

Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan

For use with
Small Sites Metric
(Statutory Biodiversity Metric)

Site Name:

Heather Close Farm, Botcheston

Date:

07/05/2025

Version:

1

**Small Sites
Criteria Met**

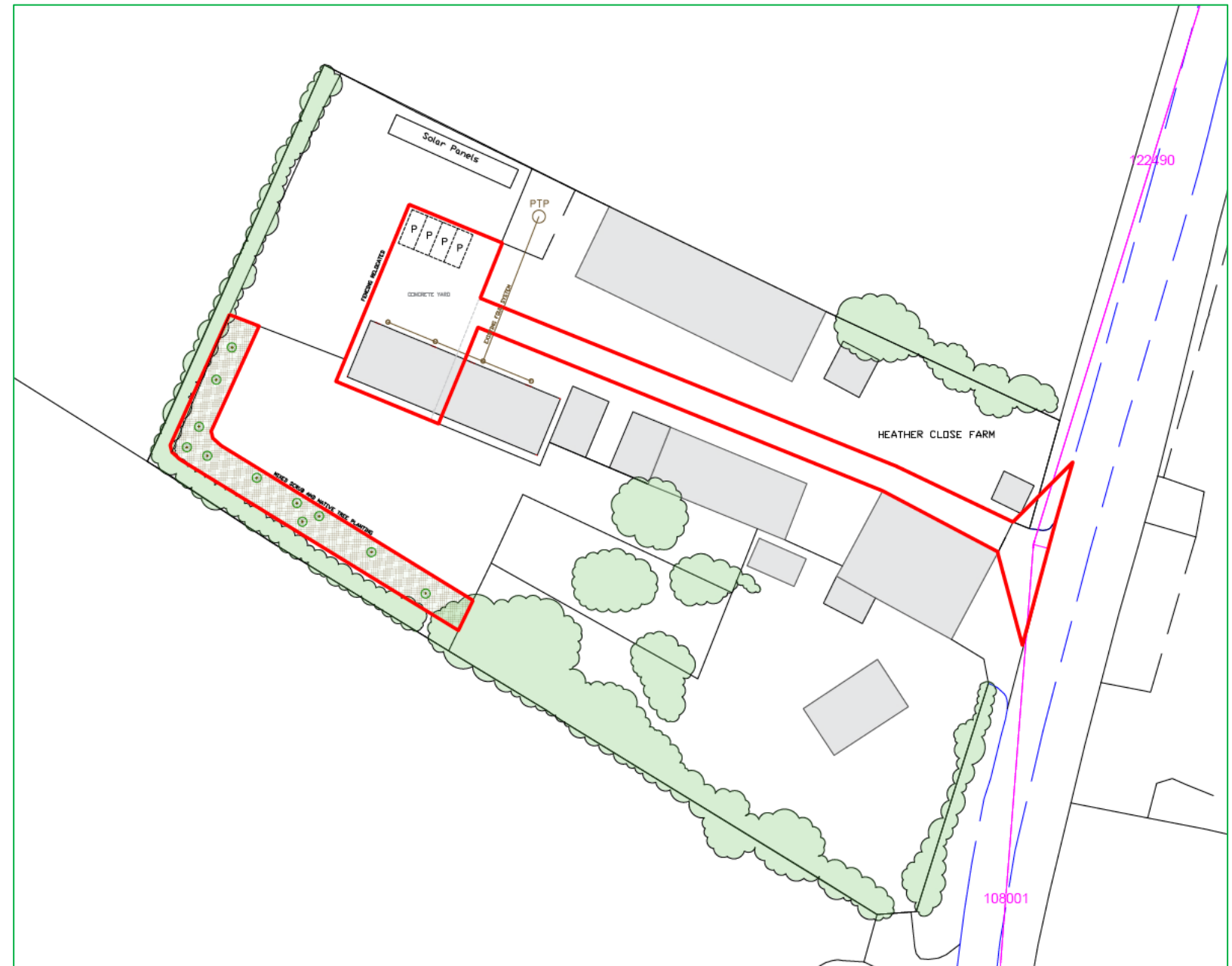
The site fulfils the criteria for use of the [Small Sites Metric \(Statutory Biodiversity Metric\)](#) calculation tool.

Yes ☒ No ☐

If 'No' use the [Main HMMP Template](#) for the full statutory biodiversity metric instead of this one.

Author: David Harris-
Watkins

Client: Mr. Andrew
Pickup



Template Document User Guide

Context – The Small Sites Metric

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

The SSM calculation tool can only be applied to ‘small sites’ as defined in [The Small Sites Metric \(Statutory Biodiversity Metric\) User Guide](#).

This means:

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

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

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

Supporting documents

[SSM HMMPT Habitat Guide](#)

Tools and Guidance

- [GOV.UK Statutory biodiversity metric \(small sites\) tools and guides](#)
- [GOV.UK Government Collections Biodiversity Net Gain \(BNG\)-Guidance](#)

Template User Guide

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

Small Sites HMMPT Habitat Guide

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

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

Formatting

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

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

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

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

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

Checklist of Contents SM-T01

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

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

Version Control SM-T02

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

Version	Issue Status	Prepared by / Date	Approved by / Date
1	Submission Version	ALS / 07/05/2025	AP

Document Details

Provide ownership, copyright and licensing information within this table.

Authorship Details SM-B01
Andrew Large Surveyors Ltd The Estate Office, Staunton Harold, Melbourne Road, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire, LE65 1RT Tel: 01332862250 Email: info@andrewlargesurveyors.co.uk

1. Project Background

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

Project information SM-T01	
Project type	Commercial
Development Name and Address	Extension of existing commercial building including parking and turning area, as well as landscape and biodiversity enhancements Heather Close Farm, Markfield Lane, Botcheston, Leicestershire, LE9 9FH
Author	David Harris-Watkins Andrew Large Surveyors Ltd
Landowner	Mr. Andrew Pickup
Land Management Organisation	Mr. Andrew Pickup
Period covered by this management plan	30 years following completion of the development, with 5 year update.
Planning authority	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Planning reference	25/00180/FUL
Central OS grid reference	SK 47884 06400
Total Site Area	1320.7m²

Planning Condition

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

No development shall commence until a 30-year Habitat Monitoring and Management Plan (HMMP), prepared in accordance with an approved Biodiversity Gain Plan, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved HMMP shall be strictly adhered to and implemented in full for its duration and shall contain the following:

- a) Description and evaluation of the features to be managed;
- b) Ecological trends and constraints on site that may influence management;
- c) Aim, objectives and targets for management - links with local and national species and habitat actions plans;
- d) Description of a works schedule, including annual works schedule;
- e) Details and a timetable of the monitoring needed to measure the effectiveness of management;
- f) Details of the persons responsible for the implementation and monitoring;
- g) Mechanisms of adaptive management to account for necessary changes in work schedule to achieve the required targets; and
- h) Details of methodology and frequency of monitoring reports to be submitted to the Local Planning Authority to assess biodiversity gain

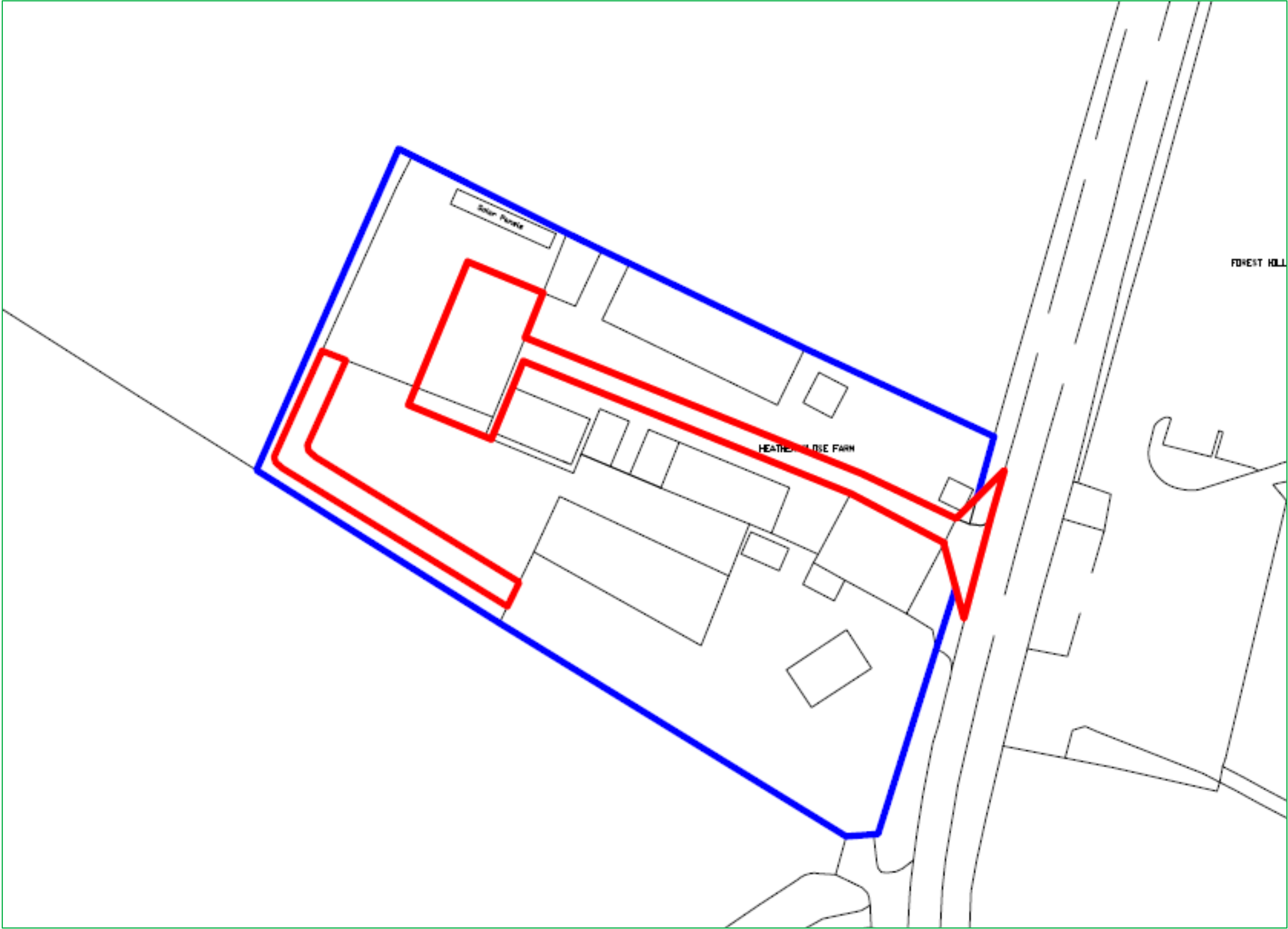
Reason: To enhance biodiversity in accordance with Policy DM6 of the of the adopted Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (2016), the National Planning Policy Framework, and paragraph 13 of Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Roles and Responsibilities

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

Author Responsible for Preparing HMMP SM-B03				
Name or Initials / Role		David Harris-Watkins: Chartered Surveyor		
Organisation		Andrew Large Surveyors Ltd		
Responsibility	Start Date	Preparation of Application	End Date	Discharge of conditions (handover to contractor/owner)
Statement of Competency				
Author has 17 years' experience working as a land manager including managing SSSI's, conservation grazing projects, woodland, catchment sensitive farming, etc. Also having 12 years' experience working in the rural sector as a rural chartered surveyor. Chartered competencies including 'Management of the Natural Environment and Landscape'.				
Landowner / Management Organisation Responsible for Delivering HMMP SM-B04				
Name or Initials / Role		Mr. Andrew Pickup		
Organisation		Landowner		
Responsibility	Start Date	Discharge of Conditions	End Date	30 years after completion of works
Statement of Competency				

Landowner and farmer of subject site.



Land Use

Description of Site Use - Baseline SM-B05

The area of the site subject to the proposed biodiversity enhancements currently comprises a field or permanent pasture that has historically been grazed by livestock and horses.

From historic satellite imagery the area has been used in this way until 2020/21, when it appears active stocking with animals seemed to have stopped. Since then, the area appears to have largely been unmanaged and has become overgrown in part.

The area of the site where the proposed extension is proposed would have been in the same condition, however the arisings from the construction of the building subject of the extension has resulted in the clearance of this area, so it is currently bare earth.

The rest of the red line site comprises sealed surfaces.

Baseline habitat found at the site include: Modified Grassland and developed land: sealed surface.

Description of Site Use - Proposed SM-B06

The proposal includes the loss of an area formerly modified grassland now bare ground, to be developed to provide an extension to and existing building and external yard area for parking.

Mixed scrub planting is proposed to compliment the existing mature hedgerow, as well as individual tree planting.

Site Photos SM-F03

Please include two overview photographs of the site in its current form here. Include additional photographs in the appendix if needed. You can adjust the size of these to suit your management plan.

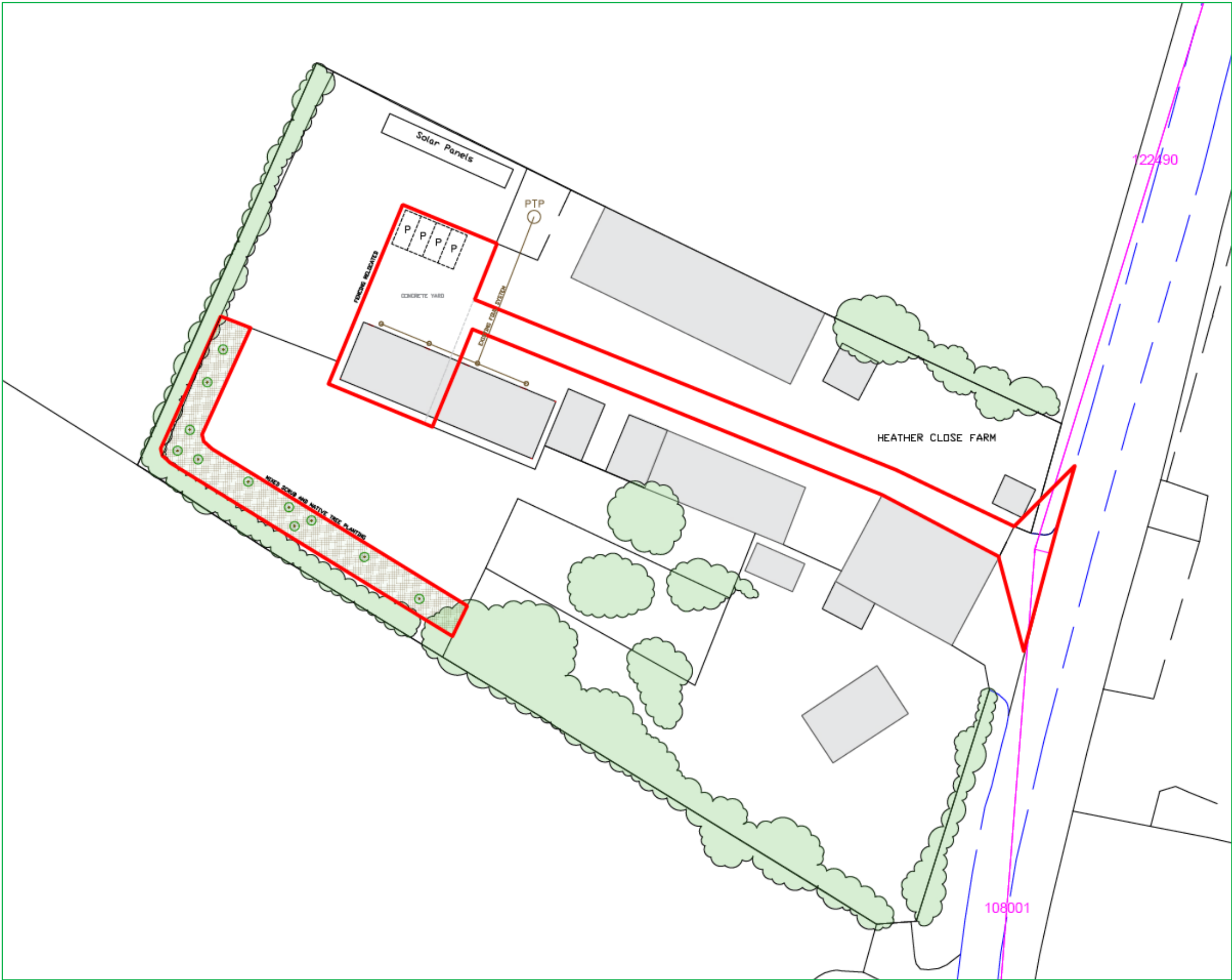
Site Proposals Plan SM-F04

As a minimum, show all the proposed habitats to be retained, created or enhanced.

Tick if additional photographs are provided in the Appendices ☐ Reference: Click or tap here to enter text.



The map could be on an aerial photo, or a sketch map showing mapped habitat polygons. Include parcel references if possible. It is also helpful to include a north arrow and scale.



2. Management Plan Aims and Objectives

Overview of Proposed Habitat Aims and Objectives SM-B07

Planting of individual trees and mixed scrub planting.

Enhancement of existing grassland surrounding site has not been considered as the small scale required to compensate the development would not be viable. Given the location near an existing mature hedgerow and the location within the National Forest, proposed tree and scrub planting is proposed.

Mixed scrub creation and Trees Planting Aims:

- Improve heterogeneity of habitats at the site, supporting a greater range of wildlife
- Use native species stock to provide better sustainability
- Provide dense nesting habitat for bird species
- Create additional foraging opportunities for a range of wildlife
- Comprise of a variety of species and stock sizes
- Improve site biodiversity value

Objective:

- Follow target habitat BNG condition sheets to help ensure habitats meet target condition
- Reduce monocultures of species and uniform structure within any one area of habitat
- Ensure presence of indicator species of targeted habitats

Retained and Enhanced Habitats Protection Measures SM-B08

The application red line does not include any retained habitats apart from hard surfacing. The areas located outside the red line, if impacted by the construction of the development, will be returned to their baseline habitat type.

Protective fencing will be erected with a 5m buffer around the building extension to protect habitats outside the red line application site. If any habitat is affected outside the red line application site it will be returned to its original habitat type and condition post completion of the works.

Summary of Adaptive Management Approaches SM-B09

Ensure that all habitats—whether retained, enhanced, or newly created—meet their designated Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) condition targets through appropriate management practices, including the use of suitable botanical species. If monitoring indicates that habitats are not meeting these targets, adjustments to their management will be necessary. For example, trees and scrub planting will be watered in the first 5 years during times of drought, but if they fail they will be replaced.

Monitoring surveys will be conducted during optimal conditions, specifically between May and June, and only during periods of typical weather, avoiding times of excessive or insufficient rainfall.

Habitat Management Proposals

Habitat Baseline Description SM-B10

The area of the site subject to the proposed biodiversity enhancements (351.2m²) and loss of habitat through the development, currently comprises a field of permanent pasture that has historically been grazed by livestock and horses.

From historic satellite imagery the area has been used in this way until 2020/21, when it appears active stocking with animals seemed to have stopped. Since then, the area appears to have largely been unmanaged and has become overgrown in part.

The area of the site where the proposed extension is proposed would have been in the same condition (475.9m²), however the arisings from the construction of the building subject of the extension has resulted in the clearance of this area, so it is currently bare earth. As such the value is taken prior to degradation.

Of the remaining grassland it is overgrown with perennial weeds, though the sward is still dominated by rye grass species.

Grass is species poor with less than 9 species per m². Grass cover is over 75%.

The remaining area of the site (492.6m²) if fully hardsurfaced.

Retained Habitats SM-B11

Hard surfacing only.

Enhanced Habitats SM-B12

No habitat enhancement proposed.

Created Habitats SM-B13

Creation of mixed scrub with individual trees.

Planting of individual trees:

Tree Species to include 1.8-2.25m high bare stock. Species to include:

- Acer campestre 10%
- Alnus glutinosa 20%
- Carpinus betulus 25%
- Populus tremula 20%
- Quercus robur 25%

Planting of mixed scrub:

Scrub species to include 1+1 transplant bare root stock planted an 1no./m2 with rabbit protection.

Species to include:

- Cornus sanguinea 10%
- Corylus avellana 15%
- Crataegus monogyna 35%
- Prunus spinosa 20%
- Rosa canina 10%
- Salix caprea. 10%

Location in proximity to existing mature hedgerow and within the National Forest, as such the proposed habitat creation is considered appropriate.

3. Creation, Enhancement and Management

Creation, Enhancement and Management Targets and Prescriptions SM-T02

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

Habitat/Feature Type	Target Condition	Parcel/ Feature Ref	Habitat Creation or Enhancement and Management Prescriptions
Individual Tree Planting	Moderate		Target Habitat Description for Moderate Condition In a management plan aiming to achieve ‘moderate’ condition the rural individual trees will show: - The tree is a native species. - The tree is protected from adverse impacts by people and can grow to at least 75% of its expected canopy area in relation to its age, height and species, because it is in an area where there is enough space to grow, and it is not pruned regularly. Habitat Creation Trees to be planted in accordance with BS 4428:1989 and single staked. Tree pits in open field / un-compacted ground conditions to be 1000mm x 1000mm (at least 75mm greater than that of the root system) Topsoil’s and subsoils to be excavated and stored separately for reuse. Tree pit to be backfilled with stored subsoil and topsoil at depths to replicate the existing soil horizons. Topsoil to be mixed enriched with 40L of peat free tree planting compost. Well water after planting. The base of trees to planted in grass areas are to be covered with 75mm amenity grade bark mulch such as Melcourt 'Amenity' Bark Mulch (or similar approved by the landscape architect) to 1.0 metre diameter and kept weed free. Trees to be planted with tree guards to prevent damage from grazing. Planting to be between March – October. Habitat Maintenance To be carried out at approximately monthly intervals to include the following: a. Eradicate weeds by hand or appropriate chemical means. b. Cut out dead or / and damaged stock (and replace) c. Ensure all trees are firmed in, securely staked and tied. d. Apply suitable non-residual pesticides, fungicides, fertilisers and water as required. Adopt minimal intervention approach, where trees are only actively managed if there is a safety risk to the site. Management prescriptions will be updated in five years’ time if trees have failed to establish, or condition is poor.

Mixed Scrub Planting	Moderate	Target Habitat Description for Moderate Condition The planted will meet 3 or 4 of the following criteria: • The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description (where in its natural range).¹ - At least 80% of scrub is native, - There are at least three native woody species², - No single species comprises more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i>, common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i>, sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> (only in its restricted native range), or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i>, which can be up to 100% cover). • Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran³) shrubs are all present. • There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA⁵) and species indicative of suboptimal condition⁶ make up less than 5% of ground cover. • The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat. • There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges. Habitat Creation • Vegetation at ground level will be cleared prior to planting; however, if any scrub species have already established, these should remain in place and will be planted around. • The whips will be planted when trees are dormant, ideally in November but up to February is suitable and outside of freezing conditions. • Avoid creating straight edges to the scrub boundary, do not plant the whips in formal rows and mix the species at random. • Position the whips approximately two-foot apart but leave several small areas i.e., 1m² bare that will infill overtime with natural regeneration. • Biodegradable tree guards, stakes and degradable ties will be used, and the base will be mulched to provide valuable nutrients and suppress undesirable species. • Species mix as per Proposed Site Layout Habitat Management During Establishment • The scrub will be cut once annually in the first three years to encourage a dense, bushy structure. The cut should remove approximately one third of its growth laterally. • Water in continuously hot and dry weather and mulch once a year. • Weeding for 2-3 years after planting. Focus on pulling up weeds until all the trees have grown above the height of competing weeds and started to shade out ground vegetation. • A 1m width margin will be maintained between the scrub and the development area. This will be mown annually and the arisings removed in the first three years to control the growth of dominant grasses. • Check regularly that the shrub guards and ties are secure and replace/remove as necessary. Habitat Management Post Establishment • The scrub will take approximately fifteen years to reach maturity. After fifteen years, cut half of the mature scrub in an irregular formation with the aim to create new spaces for saplings to root. • Coppicing within the scrub may be appropriate to create denser thickets. The management plan will be updated to reflect this following ongoing monitoring.
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		Brash will be retained on site and used to create log piles for invertebrates and hedgehog within the woodland. Management prescriptions will be updated in five years' time if scrub planting have failed to establish, or condition is poor.
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Risk Register and Proposed Remedial Measures SM-T03

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

Risk Factor	Habitat/Hedgerow/Watercourse Type	Trigger for Action	Remedial Measure
Drought – effect on tree establishment	Individual Trees and mixed scrub planting	Clearly and concisely describe the trigger which will indicate that remedial measures are required.	All plant material to be watered in dry periods until established during April through to September with a fine rose until the water penetrates the topsoil to at least 5cm depth and achieves field capacity. Frequency of watering regime to de determined by weather conditions, soil conditions and underlying geology, all plant beds to be watered to ensure soil is consistently moist to promote successful establishment. Watering should be carried out in early morning or evening. If the trees have a watering pipe then half of the water should be poured down the pipe and the other half on the surface of the tree. Water should be harvested rainwater.
Failure for trees to establish	Individual Trees	Death of tree or plant	Replacement of tree or plant
Dominance of plant species	Mixed Scrub Planting	Dominance of plant species	Plants will be selected and removed from the scrub if they are becoming overly dominant

4. Monitoring

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

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

Habitat/Feature Type	Monitoring Methods	Monitoring Interval and Timing

Individual Trees	• Check the overall condition of tree stock health, minimum once, ideally twice in summer and winter. • Monitor for weeds, deer grazing and dead stock. • Assess any issues against management plan and review as necessary. ◦ Sign there is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height. ◦ Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark. ◦ Assessment of tree canopy	Every 5 years.
Mixed Scrub Planting	• Check the overall condition of tree stock health, minimum once, ideally twice in summer and winter. • Monitor for weeds, deer grazing and dead stock. • Assess any issues against management plan and review as necessary.	Every 5 years.

Monitoring Reporting SM-B14

Organisation Responsible for Submitting the Monitoring Reports	Mr. Andrew Pickup	Organisation Receiving and Responsible for Reviewing Reports	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan Template will be submitted on 5 year intervals from completion of the development.			