

Ecologyia Ltd.

Landscape and Ecology Management Plan, Mythe Farm

Intended for:

Mr. & Mrs. J Garland

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Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	4
1.1.	Background	4
1.2.	Objectives.....	4
1.3.	Description and evaluation of features to be managed	4
2	Ecological Trends and constraints on site that might influence management.....	7
2.1.	Construction.....	7
2.2.	Management.....	7
3	aims and objectives and management	9
3.1.	Long-term objectives	9
3.2.	Objectives for flora	9
3.3.	Objectives for fauna.....	10
4	Appropriate management options for achieving aims and objectives.....	12
4.1.	General.....	12
4.2.	Target habitat: Hibernaculum.....	12
4.3.	Target habitat: Pond	12
4.4.	Target habitat: other neutral grassland.....	13
5	prescriptions for management actions and work schedule	15
5.1.	General.....	15
5.2.	General Precautions and Ecological Safeguards.....	18
6	Maintenance responsibilities – details of the body or organisation responsible for implementation of the plan	19
6.2.	Contractor Responsibilities	19
7	On going monitoring and remedial measures	20
8	References	21

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1. The Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) has been prepared by Ecologyia Ltd on behalf of Mr and Mrs J. Garland. It is in respect of the full planning application for *Retrospective change of use of land to provide secure caravan storage and associated infrastructure and creation of a new wildlife pond* (25/00915/FUL).
- 1.1.2. The purpose of this document is to provide details on the long-term management objectives, maintenance activities and responsibilities for the landscape and ecology management of the land.

1.2. OBJECTIVES

- 1.2.1. This report will include the following:
- Description and evaluation of features to be managed.
 - Ecological trends and constraints on site that might influence management.
 - Aims and objectives of management.
 - Appropriate management options for achieving aims and objectives.
 - Prescription of management actions.
 - Preparation of a work schedule (including an annual work plan capable of being rolled forward over a five-year period).
 - Details of the body or organisation responsible for implementation of the plan.
 - Ongoing monitoring and remedial measures.
- 1.2.2. The report should be read in conjunction with the following reports:
- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report – Mythe Farm (Ecologyia Ltd, August 2025, Doc reference number: CTPL_020_02_R1_18092025).
 - Great Crested Newt Survey & Recommendation Report – Mythe Farm (Ecologyia Ltd, August 2025, Doc reference number: CTPL_020_02_R2_18092025).

1.3. DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION OF FEATURES TO BE MANAGED

- 1.3.1. An Ecological Appraisal was undertaken by Ecologyia Ltd. (Ecologyia Ltd, August 2025, Doc reference number: CTPL_020_02_R1_18092025) for Mr and Mrs J. Garland in relation to land at Mythe Farm, Pinwall Lane, Sheepy Magna, Atherstone (CV9 3PF). The assessment aimed to determine the ecological value of the site, identify potential constraints to development, review historical ecological conditions, and outline any necessary mitigation or enhancement measures.

- 1.3.2. The appraisal comprised an extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey, a desk-based study and an evaluation of historical ecological impacts.
- 1.3.3. The results of the assessment indicated that the site does not form part of any statutory or non-statutory designated sites, and with appropriate pollution prevention measures, no effects on designated sites are anticipated during creation of the biodiversity enhancement area.
- 1.3.4. No significant impacts to protected or notable species are expected from the development of the caravan storage facility, except a potential temporary disturbance risk to breeding birds, dependent on construction timing.
- 1.3.5. Precautionary measures are recommended to protect habitats and species during construction, including Reasonable Avoidance Measures for:
 - Birds;
 - Badgers (*Meles meles*); and
 - Great Crested Newts (GCN) (*Triturus cristatus*).
- 1.3.6. Existing woodland to the north will be retained, with ecological buffers integrated into the design.
- 1.3.7. A GCN Survey was undertaken by Ecologyia Ltd. (Ecologyia Ltd, August 2025, Doc reference number: CTPL_020_02_R2_18092025) for Mr and Mrs J. Garland at Mythe Farm, Pinwall Lane, Sheepy Magna, Atherstone (CV9 3PF). The purpose of the assessment was to establish the presence or likely presence of GCN and their habitats, understand historical ecological conditions, and evaluate any potential impacts associated with past development. The survey also aimed to provide recommendations for further survey or mitigation where required.
- 1.3.8. The assessment incorporated:
 - a desk-based data review;
 - a walkover survey;
 - Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessments; and
 - Presence / likely absence surveys.
- 1.3.9. A marked population decline of GCN has occurred in the wider area between surveys conducted in 2010 and those carried out in 2024.
 - Pond P1: reduced from a Medium population (2010) to a Small population (2024).
 - Pond P2: population lost entirely. The decline is considered likely attributable to landscape changes over this period and a reduction in pond suitability, evidenced through decreasing HSI scores. This suggests a natural reduction of what was previously a population of Local importance.

- 1.3.10. Historical aerial imagery indicated that suitable core habitat (breeding, foraging, resting/hibernation) has been largely confined to land directly around Pond P1. Land between P1 and P2 has changed from agricultural to amenity use, reducing its capacity to support GCN.
- 1.3.11. Biodiversity enhancement measures are proposed to support the recovery and long-term viability of the local GCN population. These measures, focus within the proposed biodiversity enhancement area and include creation of one new pond designed specifically for GCN breeding, construction of one hibernaculum to provide suitable overwintering habitat for common amphibians and GCN, establishment of varied-sward grassland, improving foraging opportunities and supporting safe commuting routes to the wider environment
- 1.3.12. The survey confirmed a significant historical decline in the local GCN population, likely driven by habitat loss and reduced pond suitability. The proposed biodiversity enhancements are considered appropriate to help restore habitat quality, support species recovery, and strengthen ecological resilience within the site and surrounding landscape.

2 ECOLOGICAL TRENDS AND CONSTRAINTS ON SITE THAT MIGHT INFLUENCE MANAGEMENT

2.1. CONSTRUCTION

- 2.1.1. The construction of the biodiversity enhancement area has the potential to affect several protected species, if appropriate precautionary measures are not implemented. Species of concern include GCN, breeding birds, and badgers¹.
- 2.1.2. A GCN Reasonable Avoidance Method Statement (RAMS) has been prepared by Ecologyia Ltd (Section 8 of Great Crested Newt Survey & Recommendation Report – Mythe Farm, Ecologyia Ltd, CTPL_020_02_R2_18092025). The RAMS provides procedures to ensure that construction activities within the biodiversity enhancement area:
- Avoid committing an offence under relevant wildlife legislation by reducing the risk of encountering GCN as far as practicable;
 - Maintain the favourable conservation status of GCN populations within the wider landscape; and
 - Ensure no harm or injury to any great crested newt.
- 2.1.3. For badgers, a pre-works inspection within 6 weeks prior to construction must be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist, to confirm the absence of active badger setts directly within, or within 30m, of the proposed enhancement area. If any setts are identified, the ecologist will advise on appropriate mitigation and licensing requirements.
- 2.1.4. For breeding birds, vegetation clearance or other disturbance-creating activities should be scheduled outside the main bird nesting season (March to September inclusive). Where this is not possible, an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) must be present on site to undertake pre-works nesting bird checks. Should active nests be found, the ECoW will delineate suitable exclusionary buffer zones and determine whether works can proceed or must be postponed until chicks have fledged.

2.2. MANAGEMENT

- 2.2.1. The ecological features within the proposed enhancement area, namely the pond, other neutral grassland and hibernacula, will have the potential to support a range of protected and priority species. As such, management must be sensitively delivered to prevent disturbance, harm or habitat degradation.
- 2.2.2. The following species or species groups may be impacted by routine vegetation or habitat management if not appropriately timed or carried out:

GCN and other amphibians

¹ As detailed in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report.

2.2.3. GCN and other amphibians may be present within the pond (breeding), surrounding neutral grassland (foraging), and hibernacula (overwintering). Management activities pose risks of:

- Direct harm through cutting, strimming or heavy machinery use;
- Damage to refuges or hibernation sites; and
- Disturbance to pond margins or shallow water zones used for breeding.

Common reptile species

2.2.4. Likely to utilise grassland, tussocky vegetation and hibernacula for basking, shelter and foraging. Risks include:

- Injury from mowing or strimming;
- Destruction of refuges or hibernation features; and
- Disturbance during the active season (March – October).

Breeding Birds

2.2.5. The grassland, scrub edges and pond margins provide nesting habitat for a variety of bird species. Risks include:

- Destruction of active nests during vegetation management; and
- Disturbance of adults or fledglings.

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3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES AND MANAGEMENT

3.1. LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

3.1.1. The primary aim of the management and maintenance proposals is to ensure the successful establishment of new planting. They have been grouped into two main objectives:

- Ecological Protection and Enhancement: Safeguard the ecological interest of the proposed biodiversity enhancement area, by creating a variety of new habitats to support biodiversity.
- Sustainable Planting: Ensure new planting thrives in challenging conditions.

3.1.2. The management and monitoring prescriptions necessary to achieve these objectives are outlined in the following sections of this document.

3.2. OBJECTIVES FOR FLORA

3.2.1. The proposals seek to create a range of habitats to provide opportunities for GCN to recover from the historical, natural decline. The following habitat creation is proposed within the northern section of the application red line boundary (the biodiversity enhancement area).

Creation of 1 x pond suitable for GCN breeding

3.2.2. The aim is the creation of a pond suitable for GCN.

3.2.3. The Ecology and Landscape habitat objectives are:

- Create and maintain a high-quality freshwater pond suitable for GCN breeding;
- Provide a fish-free waterbody with varied aquatic vegetation for egg-laying, cover, and refuge;
- Establish a structurally diverse pond margin supporting emergent, marginal, and bankside flora;
- Support aquatic and terrestrial invertebrate communities to enhance the food resource for amphibians;
- Ensure water quality is maintained through natural processes and sensitive management;
- Maintain open, unshaded areas of the pond to maximise solar gain and support amphibian development; and
- Provide safe access routes between the pond and surrounding terrestrial habitats.

Creation of 1x hibernacula suitable for common amphibian and GCN hibernation

3.2.4. The aim is the creation of a high-quality terrestrial refuge and overwintering feature (hibernaculum) suitable for GCN, other amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates.

3.2.5. The ecology and Landscape objectives are:

- Create and maintain a stable, frost-free underground refuge that provides year-round shelter and overwintering opportunities for GCN and other amphibians;
- Provide a variety of internal voids and crevices using logs, rubble and stone to ensure safe, undisturbed microhabitats;
- Incorporate natural, breathable materials (e.g., soil, turf, dead wood) to support stable humidity levels suited to amphibian hibernation;
- Position the hibernaculum within suitable terrestrial habitat, ensuring connectivity to the pond and surrounding grassland to allow safe movement for GCN;
- Create a buffering zone of grassland around the feature to provide foraging, shelter and dispersal habitat;
- Avoid shading by maintaining partial sun exposure, helping to regulate internal temperature and maintain habitat suitability across seasons;
- Protect the hibernaculum from disturbance, including trampling, vegetation removal, or accidental damage during site management;
- Enhance the feature for a wider range of wildlife, including terrestrial invertebrates and reptiles, through the incorporation of deadwood and varied substrate layers; and
- Ensure long-term structural integrity of the hibernaculum through periodic checks and sensitive management.

Provision of grassland of varied sward to facilitate foraging and commuting to the wider environment (other neutral grassland in moderate condition).

3.2.6. The aim is the creation of other neutral grassland on moderate condition.

3.2.7. The Ecological and Landscape habitat objectives are:

- To allow wild flora to develop and emerge on newly created areas;
- Promote a diversity of native wild flora;
- Provide opportunities for enhanced nectar availability for insect population;
- Provide places of refuge for small mammals; and
- Keep free of litter.

3.3. OBJECTIVES FOR FAUNA

3.3.1. Habitat creation and the introduction of a management regime will ensure enhanced opportunities for wildlife to continue to be present within the proposed biodiversity enhancement area. This will be of benefit to GCN and other amphibians and other key species, such as bats, birds and invertebrates.

GCN and other amphibians

- 3.3.2. The creation of a new pond, areas of neutral grassland, and a hibernaculum will significantly improve the quality and availability of habitat for GCN across the site. Together, these features provide the essential components required to support all stages of the species' life cycle and facilitate movement across the landscape.
- 3.3.3. The new pond could provide high-quality aquatic habitat designed specifically for GCN requirements, including suitable water depth and permanence, no fish presence, emergent and submerged vegetation for egg-laying. This could increase breeding capacity and support recovery of the local population following previously documented declines.
- 3.3.4. Newly created neutral grassland with a varied sward structure could support a diverse invertebrate community. This could provide abundant food resources for both juvenile and adult newts, enhancing foraging opportunities throughout the active season.
- 3.3.5. Grassland structure, tussocks, and areas of rough vegetation could offer natural daytime shelter and moist refugia. The hibernaculum provides additional artificial refuges using materials (e.g., logs, rubble, soil) that maintain cool, damp microclimates suitable for amphibians. The proposed hibernaculum could offer a secure, frost-free overwintering location where newts can safely hibernate. Additional opportunities will arise from naturally developing features within the grassland (e.g., root plates, cracks, dense vegetation), providing a range of hibernation sites with varying microhabitats.
- 3.3.6. The combined network of grassland, field edges, and pond margins forms a safe commuting corridor between habitats. This enhances permeability of the landscape and improves connectivity between terrestrial and aquatic habitats, supporting the movement of adults and dispersing juveniles.

Bats

- 3.3.7. Enhancement of bat foraging/commuting opportunities could be provided through the planting of other neutral grassland and the pond creation. These will create enhanced foraging and commuting opportunities for bats within the Site.

Birds

- 3.3.8. The proposed planting of other neutral grassland along with the creation of the pond together could enhance opportunities for foraging and nesting birds.

Reptiles

- 3.3.9. Habitats within the open space around the pond will be managed for the benefits of ecology, including the management of grassland habitats to create a rough, tussocky sward to provide opportunities for breeding, sheltering, foraging and dispersal could provide additional foraging resources for reptiles).

4 APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR ACHIEVING AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1. GENERAL

- 4.1.1. Although Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is not the primary focus of this LEMP, the habitat condition criteria from the Statutory Biodiversity Metric have been applied to both the 'other neutral grassland' and the 'pond'. Using these condition assessment benchmarks provides clear guidance on the criteria and management actions required to support the successful establishment and long-term maintenance of the proposed habitat types. The targets set for this scheme are for both the pond and the grassland to achieve 'Moderate' condition.

4.2. TARGET HABITAT: HIBERNACULUM

- 4.2.1. According to the Amphibian Habitat Management Handbook (Baker et al, 2011) hibernacula should be located close to a breeding site (within 250m maximum), in an area unlikely to flood, within habitat likely to be used by amphibians and in an area with minimal disturbance.

- 4.2.2. Material for hibernacula creation should be sourced locally.

4.3. TARGET HABITAT: POND

- 4.3.1. Table 4.3-1 below describes the actions to be taken (coloured green) to achieve aims and objectives of this LEMP.

. Table 4.3-1: Description of management options for achieving aims and objectives².

Condition Assessment criteria	Targeted	Management
Target habitat: Pond		
A. The pond is good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution. Turbidity is acceptable if the pond is grazed by livestock.	Yes	Avoid the introduction of nutrients (e.g., fertilisers, runoff from arable land) into the pond, as these can increase algal growth and turbidity. Ensure no waste, chemicals or contaminated surface water enters the pond from surrounding land.
B. There is semi-natural habitat moderate distinctiveness or above surrounding the pond, for at least 10m from the pond edge for its entire perimeter	Yes	Creation of other neutral grassland around the pond that extends at least 10m from the pond edge.
C. Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed <i>Lemna spp.</i> or filamentous algae	No	
D. The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, such as agricultural ditches or artificial pipework	Yes	Maintain no connectivity to other artificial waterbodies.
E. Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams, pumps or pipework. .	Yes	Maintain no connectivity to other artificial waterbodies.

² Condition criteria were extracted from the statutory biodiversity metric condition assessment spreadsheet (found at [Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessments - July 2025.xlsx](#))

Condition Assessment criteria	Targeted	Management
Target habitat: Pond		
F. There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species	Yes	Use only local plant species
G. The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally contains fish it is a native fish assemblage at low densities.	Yes	Do not introduce fish to the pond
H. Emergent, submerged or floating plants (excluding duckweed) cover at least 50% of the pond area which is less than 3m deep	No	
I. The pond surface is no more than 50% shaded by adjacent trees and scrub.	Yes	Control scrub.

4.4. TARGET HABITAT: OTHER NEUTRAL GRASSLAND

4.4.1. Table 4.4-1 below describes the actions to be taken (coloured green) to achieve aims and objectives of this LEMP. Achieving the below objectives (marked as yes) will ensure that the grassland is of moderate condition and suitable to support wildlife.

5 Table 4.4-1: Description of management options for achieving aims and objectives³.

Condition Assessment criteria	Targeted	Management
Target habitat: Other neutral grassland		
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.	Yes	Prepare the ground and sow grass seed in accordance with recommended specifications (wildflower species list by JustSeeds.com or similar and approved). Wildflowers • <i>Alliaria petiolata</i> – Garlic Mustard • <i>Allium ursinum</i> – Ramsons • <i>Campanula trachelium</i> – Nettle-leaved Bellflower • <i>Digitalis purpurea</i> – Foxglove • <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> – Meadowsweet • <i>Galium mollugo</i> – Hedge Bedstraw • <i>Geum urbanum</i> – Wood Avens • <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> – Bluebell • <i>Hypericum perforatum</i> – Perforate St John's Wort • <i>Silene flos-cuculi</i> – Ragged Robin • <i>Primula vulgaris</i> – Primrose • <i>Prunella vulgaris</i> – Selfheal • <i>Silene dioica</i> – Red Campion • <i>Stachys officinalis</i> – Betony • <i>Stachys sylvatica</i> – Hedge Woundwort • <i>Teucrium scorodonia</i> – Wood Sage Grasses • <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> – Common Bent • <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> – Sweet Vernal-grass • <i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i> – False Brome • <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> – Crested Dogstail

³ Condition criteria were extracted from the statutory biodiversity metric condition assessment spreadsheet (found at [Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessments - July 2025.xlsx](#))

Condition Assessment criteria	Targeted	Management
Target habitat: Other neutral grassland		
		• <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> – Tufted Hair-grass • <i>Festuca rubra ssp. juncea</i> – Slender-creeping Red-fescue • <i>Poa nemoralis</i> – Wood Meadow-grass
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 vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	Yes	Allow grass to create a varied height sward.
C. Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens).	Yes	Monitor development and carry out targeted seeding/planting works
D. Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) is less than 5%.	Yes	Maintain no bracken cover in the grassland through cutting/spraying any developing patches.
E. Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition 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 species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	Yes	Have designated access routes that are set out so over time it is easy to identify and identify in varying weather conditions.
F. There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m ² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type. Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition.	No	

5 PRESCRIPTIONS FOR MANAGEMENT ACTIONS AND WORK SCHEDULE

5.1. GENERAL

5.1.1. To ensure the successful establishment of the habitat types, the following maintenance and management works have been scheduled for the management plan period and will cover the entire area of the site.

5.1.2. The following table (Table 6-1.1) sets out detailed prescriptions for management actions required to achieve the objectives outlined in this LEMP. Each prescription specifies the habitat or feature to be managed, the actions to be undertaken and timing and frequency. These measures are designed to maintain and enhance biodiversity and support long-term sustainability of the site.

. Table 6-1.1: Management actions and work schedule

Ref	Management Activity	Frequency	Timing
Other neutral grassland			
Establishment			
	Prepare the ground and sow grass seed in accordance with recommended specifications. Prepared areas shall be cultivated to a medium tilth by removing the top 150 mm of topsoil and harrowing the subsoil. All debris and litter must be cleared, and undesirable weeds such as nettles, and thistles shall be spot-treated. The soil surface will then be rolled to create a firm and level planting bed.	Do not cultivate during periods of waterlogging, frozen or snowy conditions	Year 0
	Sow designated areas with the Grassland seed mix supplied by JustSeeds.com (or similar and approved) at the recommended application rate, then roll the surface to ensure good seed-to-soil contact.	Between March to October	Year 0
	Carry out a minimum of three cuts during the first year, ensuring all arisings are removed from the site. Any remaining perennial weeds, such as docks, should be dug out and disposed of appropriately.	Between April to September	Year 0-2
	Any areas where grassland have failed to establish will be re-seeded to encourage full coverage in appropriate conditions when it is moist and mild.	Between April to October	Year 0-2
	Carry out litter picks	As necessary	Year 0-2
	Water to field capacity during initial establishment particularly with the first six weeks since seeding	As necessary	Year 0-2
Management			
	To help reduce soil nutrient levels, all wildflower areas should be cut twice annually to a height of 40–70 mm. Cuttings should be left in place for one week to allow seed drop, then removed from the site.	Between April to September	Year 2-30
	Cut to 100–150 mm first, then lower only if required to spring up species growth. Use a phased cut (e.g., cut 50–75% of the area at a time) to allow wildlife escape routes. Walk through check prior to cutting to ensure no reptiles, amphibians or nesting birds are present.		Year 2-30
	Re-seed monitor the extent of scrub cover, including bramble, and implement control or removal measures if coverage exceeds the threshold of 5%.	Between March to October	Year 2-30

Ref	Management Activity	Frequency	Timing
	Control the spread of weed species, such as nettles, and thistles, by cutting, pulling if they exceed 5% cover within the grassland area. No chemicals to be used, discuss with ecologist.	Between March to October	Year 2-30
	Inspect for invasive non-native species (INNS)	As necessary	Year 2-30
	Carry out litter picks	As necessary	Year 2-30
Pond⁴			
Establishment			
	Excavate pond to varied depths with gently sloping edges to provide shallow shelves and deeper centre zones. Ensure no fish or waterfowl are introduced at any stage. Allow the pond to fill naturally or use clean, chlorine-free water. Leave 20–30% of pond margin open and unmanaged to encourage natural colonisation. Avoid polluted inflows. Maintain natural hydrological variation as amphibian ponds are dynamic systems.	Establishment and as necessary	Year 0 - 5
	Introduce only native species consistent with local pond flora. Plant submerged, floating, and emergent vegetation in small clusters across the pond edges. Avoid overplanting—allow natural succession to establish additional species. Maintain open sunny conditions by preventing excessive scrub shading.	Establishment and as necessary	Year 0 - 5
	Prevent nutrient inputs by avoiding use of fertilisers, pesticides, or herbicides within 10m of the pond. Cut back overhanging vegetation annually in winter to reduce shading and leaf litter. Prevent livestock access.	As necessary	Year 0 - 5
	Monitor colonisation twice yearly (spring and autumn). Supplement with additional native marginal or submerged species if vegetation cover is <30% after Year 2. Remove excessive algal growth manually if required, avoiding disturbance to amphibians. Avoid removing silt or vegetation during initial establishment unless absolutely required. No introduction of ornamental plants or non-native.	Annually	Year 0 - 5
	Prevent unintended vehicle access. Maintain surrounding terrestrial buffer habitat (grassland, tussocks) to support connectivity. Cut or strim on a high cut in October each year. Rake up cuttings and compost elsewhere on site or remove from the site completely. Remove all litter twice monthly.	As necessary	Year 0 - 5
Management			
	Cut back 10-20% of surrounding scrub every 5-10 years	Every 5 years	Year 5-30
	Maintain at least half of pond perimeter in full or partial sun	Undertake pond vegetation removal or margin cutting	Year 5-30
	Remove no more than one-third of dense vegetation in any one year.		Year 5-30
	Alternate sections to maintain refuge for amphibian.		Year 5-30

⁴ Baker et al. (2011) and Pond creation Toolkit (https://freshwaterhabitats.b-cdn.net/app/uploads/2022/11/MPP-Toolkit-core-sheets-1-8_June2011.pdf)

Ref	Management Activity	Frequency	Timing
	Remove slit in late autumn if water depth has significantly reduced.	outside the GCN breeding season (mid-March–June) and ideally in autumn (September–October). Hand tools preferred; avoid heavy or tracked machinery near pond edges.	Year 5-30
	Always leave spoil on the bank for 24 hours to allow amphibians to escape before disposal.		Year 5-30
	Continue monitoring for accidental fish introductions. If fish appear carefully remove them during appropriate seasons following best practice.	Annual	Year 5-30
	Annual checks of water levels	Annual	Year 5-30

5.1.3. To construct a hibernaculum the methodology presented in the Amphibian Habitat Management Handbook (Baker et al., 2011) should be followed, also presented below:

- Remove the turf from the footprint of the hibernaculum and set aside.
- On well-drained soil excavate to a depth of approximately 50cm and set aside spoil.
- Fill the footprint or pit with core material. Materials likely to retain moisture are preferable, such as cut timber, brash and grubbed up tree roots. Other material such as inert hardcore, bricks, rocks, and building rubble may also be used.
- Pack the larger spaces within the core materials with wood chippings, loose topsoil or spoil.
- Cover the hibernaculum with the turves removed from the footprint.
- Take care not to create structures that might attract rodents, such as piles of rubble with many entrance holes.

5.1.4. Once built, the hibernaculum should not be moved or dismantled. Avoid disturbance during amphibian hibernation periods (typically October – March).

5.1.5. Vegetation around the hibernaculum should be maintained on a rotational basis, carried out only during dry weather between April and September, when amphibians are least likely to be using the feature.

5.1.6. Vegetation surrounding the hibernaculum should not be reduced below 150mm.

5.1.7. Only hand tools should be used near the hibernaculum to avoid disturbance.

5.1.8. Keep free of litter.

5.2. GENERAL PRECAUTIONS AND ECOLOGICAL SAFEGUARDS

- 5.2.1. Toolbox talks to all contractors on protected species and RAMS requirements.
- 5.2.2. No works during bird nesting season (March–August) unless a nesting bird check is completed by a competent ecologist immediately beforehand.
- 5.2.3. No chemical herbicides within 10m of the pond.
- 5.2.4. Avoid night works to reduce disturbance to wildlife.
- 5.2.5. Maintain undisturbed habitat corridors between pond, grassland and hibernacula.
- 5.2.6. All arisings or debris should be removed promptly.

6 MAINTAINANCE RESPONSIBILITIES – DETAILS OF THE BODY OR ORGANISATION RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

- 6.1.1. Mr and Mrs J. Garland will have ultimate responsibility for the creation, management and maintenance of the biodiversity enhancement area in accordance with this management plan.
- 6.1.2. It is the responsibility of Mr and Mrs J. Garland to instruct appropriate experienced contractors to establish the various features and habitats proposed, and also to instruct appropriately experienced and qualified ecologists to assess and supervise the work as set out in this management plan, where necessary.

6.2. CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- 6.2.1. All materials used during the development of the biodiversity enhancement area, as well as any operations, will be in accordance with British Standards, and relevant wildlife legislations.
- 6.2.2. A review of the LEMP shall be undertaken every five years to determine its success. If warranted, appropriate remedial actions to the management plan will be undertaken to ensure that the landscaping and ecological aims of the management plan are achieved.

7 ON GOING MONITORING AND REMEDIAL MEASURES

- 7.1.1. This LEMP should be reviewed every 5 years by a suitably qualified landscape architect and ecologist following a monitoring visit with remedial measures captured at those points and the LEMP updated accordingly and re-issued to Mr and Mrs J. Garland.

8 REFERENCES

Baker, J., Beebee T., Buckley, J., Gent, A. and Orchard, D. (2011). Amphibian Habitat Management Handbook. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bournemouth.

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Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report – Mythe Farm (Ecologyia Ltd, August 2025, Doc reference number: CTPL_020_02_R1_18092025).

Sayer, C.D., Biggs, J., Greaves, H.M., & Williams, P. (2023) Guide to the restoration, creation and management of ponds. University College London, London, UK.

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