

Biodiversity Net Gain Management Plan

Introduction

This Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Management Plan aims to provide a comprehensive guidance on the long-term care and monitoring of the BNG features preserved or established within this development. It complements the documents submitted to discharge Condition 23 (BNG) of Outline Planning Permission (ref. APP/K2420/W/23/3321670) relating to Land at Lychgate Lane, Burbage. The documents submitted are:

- *9932 Biodiversity Net Gain Plan*
- *Appendix A Statutory Net Gain Metric*

The plan details the maintenance principles and objectives, offering a specific schedule for the upkeep of these areas throughout the development's lifespan.

It encompasses all aspects of the BNG features in the managed amenity areas, excluding those maintained by individual plot owners.

As a dynamic document, the BNG Management Plan may be revised based on the outcomes of ongoing monitoring and initial management success.

For information on the management and maintenance of private landscaped areas, please refer to the individual plot deed and transfer title documents.

Objectives

The objectives for the maintenance plan are:

- To ensure the achievement of the desired habitat conditions.
- To secure the successful establishment and long-term viability of all BNG elements for the benefit of the broader community.
- To provide assurance to the local authority that the area will be managed appropriately.
- To maintain adherence to appropriate horticultural practices and health and safety standards at all times.
- To employ methods that enhance and encourage wildlife whenever feasible.
- To promptly identify and address defects to minimise damage and rectify issues at the earliest opportunity.

BNG Statutory Credits

The BNG assessment concluded that there are no irreplaceable habitats present at the site.

The scheme has aimed to deliver a 1% uplift over the baseline biodiversity value of the site and satisfy all the trading requirements for medium distinctiveness habitats. In order to achieve this, compensation equivalent to 0.74 habitat units will be acquired.

To achieve this target, Avant Ltd will purchase 0.74 purchase statutory biodiversity credits to compensate for this. Once, Avant Ltd have more information they will inform the Local Planning Authority on this.

Service Levels Agreement

The Grounds Maintenance & Management teams will:

- Provide maintenance services to the development as outlined in this plan, with two visits per month from March to October and one visit per month from November to February.
- Ensure that all materials and workmanship adhere to high standards in accordance with relevant best practices.
- Conduction periodic inspections of the BNG features, and paved areas within the POS and report and defects.
- Inspect critical catch-pits and tail-walls following heavy rainfall, particularly after Met Office warnings, and report any silt or graven accumulation.
- Ensure that all work is carried out by appropriately skilled and experienced personnel, especially where control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) regulations are applicable.
- Perform work only when ground and weather conditions are suitable.
- Utilise only machinery and tools appropriate for site conditions and the specific tasks to be undertaken. Hand tools should be employed around trees and in confined areas.
- Remove soil, stones, and other debris from hard surfaces, ensuring the area is left clean and tidy after maintenance operations are complete.
- Collect and remove litter from all soft landscape areas.
- Adopt a proactive approach to weed, pest, and disease control, taking necessary measures promptly. Replace any plants lost due to weed, pest, or disease damage as soon as possible.
- Use chemicals only when specified and approved.
- Prune vegetation as necessary to prevent obstruction of pedestrians or vehicles, security cameras, lighting, or visibility splays.

Litter Clearance

Maintenance objectives:

- Prevent the accumulation of litter within open space areas, including footpaths, hardstanding areas, and play areas.
- Ensure maintenance teams are aware of the potential for encountering contaminated sharps during litter collection and bag transportation. Sharps bins will be provided to the maintenance teams.

Management requirements:

- Collect litter from open space areas during each grass cutting visit and ensure its removal from the site.
- Remove litter, sand, soil, debris, leaf and blossom fall, as well as grass cuttings from all footpaths and hardstanding areas within the public open space. This will be done through thorough hand sweeping or the use of air blowers when conditions permit, with particular attention to areas prone to litter and debris accumulation.
- Empty litter bins by removing the liner, bagging the contents, restocking with new liners, and securing the locking mechanism. Any overspill will be bagged, tied at the neck, and removed from the site.
- Items of irregular litter or debris will be moved to the edge of any footpath or other publicly accessible location where they will cause minimal obstruction to pedestrians, awaiting collection and proposals.
- Remove litter, debris, dog faeces, fallen leaves, and similar waste from soft landscaped areas on a fortnightly basis. Additional visits to empty waste bins may be required depending on usage; this will be continuously reviewed and adjusted as necessary.
- Exercise extreme care to avoid damaging shrubs, trees, grassland areas, and other vegetation during the removal of litter and debris.

- This process of managing fly-tipped waste will begin no later than 48 hours after Avant Homes has been notified or has identified the presence of such materials.
- All work will be conducted in strict accordance with Avant's Health and Safety Policies and Safe Systems of Work procedures.

SUDS Management and Maintenance

The proposed storm water consists of the following SuDs components:

- SUDS Basin

There are three categories of maintenance activities referred to in this report:

Regular Maintenance (including inspections and monitoring)

Involves routine tasks performed on a regular and predictable schedule, such as vegetation management, litter and debris remove, and inspections.

Occasional Maintenance

Includes tasks that are expected to be needed periodically, but on a less frequent and predictable basis than routine tasks (such as sediment removal).

Remedial Maintenance

Involves occasional tasks that may be necessary to address system faults, through the likelihood of such faults can be minimised through effective design.

SUDS Basin

Maintenance objectives:

- Ensure that the inlet and outlet headwalls and pipes remain unobstructed at all times.
- Maintain the Attenuation facility free from obstructions to preserve its designed operating capacity.
- Promptly address any damage, defects, or spillages within the attenuation facility or surrounding areas to prevent a reduction in the basin's capacity and to avoid contamination entering the network.
- Manage and maintain the habitat to support the flourishing of local wildlife, flora, and fauna.

Management requirements:

- Conduct and document an annual inspection of the Water Attenuation facility, including associated headwalls and pipework, within the Health and Safety file.
- Inspect all headwall grilles during each visit reporting any signs of settlement. Any defects must be reported to the Estates Management team as soon as reasonably practicable, and no later than the end of the same working day.

First Year Management:

- Most species in Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) are perennials, slow to germinate and grow, and typically do not flower in their first growing season. There may be a flush of annual weeds from the soil during the first growing season, which could obscure the seedlings. This growth can be effectively controlled by topping or mowing.
- Mow the area regularly during the first year of establishment, removing cuttings if they are dense. This practice will control annual weeds and help maintain a balance between faster growing grasses and slower-developing species.

Management Once Established:

- In the second and subsequent years, the area can be managed in various ways that, in conjunction with soil fertility, will influence its character. Optimal results are typically achieved through traditional meadow management, centred around a main summer hay cut, combined with autumn and potentially spring mowing or grazing.
- Meadow grassland should not be cut or grazed from spring through late July/August, allowing the sown species sufficient time to flower.
- After flowering in July or August, perform a “hay cut” by trimming the area with scythe, trimmer, or tractor mower to approximately 50mm. leave the “hay” to dry and shed seeds for 1-7 days before removing it from the site.
- Mow or graze the regrowth through late autumn/winter to approximately 50mm, and again in spring if necessary.
- The attenuation pond will be divided into three theoretical sections radiating out from the headwall, allowing for the removal of reeds, vegetation, and silt on a three-year rotation. This approach ensure minimal disturbance to wildlife while maintaining adequate draining capacity.
- This maintenance strategy will be reviewed and updated every five year, or sooner if necessary, in response to exceptional weather changes or the frequency of heavy storms, to determine if further removal of reeds, vegetation, and silt is required.

Management Proposals Review and Maintenance Schedule

The process for agreement, monitoring, and review is outlined below. It is anticipated that agreement will be reached between the Development and the Management Company at each stage. The stages of agreement, monitoring, and review are as follows:

- Management proposals and annual maintenance schedules will be agreed upon by all parties involved in the ongoing management of the BNG areas, and associated features as outlined in this plan.

- The Developer and Management Company may conduct annual on-site meetings throughout the lifespan of the development to review the condition of the open spaces.
- No modifications to the approved BNG Management Plan shall be made without the written consent of the Local Planning Authority (LPA).
- Routine monitoring visits and necessary amendments to the plan will continue throughout the lifespan of the development.

Maintenance Operation

The table below presents management activities in order to meet the aim and objectives outlined above.

Maintenance Operation	Purpose	Timing	Year										
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11+
Inspection and checks; inlets, outlets, silt traps, manholes, catch pits and pipe work.	To ensure the attenuation facilities are free from obstruction and operating to designed capacity.	Monthly (& after every storm)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Regular maintenance; litter / debris removal; inlet / outlet cleaning, vegetation management, sediment monitoring and removal.	To ensure the attenuation facilities are free from obstruction and operating to designed capacity.	Monthly (for normal SuDs care)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Occasional maintenance; silt control, silt removal from catch pits and cellular storage.	To ensure the attenuation facilities are free from obstruction and operating to designed capacity.	Annually	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

1-2 cuts taken per year, with the grass left unmown during the summer and arisings removed. Treatment to remove any invasive non-native species should they arise. Targeted weeding/treatment to limit/remove undesirable species below 5% ground cover.	To ensure neutral grassland is maintained.	6 months	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Seeding with appropriate species rich seed mix to ensure at least 6 vascular plant species per m2. Rotational mowing throughout the year to ensure a varied sward. Treatment to remove any invasive non-native species. Regular maintenance and reseeded as needed to ensure physical damage remains below 5% of the total area and bare ground remains below 10% of the total area.	To ensure modified grass is maintained.	Throughout the year	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Planting mix to use a diverse range of native species, with no one species comprising more than 50% of the mix. Replace any failed woody specimens. Targeted weeding/treatment to limit/remove invasive/undesirable species to below 5% ground cover. Rotational clearance/coppicing of selected areas to allow opportunities for natural regeneration.	To ensure planting mix is maintained.	Throughout the year	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
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Routine monitoring visits and amendments to the plan will be continuous, in perpetuity for the lifespan of the development.