



Landscape and Ecological Management Plan

Lychgate Lane, Burbage, Leicestershire

Report Reference: BG24.357

October 2024



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www.brindlegreen.co.uk

Head Office

Brindle & Green Limited
Unit 3 Silverhill Court, Radbourne, Derby, DE6 4LY

Tel: 0800 222 9105

Sheffield Office

Brindle & Green Limited
Horizon House
Whiting Street
Sheffield S8 9QR

Barnsley Office

Brindle & Green Limited
Sergeants House
36 Edderthorpe Lane
Barnsley S73 9AT

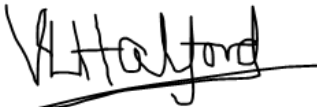
London Office

Brindle & Green Limited
Nutter Lane
Wanstead
London E11 2HZ

Kent Office

Brindle & Green Limited
Sandy Lane
Sevenoaks
Kent TN13 3TP

Document Control

Report	Name	Signature	Date
Prepared by	Matthew Norris Technical Ecological Mitigation Lead		24/09/2024
1st Check by	Dr Lucinda Sweet MCIEEM Director		25/09/2024
2nd Check by	Victoria Halford Senior Ecologist		25/09/2024
Issued by (PDF)	Matthew Norris Technical Ecological Mitigation Lead		07/10/2024
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Project Details

Project carried out by:

Brindle and Green

Unit 3, Silverhill Court

Radbourne

Derby.

DE6 4LY

Head Office: 01332 825771

Email: info@brindlegreen.co.uk

Website: www.brindlegreen.co.uk

Project carried out for:

Avant Homes

1 Phoenix Place

Phoenix Centre

Nottingham

NG8 6BA

Project site:

Lychgate Lane

Lychgate Lane

Burbage

Hinckley

Leicestershire

LE10 2DQ

Grid reference: SP 44866 92294

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1 Summary

- 1.1.1 Brindle and Green Environmental Consultants Ltd were commissioned by Avant Homes to undertake a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) for an area of land south of Lychgate Lane, Burbage, Leicestershire.
- 1.1.2 The purpose of this document is to discharge Condition 13 of the appeal decision notice (APP/K2420/W/23/3321670) for the outline planning application (22/00192/OUT). This document sets out the details for the establishment and enhancement of onsite habitats and their long-term management in order to meet their associated net gain targets based on the net gain assessment completed by FPCR (August 2024). Additional prescriptions have been outlined to safeguard and enhance the site for bats, breeding birds, hedgehogs, and invertebrates.
- 1.1.3 It is understood that the proposals are for a residential development of up to 85 dwellings and associated access, drainage and gardens.
- 1.1.4 Design proposals for the development can be found in Appendix 1, and this report should be read in conjunction with the Biodiversity Net Gain Plan (FPCR, August 2024) and the Soft Landscaping Proposals detailed by Pegasus Group (Drawings P24-0282_EN_0001_E_0002-0005, February 2024).

2 Introduction

2.1 Scope and Aim of the Appraisal

2.1.1 Brindle & Green Ecological Consultants Ltd were commissioned by Avant Homes to compile a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) in relation to the planning application, 22/00192/OUT to support the proposed development of up to 85 dwellings with associated access, landscaping and works on the site known as Lychgate Lane, Burbage.

2.1.2 This document seeks to discharge condition 13 of the granted planning application appeal (APP/K2420/W/23/3321670) which states:

“13. Prior to commencement of development a landscape and ecology management plan shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The plan shall provide details on the mitigation and management measures required by this development to ensure that the flora and fauna is appropriately considered and protected. The development shall only be carried out in accordance with the approved details and timescales and shall be retained thereafter.”

2.1.3 The content of the LEMP shall include the following:

- a) Description and evaluation of features to be managed.
- b) Ecological trends and constraints on site that might influence management.
- c) Aims and objectives of management.
- d) Appropriate management options for achieving aims and objectives.
- e) Prescriptions for management actions.
- f) Preparation of a work schedule (including an annual work plan capable of being rolled forward over a five-year period).
- g) Details of the body or organization responsible for implementation of the plan.
- h) Ongoing monitoring and remedial measures

2.1.4 This document refers to the findings of the Ecological Appraisal compiled by FPCR (January 2022) and Arboricultural Impact Assessment by FPCR (January 2022) to provide an indicative timescale for implementation of the mitigation and compensation measures to be undertaken prior to the commencement of works onsite (Table 1), during construction and ongoing post construction management relating to habitat management. Enhancements have been guided by the accompanying Biodiversity Impact Assessment (FPCR, August 2024) which seeks to

maximise biodiversity value within proposed habitats within the application boundary and provide, with off-setting, an overall biodiversity net gain uplift of 1%, as proposals were submitted prior to 10% net gain legislative requirement (February 2024).

- 2.1.5 This document should inform the management of created, retained and enhanced habitats within the site ownership, inform supplementary planting within the site ownership and inform the planting plan for the soft landscaping scheme (Pegasus Group, February 2022) within the red line boundary.
- 2.1.6 In order to provide an enhancement for protected and priority species within the development proposals, proposals will incorporate bird and bat boxes onto retained mature trees within the development boundary, as well as integrated swift bricks within targeted residential units across the site. Proposals will also provide hedgehog highway routes through proposed residential gardens and a bug hotel within POS (Appendix 3).
- 2.1.7 Deviation from the design plans detailed within Appendix 1 may necessitate amendments to this document at a later stage. If construction has not commenced within one year of the date of this report, the document may require reviewing and/or updating.

3 Description and Evaluation of Features to be Managed

3.1 Existing Features on Site to be Considered

- 3.1.1 The site was the subject of an extended phase one habitat survey and further ecological consideration undertaken by FPCR in January 2022.
- 3.1.2 The application site is approximately 2.69 ha in extent and is located south of Lychgate Lane, Burbage, Hinckley, Leicestershire. The surrounding landscape is primarily residential to the west of the site, however arable land extends to the north, east and south of the development site, with a potential Local Wildlife Site (pLWS) noted adjacent to the western boundary of the site. The site is dominated by low value, poor modified grassland, with a small area of poor mixed scrub to the north-western corner of the site, as well as boundary native hedgerows with mature trees.
- 3.1.3 Lychgate Lane defines the northern boundary of the site, however, does not constitute a dispersal barrier, with no dispersal barriers present immediately adjacent to the site, with good connectivity to the wider arable land and residential gardens beyond the site. The M69 is present to the south of the site, however, is at such a distance away (>300m) that is not considered a significant dispersal barrier. Boundary features provide direct connectivity to the wider landscape for mobile species such as bats, badgers and small mammals, and are expected to be retained and safeguarded during development proposals.
- 3.1.4 The habitats on site have been evaluated as having up to 'Site' value in relation to the immediate surroundings and a regional context. The area to be cleared to facilitate development is primarily low value grassland, with the small area of scrub to the north-west requiring removal under the proposals. Mixed scrub replacement planting is included to offset the loss of this medium distinctiveness habitat, within the Biodiversity Net Gain (FPCR, August 2024).
- 3.1.5 The value of ecological receptors and proposed enhancements have been summarised in Table 1.

3.2 Habitat Creation – Purpose and Objectives

- 3.2.1 Proposals include areas of open green spaces that are targeted to create species diverse grasslands, with other neutral grassland proposed to the north-eastern corner of the site, which will also include an area of mixed scrub to the peripheries of this area. Other open areas within the development proposal will include areas of modified grassland, also seeded with a diverse wildflower mix, and native specimen tree planting. Hedgerows with mature trees to the boundary of the site will be retained and where possible enhanced, connecting these habitats together and maintaining linear connectivity for protected/priority species to the wider landscape..

Table 1: Ecological Receptors, the impact associated with the development and the proposed mitigation / enhancements.

Receptor	Source of Impact	Un-mitigated Impact	Proposed Working Method	Risk with Mitigation	Timing of Proposed Works
Habitats	Loss of low value grassland and scrub.	Certain non-significant negative impact at site level	Post construction seeding enhancement of POS and inclusion of mixed species scrub planting.	Neutral	January 2025
	Impacts to root protection of trees and hedgerows.		Appropriate buffer and exclusion outlined within accompanying AIA (FPCR, January 2022).		
	Impacts through noise, dust and lighting to potential Local Wildlife Site (pLWS).		Follow working practice recommendations detailed within CEMP (Avant Homes, August 2024) to minimise temporary impacts during construction phase.		
Breeding birds	Potential disturbance, loss, or harm to nesting birds, their nests, eggs and young	Certain non-significant negative impact at site level	Vegetation clearance undertaken outside of nesting bird season. If this is not possible, a pre-works check of the habitat will be conducted to ensure no nesting individuals are present.	Neutral	January 2025
	Loss of foraging resources				
	Loss of nesting habitat		Post construction enhancement (see habitat creation areas).		
Bats	Temporary disturbance to bats during construction	Certain non-significant negative impact at the site level.	Sensitive lighting scheme during and post construction to be implemented, as well as no night-time working, to minimise disturbance to local population of bat species. Linear habitats to be retained and protected during development to maintain current habitats for bats.	Neutral	January 2025
Badgers	Loss of foraging and commuting habitat.	Certain non-significant negative impact at site level.	Comply with Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) as set out within Ecological Appraisal (FPCR, January 2022).	Neutral	January 2025

Receptor	Source of Impact	Un-mitigated Impact	Proposed Working Method	Risk with Mitigation	Timing of Proposed Works
Amphibians and Reptiles	Loss of foraging and commuting habitat.	Certain non-significant negative impact at site level.	Post construction enhancement (habitat creation areas).	Neutral	January 2025
(MSPI)	Loss of foraging and commuting habitat European Hedgehog	Certain non-significant negative impact at site level.	Comply with Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) for badgers, as set out within Ecological Appraisal (FPCR, January 2022).	Neutral	January 2025

4 Aims and Objectives of Management

The Landscape Management Plan seeks to secure long term enhancement prescriptions and their long-term management, to conserve and enhance the ecological and landscape value of the site and adjacent habitat through safeguarding and enhancing the ecological and physical integrity of retained habitats.

4.1 Objective 1: Maintain and Protect Existing Conservation Value of Retained Features

- 4.1.1 Retained hedgerows and mature trees are to be protected during construction works around the perimeter of the site, with enhancement measures to be implemented, where possible, to build upon the connective value of the habitat for the benefit of local protected and/or priority species, such as bats and breeding birds.
- 4.1.2 Hedgerows and mature trees will be protected from negative impacts during development phase using appropriate RPA fencing, as recommended within the associated Arboricultural Assessment (FPCR, January 2022).
- 4.1.3 The RPA fencing will also mitigate any indirect, temporary impacts associated with the development by creating a buffer zone between the site and the potential LWS. Moreover, to safeguard the potential LWS, lighting, dust and noise will be limited along this buffer zone as per the Construction Environmental Management Plan (Avant Homes, 2024) and through a sensitive lighting strategy discussed in relation to foraging and commuting bats within Section 5.

4.2 Objective 2: Creation of New Habitats to Safeguard Local Protected Species Populations

- 4.2.1 Planting of species-rich wildflower grassland, to create areas of other neutral grassland (as per the Biodiversity Net Gain Plan, August 2024), as well as seeding areas of modified grassland within the POS with diverse wildflower mixes will provide an increase in botanical diversity of the sward across these areas, providing enhancement for birds, invertebrates and small mammal species.
- 4.2.2 Native specimen tree planting across the site will provide foraging and nesting opportunities for protected species and increase vertical structure of the site.

- 4.2.3 Planting of native mixed scrub in areas of open space, principally within the north-eastern extent of the site and along the southern boundary, will be created to include a varied structure, and opportunities for invertebrates and birds, as well as small mammals such as hedgehog.
- 4.2.4 Inclusion of bat bird boxes across the scheme to provide additional habitat opportunities, with inclusion of hedgehog highways within wooden garden fences to provide connectivity across the site. See attached Faunal Enhancement Plan in Appendix 3.

4.3 Objective 3: Monitor and Review the Success of the Implemented Strategy

- 4.3.1 Maintain a flexible management approach which responds to the changing needs of the landscape and ecology of the site. The success of habitat management and the implementation of woodland management should be monitored annually for 5 years and reviewed after this point to establish management for the 30-year term. The management of the site including created, retained, and enhanced habitats will continue for the operational lifetime of the development.
- 4.3.2 Enhancement and management prescriptions are influenced by the results of the previous ecological reports and seeks post construction planting and management to safeguard the ecological function of habitats and protected species. Subsequent recommendations for the site are focused towards improving the biological diversity within the retained woodland, and where possible within the scheme footprint.

5 Appropriate Management Options for Achieving Aims and Objectives

5.1 Objective 1: Maintain and Protect Existing Conservation Value of Retained Features: Retained Hedgerows and Mature Trees

Management Objectives & Target Species

- 5.1.1 Retained boundary vegetation to be suitably protected during construction to ensure their long-term success for the perpetuity of the development as per recommendations included within the AIA (January 2022) and Soft Landscaping Proposals (Pegasus Group, January 2022). Proposals will be targeted towards invertebrates, bats, birds and hedgehogs.

Proposed implementation, Management and Enhancement

- 5.1.2 The hedgerows present along all boundaries to the site are to be retained as part of the proposals and will be protected from degradation utilising tree protection measures outlined within the associated Arboricultural report (FPCR, January 2022) and will be safeguarded by the inclusion of a 5m buffer zone to act as a wildlife corridor along parts of the western boundary of the site. The hedgerows to maintain their current condition, will require appropriate management to maintain their connective and screening value.
- 5.1.3 Construction areas will be suitably delineated by Heras security fencing, to allow a suitable buffer between construction work and the root protection areas (RPAs) identified within the accompanying Arboricultural Assessment (January 2022). Signs will be erected to enforce that no spoil, construction materials or plant is to enter this area. Fencing to be left in situ for the perpetuity of construction works, to be removed when ground works are complete.

Enhancement

- 5.1.4 The hedgerows are not required to be enhanced within the associated Biodiversity Net Gain Plan (FPCR, August 2024). However, all retained sections of hedgerow will be maintained in their current condition and as such will be subject to the following management prescriptions.

Management

- 5.1.5 Retained hedgerows to be cut on a two-to-three-year rotation, to enhance suitability for wildlife aiming for an A line profile at the top, with a base width of 2 metres and height of at least 2 metres.

- 5.1.6 Any areas of thinning or vertical gappiness should be gap filled as and when required to maintain boundary hedgerows. Should gap fill planting be required, appropriate management in the first year of establishment, from May until September establishing gap filled planting should be watered with 5-10L of water per metre, supplied once per week. In periods of dry weather (No rain for a period of over 10 days) this effort should be increased to twice per week. Tie checks will be conducted once every 2 months to promote establishment until year 3 (Table 2).
- 5.1.7 Any newly planted sections of the hedgerows will be inspected annually in late summer for the first 5 years of establishment. Specimens which have died or become diseased will be replaced within the following winter planting season.
- 5.1.8 Non-biodegradable stakes, netting, guards or ties are to be removed from the site once the hedgerow gap filling planting is established (this is to be assessed during the annual late summer check) and disposed of at an appropriate licensed site.
- 5.1.9 Newly planted saplings will be pruned annually until establishment to encourage a thick base at which point, they will be managed as existing hedgerows.

5.2 Objective 2: Creation of New Habitat:

Species-Rich Grassland – Other Neutral and Modified Grassland

Management Objectives & Target Species

- 5.2.1 To improve floristic diversity on site, adhering to recommendations within the proposed Biodiversity Net Gain Plan (FPCR, August 2024) other neutral grassland and modified grassland are to be created within the open green space to the north-eastern corner and high traffic areas surrounding footpaths, play equipment and vehicular accesses respectively. These areas are seeking to provide connectivity across the site, as well as foraging resources for invertebrates and breeding birds, while providing a refuge for protected/priority species, such as hedgehog.
- 5.2.2 As grassland has been proposed across the open spaces, a combination of seed mixtures will be used to distinguish between areas set aside for high-traffic, amenity areas and areas designated to benefit wildlife to the peripheries of the development.

Proposed implementation, Management and Enhancement

EM3 Special General-Purpose Meadow Mixture

- 5.2.3 To be seeded within open areas to the north-eastern section of the site and partially along the southern boundary of the site (Appendix 2, Appendix 3). The grassland will be minimally managed for the benefit of local protected species, offering a valuable foraging and commuting corridor between areas of optimal habitat to the north, east, and south.

Establishment

- 5.2.4 Ground preparation of these areas will be completed prior to seeding by raking or harrowing within machinery to provide a fine tilth, free of weeds, and on areas with a minimum of 150mm of topsoil. The ground will then be rolled or treaded prior to seeding the area to provide a firm surface. Seeding will be completed within the autumn or spring to allow for sufficient moisture and temperatures for germination and can be completed by machinery or by hand casting the seeds to a sowing rate of 4g/m² with EM3 Emorsgate seed mix, or similar approved mix. If an alternative mix is used, then the manufacturers sowing regime will be followed instead of the one stated above. The seeded areas will be watered and maintained in accordance with the supplier's instructions as well as this document.

Management

- 5.2.5 The grassland management details have been informed from the seed manufacturer Emorsgate seeds for EM3 Special General-Purpose Meadow Mixture (Emorsgate, 2024) and informed by the Grassland chapter by Ausden and Treweek in Managing Habitats for Conservation (Sutherland et al., 2009).
- 5.2.6 The outlined management strategy will lead to the encouragement of invertebrates through the diversification of flora species across these areas, improving pollination sources and in turn leading to foraging opportunities for bats, birds, and hedgehogs.

First year Management

- 5.2.7 In the first year of sowing, annual weeds from the seed bank will emerge and provide shelter for seedlings. The grassland will only be cut mid to late summer time, for example early August, with arisens removed and composted away from this area, to reduce the potential for enrichment and further colonisation by annual weeds. The resultant seed mix seedlings will germinate to

produce a young meadow and will be maintained short (approximately 50mm) by low intensity mowing through to the end of March the following year, with hand digging out of residual perennial weeds, such as docks.

Annual Management

- 5.2.8 Once established, each year the grassland areas will be cut to ensure the development of a varied sward height with a mixed composition of species, minimise the insurgence of scrub from neighbouring areas (scrub encroachment <20% total area of grassland) or the development of bracken (bracken encroachment <20% total area of the grassland).
- 5.2.9 A series of cuts to maintain the vegetation levels low but still allow plants to flower and set seed, by completing a cut late in July or August with a petrol strimmer or tractor mower to 50mm, leaving behind the arisens to dry and shed seeds. After being left for 1-7 days, the dried grass can then be removed from the grassland area. A further mow will be completed late autumn/winter and again in spring if required.
- 5.2.10 Long-term management of the area will continue with mechanical cuts on an annual or biannual basis, with waste material from mechanical cutting removed to prevent enrichment of the habitat and lead to the development of undesirable species such as dock (*Rumex spp.*) or nettle (*Urtica dioica*).
- 5.2.11 Prevention of the development of more than 5% of bare ground in total across the semi-improved grassland area will be encouraged to maintain the habitats expected condition. Should bare ground develop more than 5% over the area then areas of bare ground will be rotavated to a fine tilth and re-seeded with an appropriate seed mix, such as EM3 by Emorsgate seeds, or similar approved mix.

EL1 – Flowering Lawn mixture

- 5.2.12 The areas adjacent to public footpaths, access roads and around the play equipment will be seeded with grasses and flowering plants that can tolerate regular mowing and are hard wearing to allow recreational use, such as EL1 Flowering Lawn Mixture, or similar approved. Where possible outer edges of the area should be left to grow longer to allow flowering species opportunity to flower.

- 5.2.13 The grassland management details have been informed from the seed manufacturer Emorsgate seeds for EL1 Flowering Lawn Mixture (Emorsgate, 2024) and informed by the Grassland chapter by Ausden and Treweek in *Managing Habitats for Conservation* (Sutherland et al., 2009).

Establishment

- 5.2.14 Ground preparation of these areas will be completed prior to seeding by raking or harrowing within machinery to provide a fine tilth, free of weeds, and on areas with a minimum of 150mm of topsoil. The ground will then be rolled or treaded prior to seeding the area to provide a firm surface. Seeding will be completed within the autumn or spring to allow for sufficient moisture and temperatures for germination and can be completed by machinery or by hand casting the seeds. If an alternative mix is used, then the manufacturers sowing regime will be followed instead of the one stated above. The seeded areas will be watered and maintained in accordance with the supplier's instructions as well as this document.

First Year Management

- 5.2.15 The mix is perennial; however, it will be slow to germinate and grow and will not usually flower in their first growing season, leading to a flush of annual weeds from the soil in the first growing season. This annual weed growth is easily controlled by repeated mowing or hand pulling depending on density of weed establishment.
- 5.2.16 These newly sown areas will be mown regularly (every 7 -10 days during growing season) throughout the first year of establishment. Cut to a height of 40-60mm, removing cuttings if dense. This will gradually develop a good sward structure, helping to maintain balance between faster growing grasses and slower developing wild flowers, and control annual weeds. Dig out any residual perennial weeds such as docks (*Rumex sp.*) as and when required.

Annual Management

- 5.2.17 Mow these areas regularly as a lawn but not too short (25-40mm) to allow flowering species to flourish, with mowing relaxed from late June, with it cut again when the sward becomes untidy (after 4-8 weeks). Mowing will be suspended earlier in the year to allow cowslips to flower. Larger quantities of arisings will be collected and removed from these areas to minimise high soil nutrient levels.

- 5.2.18 Once established, these grassland areas will be spot treated for unwanted perennial weeds (docks, thistles etc) and mowed regularly through winter.

Mixed Native Species Scrub

Management Objectives & Target Species

- 5.2.19 Species-rich mixed scrub planting is proposed within the north-eastern corner of the development proposals, which will provide an additional connective habitat between the areas of open space within the development and to linear features connecting to the wider landscape to the north and south of the development.
- 5.2.20 Creation of native species mixed scrub will benefit a variety of priority/protected fauna by providing a foraging and refuge area for breeding birds, hedgehogs, and invertebrate species.

Proposed implementation, Management and Enhancement

Establishment

- 5.2.21 Planting will be conducted in early spring, planting approximately 1m apart in mixed scrub groups. Prune annually to prevent woodiness, remove dead branches and promote a dense bushy structure. Shrubs such as hazel and hawthorn proposed for coppicing will be cut back annually to prevent them becoming dominant.
- 5.2.22 Vegetation is to be strimmed from around the base of the plants until the point it is determined that the trees and shrubs are tall enough to tolerate weed competition.
- 5.2.23 Ideally the planted scrub will support a mixture of whips and established plants of each species to create a variably aged stand.

Management

- 5.2.24 Complete an annual cut to prevent succession into woodland, remove dead branches and promote a dense bushy structure, to achieve a well-defined edge useful for a variety of protected and priority species. Shrubs such as hazel and hawthorn will be coppiced annually to prevent these species becoming dominant.

- 5.2.25 Annually strim around the base of newly established plants to reduce competition with weed species. Once established, removal encroaching saplings from within the adjacent grassland areas.
- 5.2.26 To avoid any associated impacts from maintaining this habitat, cuts will be completed either before or after the nesting bird season (March to September), so between October to February.
- 5.2.27 An annual inspection pre and post cut will also be completed to check for the presence of invasive non-native species, for which specific targeted removal will be completed if such a species should be found during these annual checks.
- 5.2.28 Based on the annual inspection, gap-filling with native species specimens, where necessary, will be complete to encourage a thick scrub layer, prevent basal gaps, and provide a varied age structure to the scrub habitat parcel.

Proposed Specimen Trees

Management Objectives & Target Species

- 5.2.29 Native species specimen tree planting, undertaken throughout the development to enhance structural diversity, connectivity and foraging resources for target species such as breeding birds and bat species.
- 5.2.30 Native species included within the planting scheme are common maple (*Acer campestre*), common alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*), common beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), common oak (*Quercus robur*), and whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*).

Proposed implementation, Management and Enhancement

- 5.2.31 Scattered native tree varieties of differing heights should be planted following the accompanying Soft Landscaping Scheme (Pegasus, February 2024) included within Appendix 2.
- 5.2.32 In the first year of establishment, from May until September young trees should be watered with 5-10L of water per sapling, supplied once per week. In periods of dry weather (No rain for a period of over 10 days) this effort should be increased to twice per week. Tie checks will be conducted once every 2 months to promote establishment until year 3 (Table 2).

- 5.2.33 Formative prune during winter where necessary to establish a strong central leader on trees. Trees will be assessed annually during years 3 – 5 removing and reducing side shoots. This work should be ongoing until the tree is established.
- 5.2.34 Additionally, any dead or dying plants should be removed and replaced during the next available planting season.

Wildlife boxes and features

Management Objectives & Target Species

- 5.2.35 The scheme shall provide artificial refuge for bats and bird species. All artificial refugia will be positioned and installed under the supervision of a suitably experienced ecologist. The locations provided within Appendix 4 are for information only, and the boxes will be placed on a suitable elevations away from windows and artificial light sources(Appendix 2).

Proposed implementation, Management and Enhancement

Bats

- 5.2.36 During or prior to construction 6x 1FF and 2F Schwegler Bat Boxes, or similar approved such will be installed to the southern, western or eastern elevations of retained mature trees (three per tree) to the northern and southern boundaries, as shown within the Faunal Enhancement Plan (Appendix 4).
- 5.2.37 All bat boxes will be inspected annually within the winter months November to February by a suitably licenced ecologist and replaced or cleaned within 3 months, where this is considered to be required.

Birds

- 5.2.38 During construction the following Nest Boxes will be integrated into the northern, eastern, and southern elevations of buildings, as close to the eaves as possible, as per the Faunal Enhancement Plan (Appendix 4).
- 4 x Manthorpe Swift Brick (or similar approved)

5.2.39 Additionally, 2x 1B Schwegler Nest boxes in the following sizes (1x 32mm hole and 1x 26mm hole) will be affixed to retained mature trees to the southern site boundary, following the Faunal Enhancement Plan (Appendix 4).

5.2.40 All boxes sited on retained trees will be inspected annually within the winter months November to February and replaced or cleaned within 3 months, where this is considered to be required.

Hedgehogs

5.2.41 “Hedgehog highways” comprising a 15cm x 15cm gap (Appendix 4) will be provided under fences to allow movement of hedgehogs within gardens along the northern section of residential gardens, allowing movement of individuals through the central area of the site to the northern and southern boundaries.

Invertebrates

5.2.42 A ‘Bug Hotel’ will be created within the proposed open space to the north-eastern corner of the site, to provide enhancement for invertebrates within the proposals.

All Species Enhancements

5.2.43 On completion of property construction, evidence of installed refugia to include photographs of installations in situ, will be submitted to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council for review prior to the completion of the development. Any artificial refugia will be maintained and replaced if required according to annual inspections, which will be undertaken by a qualified ecologist within the winter months November to February. Any refugia requiring repair, cleaning or replacement will have this action undertaken within 3 months of identification.

Sensitive Lighting Scheme

Management Objectives & Target Species

5.2.44 Artificial lighting will be limited along all boundaries to prevent overspill on to the retained hedgerows and mature trees, creating linear connective corridors to the wider landscape (Appendix 2). Sensitive lighting proposals will limit disturbance to foraging and commuting bats, as well as hedgehogs and badgers along these connective corridors.

Proposed implementation, Management and Enhancement

- 5.2.45 If security lighting on the buildings is required as part of the scheme, the lighting must be faced in a downward direction away from boundary features, with light overspill on vegetative features less than 1lux. These will be set on a motion sensor to reduce impacts to local wildlife in accordance with 'Bats and Artificial Lighting' (Institute of Lighting Professionals, 2018).

5.3 Objective 3: Monitor Retained and Created Habitats: Management Plan Review

Management Objectives & Target Species

- 5.3.1 Retained and created habitats as detailed within the Biodiversity Net Gain Plan (FPCR, August 2024) and this report will require regular management to ensure each habitat condition remains the same or develops to a certain condition either during and/or post development. Management will therefore be monitored to ensure these habitat conditions are either maintained or are improving in line with the timescales associated with the management strategy, for example with grassland management prescriptions.

Proposed implementation, Management and Enhancement

- 5.3.2 Management plans for each habitat should be reviewed at years 1, 2, 3 and 5, with the production of a new plan, incorporating revisions following the review of the results of the monitoring of created habitats as described below. A rolling 5- year revision of the management plan will be conducted thereafter for the entire term of 30 years to ensure prescriptions remain relevant and habitats will achieve target conditions outlined within the accompanying Biodiversity Net Gain Plan (FPCR, August 2024). Revised management plans will be issues to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council within 3 months of review. Reviews, monitoring and management of the site will be conducted for at least 30 years to adhere to the requirements of Biodiversity Net Gain and associated legislation (Environment Bill, 2021).

6 Prescriptions for Management Action & Proposed Work Schedule

6.1.1 Management to establish habitats will be undertaken following standard practice and following manufacturer's instructions. During establishment management should follow the prescriptions described in Section 5. Once established from Year 2, prescriptions outlined within Table 2 will be followed for the perpetuity of the development.

Table 2. Habitat Management Work Schedule

Management Prescriptions	Timing of Works	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11-15	Year 16-20	Year 21-25	Year 26-30	+30 Years
Created Grassland – Other neutral (EM3) and modified grassland (EL1)															
Spot treat or remove by hand any noxious weeds within grassland areas.	March – April	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Annual/biannual cut of other neutral grassland/Modified grassland.	Mid to late summer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Mow amenity areas and verges.	Unrestricted	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Check and repair eroded areas as required. Rotovate to 150mm, 100mm topsoil and reseed.	May – Sept	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Monitoring. Walkover survey to determine species presence within grassland areas.	May – Aug														
If the seeding has not been successful (less than 50% of expected germination), reseeding with an appropriate mixture will be undertaken.	Autumn and/or spring		✓		✓					✓	✓				

Management Prescriptions	Timing of Works	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11-15	Year 16-20	Year 21-25	Year 26-30	+30 Years
Created Mixed Native Species Scrub															
Annual cut to maintain current extent of habitat, consistency, and distinctive edge.	Oct to Feb.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Annual strim around the base of plants until established to withstand weed competition.	Oct to Feb	✓	✓	✓	✓										
Coppicing of species such as (where applicable) hazel, hawthorn, and dogwood.	Oct to Feb	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Annual Removal of seedlings / whips encroaching into areas denoted as grassland	Mar - Aug	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongoing gap-filling with specimens where necessary to encourage a thick scrub layer and prevent basal gaps.	Oct - Mar		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Annual inspection for invasive non-native species.	Unrestricted	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Newly Planted Trees															
Check guards and tree supports until established and are no longer required	Unrestricted	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Remove stakes and tree guards once establishment is deemed complete.	Unrestricted					✓									
Weed by hand around tree base	Winter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Management Prescriptions	Timing of Works	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11-15	Year 16-20	Year 21-25	Year 26-30	+30 Years
Formative prune where necessary to establish a strong central leader on trees. Trees should be assessed, removing, and reducing side shoots. This work should be on going until the tree is considered to be established.	Prior to growing season		✓	✓	✓	✓									
Safety checks and tree condition assessment undertaken on a 4-year rotation from establishment.	Unrestricted			✓				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Retained Hedgerows with Mature Trees															
Safety checks and tree condition assessment undertaken on a 4-year rotation from establishment.	Unrestricted				✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lay mature hedgerows on an 8 -15-year rotation.	Nov – Febr							✓			✓			✓	✓
Gap-fill hedgerow with specimens where necessary to encourage a thick hedgerow and prevent basal gaps.	Oct – Mar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Flail hedgerow (not those that have been laid) to promote a thick, fruiting hedge of between 2 and 4 meters (avoid cutting adjacent mature trees). Repeat every 3 years on a rotational basis. Where hedgerows lie adjacent to private residence, these will need to be managed with hand tools.	Nov – Feb			✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Management Prescriptions	Timing of Works	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11-15	Year 16-20	Year 21-25	Year 26-30	+30 Years
Installed Wildlife boxes/Hibernacula															
Management and replacement of bat/bird boxes	Nov - Feb	✓			✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

7 Details of the Organisation Responsible for the Implementation of the Plan

- 7.1.1 The developer will initially be responsible for implementing protection measures during the early phases of the development for retained habitats, with the management company taking responsibility for open green spaces upon completion of the site. It will thereby be the management company's responsibility to complete the management associated with retained, enhanced, and created habitats as referenced within this report and associated Biodiversity Net Gain Plan (FPCR, August 2024) for the prescribed management period of 30 years.
- 7.1.2 Any transference of responsibility of this plan should be undertaken with the appropriate appointment of a competent organisation capable of delivering the detailed measures within this document. The responsibility of this plan sits with the site owner and if the site changes hands, then it is the responsibility of the seller to ensure that the details of the approved plan are passed on.
- 7.1.3 The organisation implementing this plan will be undertaken by a management company (to be appointed by the developer) with the necessary certificates of competence to implement landscape management operation on site. The management organisation will ensure that management complies with best practice standards and all relevant health and safety procedures, protection of the environment, avoidance of pollution and protection of protected species and habitats.

Management Period

- 7.1.4 The management period of this plan is 30 years. In order to ensure that the plan continues to remain appropriate, applicable and effective, a review will be undertaken by both the landowner, and the controlling authority, to ensure that all information contained within the document remains relevant. This review will be undertaken in year 1, 2 3, and 5 and thereafter once every 5 years for the lifetime of the development. Should it be determined that the net gain targets of the management plan are not being met, remedial action will then be identified, agreed, and implemented so that the development still delivers the fully functioning biodiversity objectives of the originally approved scheme.

Controlling Authority

7.1.5 The controlling authority are Gedling Borough Council, who should be consulted on any matters relating to the approved proposals for the scheme

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KEY

- Site boundary**
- Existing trees and vegetation to be retained**
- Existing trees and vegetation to be removed**
- Existing grassland to be retained**
- Existing grassland to be removed**
- Soil Landscape Proposals**
- Bench seating - curved**
- Litter bin**
- Dig waste bin**
- Tarmac surfaced footpath**
- Feature block paving**
- Ornamental gravel**
- Compacted gravel/hoggin footpath**
- Tree root barrier locations**
- Informal meadow footpath route**

IMPLEMENTATION & MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Refer to Highways Design report 'Implementation and Maintenance Guidelines' for details.

SOFT LANDSCAPE SPECIFICATION

Refer to Highways Design report 'Implementation and Maintenance Guidelines' for details.

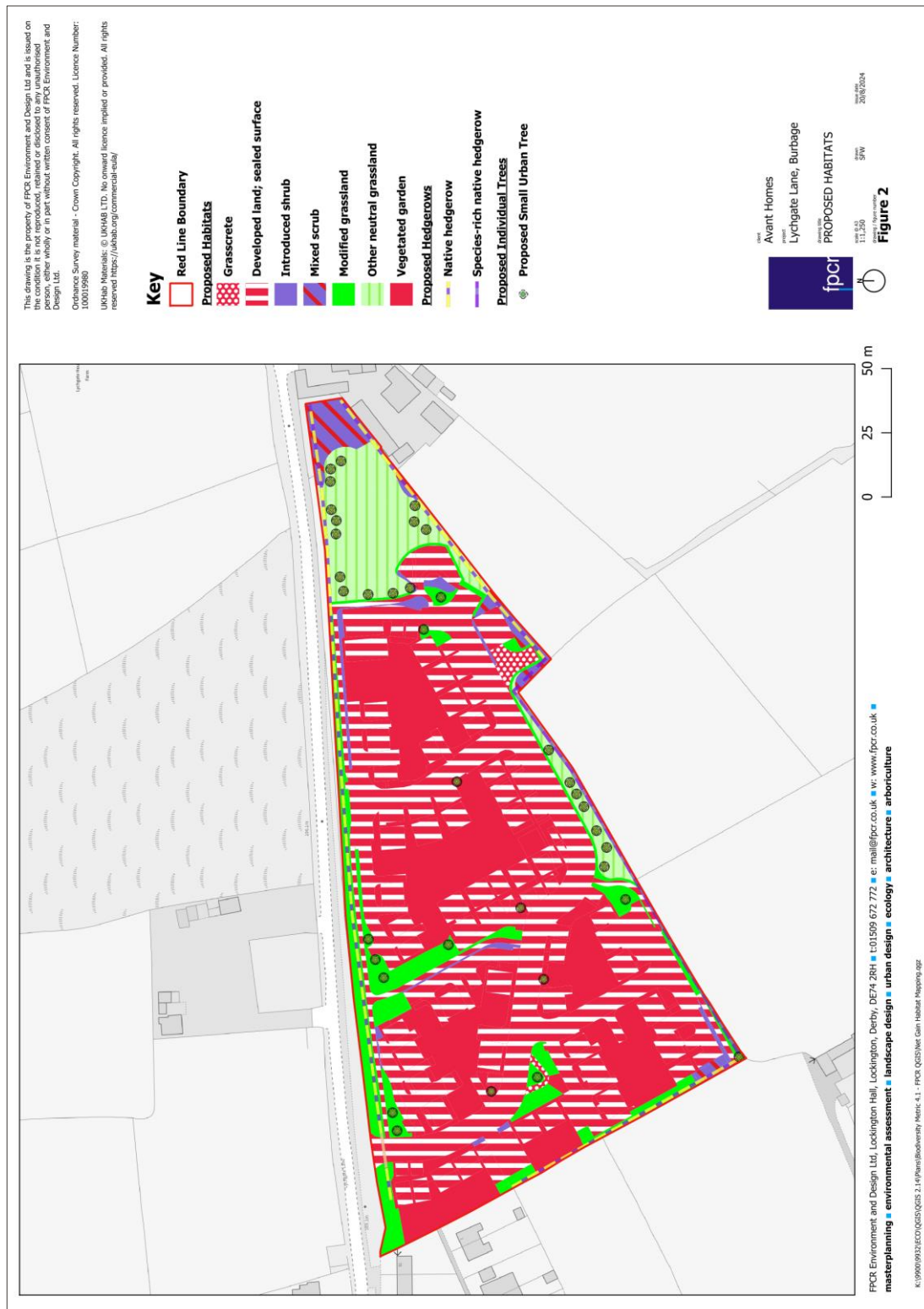
PEGASUS GROUP

Lychgate Lane, Burbage - Detailed Soft Landscape Proposals

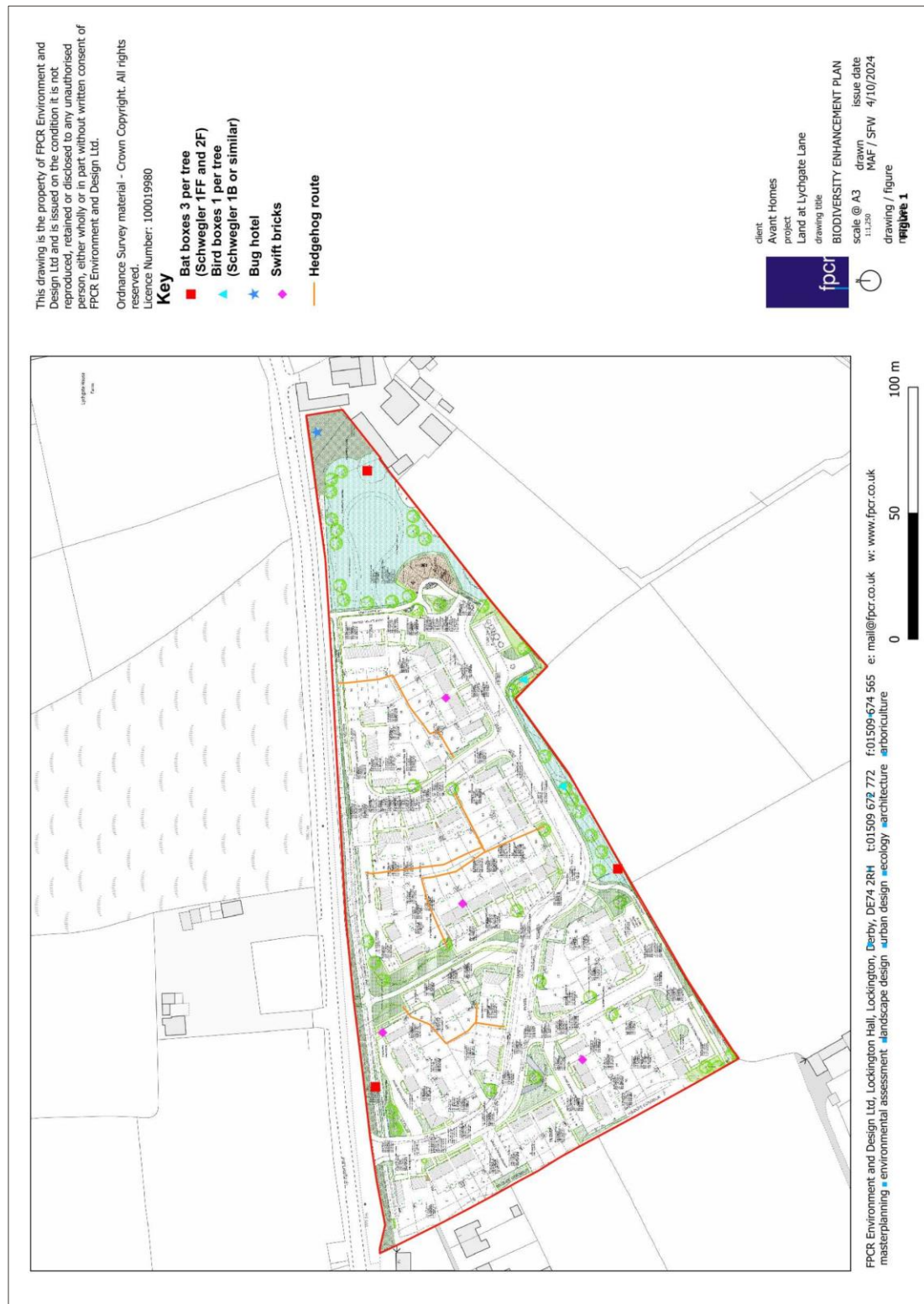
AVANT HOMES

1 | PEGASUSGROUP.CO.UK | TEAMSDRAWN BY: AP | APPROVED BY: AP | DATE: 12.02.2024 | SCALE: 1:2000 (A1) | DRAWING: PH-02E-IN_0001_E_0009 | CLIENT: AVANT HOMES

Appendix 3. Proposed Habitat Enhancement Plan (FPCR, August 2024)



Appendix 4. Proposed Faunal Enhancement Plan (FPCR, October 2024)



Appendix 5. Bibliography and References

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