernating. Previous nesting material should be carefully removed with the use of gloves and a small brush. The contents should not be disposed of near to the box to prevent reinfection by any parasites. Hot, soapy water can be used to thoroughly clean but avoid bleach or disinfectant.

Hedgehog houses and fence plates are available from <https://www.nhbs.com/>.

2.1.11 Hibernacula

Two hibernacula will be created in the northern field of the Site near the boundary hedgerows and mixed scrub (see Appendix A). Figure 3 shows an example of a log pile hibernaculum and Figure 4 details the specification. In summary, the hibernaculum should have a minimum dimension of 2m wide by 1m tall and comprise a base layer of inert material, such as logs, ideally covered by a cap of topsoil and turf. Woody material could be used from the tree removal that is required to facilitate the proposed development.

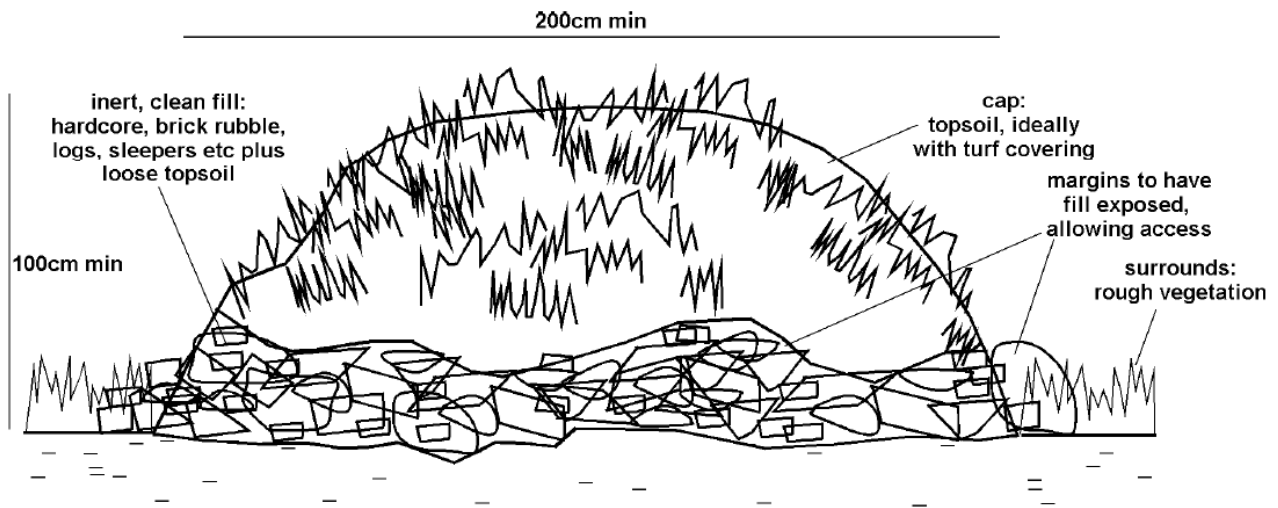
This will provide sheltering and hibernation opportunities for amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals. Vegetation surrounding the hibernaculum will be left uncut to provide additional shelter and protection, and new material will be added as required based on annual monitoring visits.

Figure 3: Example of a log pile hibernaculum

Figure 4: Hibernaculum design taken from the Great crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines (English



Nature, 2001)



2.1.12 Invertebrates

Five insect houses will be installed on retained trees throughout the development (see Appendix B). These nest boxes will help to provide a variety of niches for a diverse spectrum of invertebrates to inhabit and therefore help to increase the terrestrial invertebrate species diversity on site. The insect houses will need to be installed less than 2m from the ground.

Insect houses are available from <https://www.nhbs.com/>.



Plate 7: National Trust Apex Insect House

Additionally, any surplus spoil produced during the works can be used to create ‘bee banks’ within the northern retained field (see Appendix A). These spoil mounds can provide significant variation in the topography of this area and therefore provide a variety of microhabitats for a diverse range of invertebrate species, including solitary bees and wasps. Any created spoil mounds should face southeast/south/southwest to provide extra warmth for nesting invertebrates.

3 MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE

Table 4 below provides a summary of the proposed management prescriptions and timings over the course of the BEMP implementation period of 30 years.

Table 4 – Management schedule

Management feature and prescription	Timing	Year of BEMP implementation						
		0 (construction)	1	2	3	4	5	6 - 30
Other neutral grassland								
Seed / overseed grassland meadow mixtures	Autumn or spring							
Establishment - Mid to late summer cut (remove arisings)	Early August							
Establishment - Regularly cut and remove perennial weeds	Early August - March							
Relax mowing regime	March - August							
Undertake a hay cut (leaving 20% of grassland uncut)	August							
Modified grassland								
Seed flowering lawn mixture	Autumn or spring							
Establishment - mow grassland every 7-10 days	March – October (throughout the growing season)							

Long-term - mow grassland every 2 weeks	August – February							
Long-term - relax mowing regime	March - August							
Mixed scrub								
Plant shrubs	Nov - March							
Establishment – water, weed	As necessary during March – Oct							
Establishment – apply mulch	Annually (Nov or Feb)							
Replace any failed specimens	As necessary (plant between Nov -March)							
Long-term - cut scrub edge on a rotational cycle (leaving 50% uncut each time)	Nov - Feb							
Long-term – create clearings and glades within scrub	Nov - Feb							
Individual native trees								
Tree planting	Nov - March							
Establishment – water, weed, monitor stakes	As necessary during March – Oct							
Establishment – apply mulch	Annually (Nov or Feb)							

Replace any failed specimens	As necessary (plant between Nov -March)							
Prune trees	As necessary during Nov - Feb							
Native hedgerows								
Shrub / tree planting	Nov - March							
Establishment – water, weed	As necessary during March – Oct							
Establishment – apply mulch	Annually (Nov or Feb)							
Replace any failed specimens	As necessary (plant between Nov -March)							
Cut hedgerow shrubs / trees back by 50%	Once between Nov - Feb							
Trim sides and leading shoots to an even shape	Once between Nov - Feb							
Long-term - cut on a rotational cycle (leaving 50% uncut each time)	Every 2 years between Nov - Feb							Every 2 years
Long-term - hedge laying	Every 30 years if cut as prescribed, or every 15 years if uncut. Between Nov - Feb							Every 15-30 years

Barn owl, bird and bat boxes								
Install barn owl, bird and bat boxes	Once during construction							
Replace any broken house martin nests	As necessary (avoiding the nesting bird season)							
Hedgehog houses and fence gaps								
Install hedgehog houses and fence gaps	Once during construction							
Inspection and removal of debris	April-May (after hibernation)							
Hibernacula								
Create hibernacula	Once during construction							
Inspection and topping up of materials	Annually							
Invertebrates								
Install insect hotels	Once during construction							
Replace any broken boxes	As necessary							
Create bee banks with excess spoil	Once during construction							

4 MONITORING SCHEDULE

Following each monitoring survey the results will be communicated to the organisation responsible for the management of the Site. This will allow them to prepare for any adaptations to the management well in advance of the next planting / growing season. A monitoring report will also be prepared for submission to the local planning authority that details the results and recommendations of each monitoring visit. The BEMP will be adapted and management prescriptions changed as necessary during the course of the BEMP lifespan.

Management feature	Monitoring visits (years of BEMP implementation)													
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	15	20	25	30
Other neutral grassland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Modified grassland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mixed scrub	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Individual native trees	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Native hedgerows	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Protected species enhancements	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

5 REFERENCES

Biodiversity Metric 3.1 prepared by RammSanderson Ecology Ltd in 2024.

British Standard (2013). *BS 42020:2013: Biodiversity. Code of practice for planning and development.*

Croft Ecology (2025) *Mulberry Farm Updated Badger Report*. Report Ref: 241212.Badger.v1

Hayward Architects Ltd (2024) *Site Layout – Revised Scheme (drawing ref: 21/39 40K – P)*. On behalf of Stronghold Homes.

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Planning Committee Report 19th November 2024 for 22/00661/FUL

RammSanderson Ecology Ltd (2024) *Mulberry Farm, Stoke Golding; Ecological Impact Assessment*. Report Ref: RSE_4908_R2_V3.

6 APPENDICES

Appendix A – BIA Proposed Habitat Plan (RammSanderson Ecology Ltd, 2024)



Appendix B – Biodiversity Enhancements Plan

