Brindle &Green

Biodiversity Net Gain Plan

Land East of Windmill Hill Inn Brascote Lane, Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire

Report Reference: BG24.292

REV1 September 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	Kerry Baker Senior Ecologist		15/08/2024
1st Check by	Lucinda Sweet MCIEEM Director		16/08/2024
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Revision Details

Revision	Approved	Revision Details
REV1		To include updated construction access plan

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:

Persimmon North Midland Ltd

Davidson House
Meridian House
Meridian Business Park
Leicester
LE19 1WZ

Project site:

Land East of The Windmill Inn

Brascote Lane
Newbold Verdon
Leicestershire ,
LE9 9NS

Grid reference: SK 44721 03081

Contents

Tables

1 Summary

1.1.1 Brindle & Green Ecological Consultants Ltd were commissioned by Persimmon North Midlands Ltd to compile a Biodiversity Net Gain Plan (BNG) in relation to planning application REF: APP/K2420/W/23/3331081, to support the Reserved Matters application for 239 dwellings at the site known as Land East of Windmill Hill Inn, Brascote Lane, Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire.

1.1.2 The purpose of this report sets out the details for the establishment and enhancement of habitats onsite and define their long-term management in order to meet their associated net gain targets (BG24.292 Brascote Lane, Newbold Verdon - REVISED Statutory Biodiversity Metric – FINAL).

1.1.3 This document also sets out a monitoring strategy to ensure the created and enhanced habitats reach their target criteria set out within the accompanying metric (BG24.292 Brascote Lane, Newbold Verdon - REVISED Statutory Biodiversity Metric – FINAL).

1.1.4 The Layout of the scheme has been subjected to a revision from the outline application as such the Metric previously undertaken by RammSanderson (April 2022; REF: RSE_3677_BIA_3.1_V4) has been updating using the latest DEFRA metric (Statutory) undertaken by Brindle and Green Ltd (BG24.292 Brascote Lane, Newbold Verdon - REVISED Statutory Biodiversity Metric - FINAL).

1.1.5 This BNG plan has been compiled in accordance with the associated Landscape Management Plan (BG24.292 Brascote Lane, Newbold, August 2024). The majority of target habitat creation within the previous metric (RSE_3677_BIA_3.1_V4) and updated metric (BG24.292 Brascote Lane, Newbold Verdon - REVISED Statutory Biodiversity Metric - FINAL) have remained comparable, where the updated metric differs from the original proposals it has been outlined within this report.

2 Introduction

2.1 Scope and aim of the Management Plan

2.1.1 This document is pursuant to condition 7 of the approved application (APP/K2420/W/23/3331081) which states:

Any relevant reserved matters application submission shall be accompanied by a Biodiversity Net Gain Plan (the Plan). The Plan shall be based on the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) metric spreadsheet completed by Ramm Sanderson, dated 12/04/2022, and shall provide a net gain on the reported baseline habitat loss. The Plan shall include the following details:

a) Location plan of the areas to be used for BNG;
b) Description of existing habitats on site;
c) Description of planned habitat creation/enhancement, including species to be planted/sown;
d) Timetable for implementation of habitat;
e) Habitat management and monitoring plan including timetable for management routines and reviews, and strategy for any remedial measures, if and when required;
f) Mechanism for securing the implementation of the biodiversity offsetting and its maintenance/management for a period of 30 years in accordance with details approved in the Plan; and,
g) Number and location of bat and bird boxes to be provided across the site.
The Plan shall be supported by an up to-date BNG metric calculation using the latest DEFRA version of the metric. The Plan shall thereafter be implemented in accordance with the approved details.

2.1.2 This document describes the baseline habitats on site as extracted from the Ecological Impact Assessment compiled by RammSanderson (RSE_3677_R2_V1, December 2021) and biodiversity metric (RSE_3677_BIA_3.1_V4). Enhancements have been information by the updated metric (BG24. 292 Brascote Lane, Newbold Verdon - REVISED Statutory Biodiversity Metric - FINAL). Both scenarios achieve a net gain using a mixture of onsite habitat creation and enhancement. No offsite offsetting is required as part of this scheme.

2.1.3 This document will inform the management of enhanced and created habitats within the site ownership referred to within the detailed planting plan (BG24.292 Brascote Lane, Detailed Planting Plan (POS, August 2024).

2.1.4 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 of Existing Habitats on site

3.1 Existing Habitats on site

3.1.1 The site is approximately 14.38ha in extent, located east of Brascote Lane, in the south of the village of Newbold Verdon (central OSGR: SK 44721 03081). It comprised a large agricultural field bound by hedgerows, lines of trees and a mixture of wet and dry ditches. Situated at the southern extent of the village, the surrounding landscape was largely agricultural fields dissected by hedgerows and small pockets of deciduous woodland, large waterbodies associated with quarry workings and allotments to the north and south. The city of Leicester is located approximately 13km east of the site.

3.1.2 The habitats on site have been evaluated as having up to 'District' value in relation to the immediate surroundings and a regional context (Table 1) due to the presence of native hedgerows on site which forma UKBAP priority habitat. The area to be cleared to facilitate development is primarily low value arable habitat and low distinctiveness grassland (modified grassland) with sections of hedgerows and tree lines removed to facilitate the design.

3.1.3 The development proposals include an extensive area of open space, which will see the creation of woodland, ponds, scrub and medium distinctiveness grassland. There will also be areas of grassland seeded with a similar species mix however reduced in distinctiveness due to the function and more regular management for amenity value. Appendix 1 provides a location plan of the areas to be used for BNG.

3.2 Identification of baseline conditions prior to the development

3.2.1 The habitat condition assessment undertaken by RammSanderson to support the BNG assessment identified that the site supported habitats ranging from low to medium distinctiveness comprising cropland, modified grassland and individual trees (Table 1). The site was considered not to hold strategic significance. The habitat baseline value (updated by Brindle and Green, August 2024) was calculated to hold 30.88 'Habitat units', 22.85 'Hedge units' and 0 'River units'.

Table 1: Summary of habitat baseline assessment which forms the 30.88 habitat unit baseline

Habitat Baseline	Condition	Reason
Cropland – Cereal Crops	N/A	Dominant area of active cropland. N/A condition (agricultural).
Grassland – Modified Grassland	Moderate	1-2m strip of modified grassland/PSI bordering cropland area adjacent to border hedgerows. Moderate condition (simplified methodology due to time of year).
Grassland – Modified Grassland	Moderate	1-2m strip of modified grassland/PSI bordering cropland area adjacent to border hedgerows. Moderate condition (simplified methodology due to time of year).
Individual Trees – Urban Tree	Poor	Existing semi-mature trees (x3) with limited bat roosting potential. Poor condition due to meeting 3 criteria (4, 5, 6); little evidence of damage from anthropogenic activities. Existing micro habitats for birds/mammals/insects. No current regular pruning regime. Tree canopy oversailing vegetation beneath.
Habitat Baseline	**Condition**	**Reason**
Line of Trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Line of Trees 2. Moderate, meets 4 of 5 criteria (1, 2, 3, 5). All hedgerows ecologically desirable due to qualifying as HPIs and proximity to adjacent pLWS (see RSE_3677_R2_V1, section 4.3 and 5.3 respectively).
Line of Trees	Moderate	"Line of Trees 1. Moderate, meets 3 of 5 criteria (2, 3, 5). Line of Trees 3. Moderate, meets 3 of 5 criteria (1, 2, 5). Partly lost to development for site entry."
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Moderate condition, meets 7 of 10 conditions: A1, A2, B1, B2, D1, D2, E1
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	Poor	Poor, 2 failures in both C and E functional groups. Meets A1, A2, B1, B2, D1, D2
Species-rich native hedgerow	Moderate	Moderate, meets 6 of 8 conditions A1, A2, B1, B2, D1, D2. Partially lost to development for site entry.

4 Description of planned habitat creation /Enhancement

The BNG Plan seeks to secure long term long-term management to conserve and enhance the ecological and landscape value of the site to achieve the associated biodiversity net gain targets. This report outlines the monitoring to ensure that the targets outlined within the BIA (BG24. 292 Brascote Lane, Newbold Verdon - REVISED Statutory Biodiversity Metric - FINAL) will be met. The objectives describe how the scheme will achieve a net gain through enhancement of existing features and creation of new habitat.

4.1 Objective 1: Enhancement of Existing Habitat

4.1.1 Under the revised metric, one hedgerow assessed to be poor condition, located along the south of the western housing development (Appendix 1) will be enhanced to moderate condition through enhancing the understorey, management of height and width to be >1.5m and a regime which does not seek excessive cutting/pruning.

4.2 Objective 2: Creation of new habitats

4.2.1 Planting of species rich grassland is proposed across all open spaces within the scheme. While the same seed mixture is proposed across the site, the resulting distinctiveness of the grassland is proposed to be varied.

- Central areas of open space are likely to be used for amenity value will be regularly cut for aesthetic purposes. These areas have been categorised as modified grassland 'poor condition'.

- The landscape management plan indicates amenity areas on plot frontages which will be sown with the same species rich seed mixture and managed for amenity value. These areas are also categorised as modified grassland 'poor condition'.

4.2.2 The extensive area of open spaces to the south will be established and managed as other neutral grassland – 'moderate' condition, with a reduced cutting regime to provide a species rich and varied sward. There will also be other neutral grassland surrounding the central ponds targeted to achieve 'poor' condition. As these areas will not function as highly for amenity value they were considered suitable areas to achieve a medium distinctiveness habitat.

4.2.3 Five ponds are proposed across the scheme, one has been targeted to achieve 'moderate' condition with the intention of being established and managed as a wildlife pond. the remaining four are balancing ponds which will be designed to permanently hold water, however given their function as balancing ponds it is unlikely they will achieve higher than a 'poor' condition.

4.2.4 Mixed scrub is indicated within the detailed planting plan (BG24.292, August 2024), comprising a mixture of native species targeted to achieve 'poor' condition.

4.2.5 Scattered native trees are proposed across the scheme. These have been targeted to achieve 'poor' condition and were considered unlikely to reach a breast height diameter of more than 30cm within the 30 year management period.

4.2.6 An area of other broadleaved woodland condition is proposed within the southern area of open space, the habitat will be managed to achieve a target of 'poor' condition.

4.2.7 Native species rich hedgerows will be planted across the scheme which have been targeted to achieve conditions ranging from 'Poor' to 'Moderate' based upon their position and adjoining habitats within the scheme.

4.3 Timetable for Implementation of Habitat Creation Enhancement

Table 2: Key timescales

Action	Prior to commencement	During construction	Post Construction	30 year action
Retained Habitats				
Retained Hedgerow	Landscaping to commence in 2025		-n/a	n/a-
Created Habitats				
Modified Grassland – Poor Condition	n/a	To be completed by 2030	Monitored at Year 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30	Management regime to remain relevant
Other Neutral Grassland – Moderate Condition	n/a	To be completed by 2030	Monitored at Year 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30	Management regime to remain relevant
Other Neutral Grassland – Poor Condition	n/a	To be completed by 2030	Monitored at Year 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30	Management regime to remain relevant
Pond (non-priority) – Moderate Condition	n/a	To be completed by 2030	Monitored at Year 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30	Management regime to remain relevant
Pond (non-priority) – Poor Condition	n/a	To be completed by 2030	Monitored at Year 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30	Management regime to remain relevant

Action	Prior to commencement	During construction	Post Construction	30 year action
Other woodland – broadleaved – Poor condition	n/a	To be completed by 2030	Monitored at Year 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30	Management regime to remain relevant
Individual trees – urban tree – Poor condition	n/a	To be completed by 2030	Monitored at Year 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30	Management regime to remain relevant
Heathland and scrub – mixed scrub – poor condition	n/a	To be completed by 2030	Monitored at Year 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30	Management regime to remain relevant

5 Habitat Enhancement, Creation and Management

This section contains details of enhancement, creation and management of the habitats set out within the revised biodiversity metric (BG24.292, August 2024)

5.1 Enhanced Habitat

Table 3: Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees (High Distinctiveness) Prescriptions

Target Habitat:		Species Rich Native Hedgerow with Trees – enhanced from poor to moderate condition				
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Targeted**	**Relevant Parcels**	**Creation Approach**	**Enhancement Approach**	**Management Approach**
A1	>1.5 m average along length (Height)	Yes	EH1 in Appendix 1	N/A	The hedgerow detailed within Appendix 1 is suitable for enhancement. The existing species include hawthorn, holly, elder, dog rose and standards of hawthorn and ash. The baseline condition assessment found that it failed both criteria C1 and C2 as well as E1 and E2, therefore management will be targeted to enhance condition criteria C1 and C2.	The understorey will be incorporated into the grassland management regime indicated within Table 9. The understorey will be seeded with Emorsgate EM2 (or similar approved) to remediate the plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment. No gap filling is required as the hedgerow is already intact. The management regime of the grassland will provide the understated grassland habitat of >1m along the length of the hedgerow.
A2	>1.5 m average along length (Width)	Yes				
B1	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	Yes				
B2	"Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m"	Yes				
C1	">1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least)."	Yes				
C2	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	Yes				
D1	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA3) and recently introduced species.	Yes				

Target Habitat:		Species Rich Native Hedgerow with Trees – enhanced from poor to moderate condition				
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Targeted**	**Relevant Parcels**	**Creation Approach**	**Enhancement Approach**	**Management Approach**
D2	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	Yes				The hedgerow will be managed on a two-to-three-year rotation, aiming for an A line profile at the top, with a base with of at least 1.5m metres and height of at least 1.5m metres. Where possible, on a 15–20-year rotation, hedgerows will be laid to maintain their structure and value within the landscape.
E1	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.	No				
E2	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	No				

Table 4: Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees – Moderate Condition Species List

Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance / %	Comments
	N/A – no hedge species planting proposed		

5.2 Created Habitat

Table 5: Grassland (Low Distinctiveness) Prescriptions

Target Habitat:		Modified Grassland – Poor condition				
Condition Assessment Criteria		Targeted	Relevant Parcels	Creation Approach	Enhancement Approach	Management Approach
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m^2 present, including at least 2 forbs (these may include those listed in Footnote 1). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.	No	Labelled as 1 in Appendix 1	Amenity areas and the replacement playing field will likely be seeded with Emorsgate EM2 seed mix. However, due to the primary function as amenity grassland it is not expected these areas will achieve higher than 'poor' condition.	N/A	Seed to be applied following the manufacturer's guidelines (Wildseed.co.uk) sown in the autumn or spring. Spread by hand with an even distribution and tread in. Soon after sowing there will be a flush of annual weeds, these Will be left in situ as they provide shelter to the newly sown seedling. In the year following seeding, areas of amenity grassland will undergo establishment cuts once the sward reaches a height of 75mm. The grass needs to be cut to a height of 35-50mm. These establishment cuts need to be repeated as often as necessary (i.e. every time the sward reaches 75mm in height) between March and October in the first year following seeding. The number of cuts will be determined by the growth rate of the grass, but a total of 8 cuts should be allowed for. Following each establishment cut, all arisings are to be raked off and removed from the site. This removal process needs to be carried out carefully to avoid damage to either the soil surface or retained vegetation; The first growing season should incorporate a mid to late summer cut to allow seeds to establish and remove weed species from the seed bank. All arisings should be
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.	No				
C	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble *Rubus fruticosus agg.* may be present). Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Yes				
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	Yes				
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, rabbit warrens).	Yes				
F	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20%.	Yes				

Target Habitat:		Modified Grassland – Poor condition				
Condition Assessment Criteria		Targeted	Relevant Parcels	Creation Approach	Enhancement Approach	Management Approach
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA).	Yes				removed from the area and composted to prevent enrichment. Grass cutting will be undertaken fortnightly during the growing season (March to October). Grass to be cut to a medium sward length of 35-50mm and all arisings to be raked off and removed from site; Undertake hand-weeding to seeded areas in order to remove and control any undesirable species or invasive weeds. Weed management to be undertaken during the five-year establishment period The seeded areas need to be inspected annually and any worn areas are to be re-seeded using a seed mix which replicates as closely as possible that which was originally specified

Table 6: Grassland (Low Distinctiveness) – Poor Condition Species List

Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance / %	Comments
Yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*	0.75	
Agrimony	*Agrimonia eupatoria*	0.45	
Common knapweed	*Centaurea nigra*	1.8	
Wild carrot	*Daucs carota*	0.97	
Lady's bedstraw	*Galium verum*	1.12	
Field scabious	*Knautia arvensis*	0.82	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance / %	Comments
Meadow vetchling	*Lathyrus pratensis*	0.3	
Oxeye daisy	*Lecanthemum vulgare*	1.75	
Musk mallow	*Malva moschata*	1.8	
Ribwort plantain	*Plantago lanceolata*	1.72	
Salad burnet	*Poterium sanguisorba ssp sanguisorba*	1.12	
Cowslip	*Primula veris*	0.75	
Selfheal	*Prunella ulgaris*	0.3	
Meadow buttercup	*Ranunculus acris*	0.6	
Yellow rattle	*Rhianthus minor*	0.75	
Common bent	*Agrostis capillaris*	8.5	
Crested dogs tail	*Cyynosurus cristatus*	29.7	
Red fescue	*Festuca rubra*	25.50	
Smaller cats tai	*Phleum bertolonii*	4.25	
Smooth stalked meadow grass	*Poa pratensis*	17	

Grassland (Medium Distinctiveness)

Table 7: Grassland (Medium Distinctiveness) Prescriptions

Target Habitat:		Other Neutral Grassland – Moderate condition				
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Targeted**	**Relevant Parcels**	**Creation Approach**	**Enhancement Approach**	**Management Approach**
A	The appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type (see UKHab definition). Wildflowers, sedges and indicator species for the specific grassland habitat type are very clearly and easily visible throughout the sward. NB - This criterion is essential for achieving moderate condition for non-acid grassland types only.	No	Labelled as 2 in Appendix 1	Areas of open space will be seeded with a meadow mix such as EM2 or similar approved.	N/A	*Wildflower Seed Mix:* Areas will be seeded following the manufacturer's guidelines (Emorsgate Seeds) by sowing in either autumn or spring. The seed mix can either be spread by hand with an even distribution and tread in or be distributed by machinery where feasible. The first growing season should incorporate a mid to late summer cut to allow seeds to establish and remove weed species from the seed bank. All arisings should be removed from the area and composted to prevent enrichment. Once established, the area is to be minimally managed to allow plants to flourish and set seed, promote a varied sward, and achieve the targeted condition. The sward will not be cut between March – July to allow the sown species to flower. The grassland should be cut regularly through winter. The established grassland should be spot treated for unwanted perennial weeds (docks, thistles etc).
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20 per cent is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	No				
C	Cover of bare ground between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	No				
D	Cover of bracken less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble) less than 5%.	Yes				
E	There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981). Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition1 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.	Yes				

Target Habitat:		Other Neutral Grassland – Moderate condition				
Condition Assessment Criteria		Targeted	Relevant Parcels	Creation Approach	Enhancement Approach	Management Approach
F	There are greater than 9 species per metre squared. NB - This criterion is essential for achieving good condition (non-acid grassland types only).	Yes				

Table 8: Grassland (Medium Distinctiveness) – Poor Condition Species List

Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance / %	Comments
Yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*	0.75	
Agrimony	*Agrimonia eupatoria*	0.45	
Common knapweed	*Centaurea nigra*	1.8	
Wild carrot	*Daucs carota*	0.97	
Lady's bedstraw	*Galium verum*	1.12	
Field scabious	*Knautia arvensis*	0.82	
Meadow vetchling	*Lathyrus pratensis*	0.3	
Oxeye daisy	*Lecanthemum vulgare*	1.75	
Musk mallow	*Malva moschata*	1.8	
Ribwort plantain	*Plantago lanceolata*	1.72	
Salad burnet	*Poterium sanguisorba ssp sanguisorba*	1.12	
Cowslip	*Primula veris*	0.75	
Selfheal	*Prunella ulgaris*	0.3	
Meadow buttercup	*Ranunculus acris*	0.6	
Yellow rattle	*Rhianthus minor*	0.75	
Common bent	*Agrostis capillaris*	8.5	
Crested dogs tail	*Cyynosurus cristatus*	29.7	
Red fescue	*Festuca rubra*	25.50	
Smaller cats tai	*Phleum bertolonii*	4.25	
Smooth stalked meadow grass	*Poa pratensis*	17	

Grassland (Medium Distinctiveness)

Table 9: Grassland (Medium Distinctiveness) Prescriptions

Target Habitat:		Other Neutral Grassland – Poor condition				
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Targeted**	**Relevant Parcels**	**Creation Approach**	**Enhancement Approach**	**Management Approach**
A	The appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type (see UKHab definition). Wildflowers, sedges and indicator species for the specific grassland habitat type are very clearly and easily visible throughout the sward. NB - This criterion is essential for achieving moderate condition for non-acid grassland types only.	Yes	Labelled as 3 in Appendix 1	Areas of open space will be seeded with a meadow mix such as EM2 or similar approved. .	N/A	*Wildflower Seed Mix:* Areas will be seeded following the manufacturer's guidelines (Emorsgate Seeds) by sowing in either autumn or spring. The seed mix can either be spread by hand with an even distribution and tread in or be distributed by machinery where feasible. The first growing season should incorporate a mid to late summer cut to allow seeds to establish and remove weed species from the seed bank. All arisings should be removed from the area and composted to prevent enrichment. Once established, the area is to be minimally managed to allow plants to flourish and set seed, promote a varied sward, and achieve the targeted condition. The areas will be subject to a reduced regime to provide some aesthetic value and sward height may be required to be maintained to provide access to the balancing ponds. The established grassland should be spot treated for unwanted perennial weeds (docks, thistles etc).
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20 per cent is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	No				
C	Cover of bare ground between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	No				
D	Cover of bracken less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble) less than 5%.	Yes				
E	There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981). Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition1 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.	Yes				

Target Habitat:		Other Neutral Grassland – Poor condition				
Condition Assessment Criteria		Targeted	Relevant Parcels	Creation Approach	Enhancement Approach	Management Approach
F	There are greater than 9 species per metre squared. NB - This criterion is essential for achieving good condition (non-acid grassland types only).	Yes				

Table 10: Grassland (Medium Distinctiveness) – Moderate Condition Species List

Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance / %	Comments
Yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*	0.75	
Agrimony	*Agrimonia eupatoria*	0.45	
Common knapweed	*Centaurea nigra*	1.8	
Wild carrot	*Daucs carota*	0.97	
Lady's bedstraw	*Galium verum*	1.12	
Field scabious	*Knautia arvensis*	0.82	
Meadow vetchling	*Lathyrus pratensis*	0.3	
Oxeye daisy	*Lecanthemum vulgare*	1.75	
Musk mallow	*Malva moschata*	1.8	
Ribwort plantain	*Plantago lanceolata*	1.72	
Salad burnet	*Poterium sanguisorba ssp sanguisorba*	1.12	
Cowslip	*Primula veris*	0.75	
Selfheal	*Prunella ulgaris*	0.3	
Meadow buttercup	*Ranunculus acris*	0.6	
Yellow rattle	*Rhianthus minor*	0.75	
Common bent	*Agrostis capillaris*	8.5	
Crested dogs tail	*Cyynosurus cristatus*	29.7	
Red fescue	*Festuca rubra*	25.50	
Smaller cats tai	*Phleum bertolonii*	4.25	
Smooth stalked meadow grass	*Poa pratensis*	17	

Ponds (non-priority habitat) (Medium Distinctiveness)

Table 11: Ponds (non-priority habitat) (Medium Distinctiveness) Prescriptions

Target Habitat:		Ponds (non-priority habitat) – Moderate Condition				
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Targeted**	**Relevant Parcels**	**Creation Approach**	**Enhancement Approach**	**Management Approach**
A	The pond is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution. Turbidity is acceptable if the pond is grazed by livestock.	No	Labelled as 4 in Appendix 1	Pond will be created in the southern corner of the site. The pond will be established and managed as a wildlife pond and is expected to hold permanent water. The pond bank sides will be planted with Emorsgate EP1 pond edge mixture (or similar approved), and marginal aquatic planting will be introduced at the edges of the basins In line with the accompanying planting plan (BG24.292, August 2024).	N/A	*Establishment* Grassland mixes are to be sown according to manufacturer's instructions in the autumn or spring and will be slow to germinate. Mow newly sown grass regularly throughout the first year of establishment to a height of 40-60mm to control annual weeds, spot treat perennial weeds as necessary. *Management – pond and marginal planting* Long-term management must ensure that the area is kept clear of non-native invasive species and that the water level fluctuates naturally throughout the year. The area will be monitored to ensure that planting of emergent vegetation establishment is successful. The pond will be cleared of leaf-fall and debris during the winter months (November – February). Any dredging or debris should be laid at the bank edges and left for a minimum of 48 hours to allow water, invertebrates and other fauna to escape and re-enter the pond. After 2 days, the arisings may be disposed of or retained at the banks to decompose naturally. Where considered necessary, a net may be used to control growth of undesirable species such as duckweed and blanket weed during March - April. Arisings from this method of control should be disposed of as above.
B	There is semi-natural habitat (moderate distinctiveness or above) completely surrounding the pond, for at least 10 m from the pond edge for its entire perimeter.	Yes				
C	Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed Lemna spp. or filamentous algae	Yes				
D	The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, such as agricultural ditches or artificial pipework.	Yes				
E	Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams, pumps or pipework.	No				
F	There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species.	Yes				
G	The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally	yes				

Target Habitat:		Ponds (non-priority habitat) – Moderate Condition				
Condition Assessment Criteria		Targeted	Relevant Parcels	Creation Approach	Enhancement Approach	Management Approach
	contains fish, it is a native fish assemblage at low densities.					Any silt or debris build-up needs to be removed by hand as a matter of course. Mechanical removal of silt or debris is not permitted, in order to minimise damage to the soft landscape planting. Any areas of marginal planting supporting dense stands of single species will be selectively thinned on an annual basis between September and November. *Management – Pond Banks* Pond banks supporting EP1 seed mixture will be maintained with rotational cutting every 2-3 years. Any areas supporting dense stands of single species will be selectively thinned on an annual basis between September and November.

Table 12: Ponds (non priority habitat) – Poor Condition Species List

Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance / %	Comments
EP1 Pond Edge Mix			
Wild angelica	*Angelica sylvestris*	1	
Grey sedge	*Carex divulsa ssp divulsa*	1	
Common knapweed	*Centaurea nigra*	2.4	
Crossword	*Cruciate laevipes*	0.8	
Wild teasel	*Dipsacus fullonum*	0.6	
Hemp agrimony	*Eupatorium cannabinum*	0.1	

Meadowsweet	*Filipendula ulmaria*	1.7	
Hedge bedstraw	*Galium album*	1	
Water avens	*Geum rivale*	0.6	
Hedgerow cranesbill	*Geranium pyreniacium*	0.2	
Yellow iris	*Iris pseudocorus*	4	
Meadow vetchling	*Lathyrus pratensis*	0.8	
Purple loosestrife	*Lythrum salicaria*	0.5	
Gypsywort	*Lycopus europaeus*	0.2	
Corky-fruited water drop-wort	*Oeanthe pimpinelloides*	0.2	
Ribwort plantain	*Planago lanceolata*	0.6	
Selfheal	*Prunella vulgaris*	0.2	
Meadow buttercup	*Ranunculus acris*	1	
Red campion	*Silene dioica*	2.8	
Ragged robin	*Silene flos-cuculi*	0.7	
Common bent	*Agrostis capillaris*	4	
Swet vernal	*Anthixanthum odoratum*	4	
Grey sedge	*Carex divulsa sibsp. Divulsa*	1.6	
Crested dogstail	*Cynosurus cristatus*	34.40	
Tufted hairgrass	*Deschampsia cespitosa*	1.6	
Red fescue	*Festuca rubura*	20	
Meadow barley	*Hordeum secalinum*	4	
Rough-stalked meadow grass	*Poa trivialis*	8	
Tall fescue	*Schedonorus arundinaceus*	2.4	
Marginal Aquatic planting			
Yellow iris	*Iris pseudocorus*	20	
Soft rush	*Juncus effusus*	20	
Water forget me not	*Myositis scorpiodes*	20	
Marsh marigold	*Caltha palustris*	20	
Greater pond sedge	*Carex riparia*	20	

Ponds (non priority habitat) (Medium Distinctiveness)

Table 13: Ponds (non-priority habitat) (Medium Distinctiveness) Prescriptions

Target Habitat:		Ponds (non-priority habitat) – Poor Condition				
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Targeted**	**Relevant Parcels**	**Creation Approach**	**Enhancement Approach**	**Management Approach**
A	The pond is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution. Turbidity is acceptable if the pond is grazed by livestock.	No	Labelled as 5 in Appendix 1	A series of balancing ponds will be created to thew north and centre of the site. The ponds will be established and managed as balancing ponds and are expected to hold permanent water. The condition has been targeted as poor due to the presence of artificial features associated with managing water levels. The pond bank sides will be planted with Emorsgate EP1 pond edge mixture (or similar approved), and marginal aquatic planting will be introduced at the edges of the basins In line with the accompanying planting plan (BG24.292, August 2024).	N/A	*Establishment* Grassland mixes are to be sown according to manufacturer's instructions in the autumn or spring and will be slow to germinate. Mow newly sown grass regularly throughout the first year of establishment to a height of 40-60mm to control annual weeds, spot treat perennial weeds as necessary. *Management – pond and marginal planting* Long-term management must ensure that the area is kept clear of non-native invasive species and that the water level fluctuates naturally throughout the year. The area will be monitored to ensure that planting of emergent vegetation establishment is successful. The pond will be cleared of leaf-fall and debris during the winter months (November – February). Any dredging or debris should be laid at the bank edges and left for a minimum of 48 hours to allow water, invertebrates and other fauna to escape and re-enter the pond. After 2 days, the arisings may be disposed of or retained at the banks to decompose naturally. Where considered necessary, a net may be used to control growth of undesirable species such as duckweed and blanket weed during March -
B	There is semi-natural habitat (moderate distinctiveness or above) completely surrounding the pond, for at least 10 m from the pond edge for its entire perimeter.	Yes				
C	Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed Lemna spp. or filamentous algae	Yes				
D	The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, such as agricultural ditches or artificial pipework.	No				
E	Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams, pumps or pipework.	No				
F	There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species.	Yes				
G	The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally	Yes				

Target Habitat:	Ponds (non-priority habitat) – Poor Condition				
Condition Assessment Criteria	**Targeted**	**Relevant Parcels**	**Creation Approach**	**Enhancement Approach**	**Management Approach**
contains fish, it is a native fish assemblage at low densities.					April. Arisings from this method of control should be disposed of as above. Any silt or debris build-up needs to be removed by hand as a matter of course. Mechanical removal of silt or debris is not permitted, in order to minimise damage to the soft landscape planting. Any areas of marginal planting supporting dense stands of single species will be selectively thinned on an annual basis between September and November. *Management – Pond Banks* Pond banks supporting EP1 seed mixture will be maintained with rotational cutting every 2-3 years. Any areas supporting dense stands of single species will be selectively thinned on an annual basis between September and November.

Table 14: Ponds (non priority habitat) – Poor Condition Species List

Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance / %	Comments
EP1 Pond Edge Mix			
Wild angelica	*Angelica sylvestris*	1	
Grey sedge	*Carex divulsa ssp divulsa*	1	
Common knapweed	*Centaurea nigra*	2.4	
Crossword	*Cruciate laevipes*	0.8	

Wild teasel	*Dipsacus fullonum*	0.6	
Hemp agrimony	*Eupatorium cannabinum*	0.1	
Meadowsweet	*Filipendula ulmaria*	1.7	
Hedge bedstraw	*Galium album*	1	
Water avens	*Geum rivale*	0.6	
Hedgerow cranesbill	*Geranium pyreniacium*	0.2	
Yellow iris	*Iris pseudocorus*	4	
Meadow vetchling	*Lathyrus pratensis*	0.8	
Purple loosestrife	*Lythrum salicaria*	0.5	
Gypsywort	*Lycopus europaeus*	0.2	
Corky-fruited water drop-wort	*Oeanthe pimpinelloides*	0.2	
Ribwort plantain	*Planago lanceolata*	0.6	
Selfheal	*Prunella vulgaris*	0.2	
Meadow buttercup	*Ranunculus acris*	1	
Red campion	*Silene dioica*	2.8	
Ragged robin	*Silene flos-cuculi*	0.7	
Common bent	*Agrostis capillaris*	4	
Swet vernal	*Anthixanthum odoratum*	4	
Grey sedge	*Carex divulsa sibsp. Divulsa*	1.6	
Crested dogstail	*Cynosurus cristatus*	34.40	
Tufted hairgrass	*Deschampsia cespitosa*	1.6	
Red fescue	*Festuca rubra*	20	
Meadow barley	*Hordeum secalinum*	4	
Rough-stalked meadow grass	*Poa trivialis*	8	
Tall fescue	*Schedonorus arundinaceus*	2.4	
Marginal Aquatic planting			
Yellow iris	*Iris pseudocorus*	20	
Soft rush	*Juncus effusus*	20	
Water forget me not	*Myositis scorpiodes*	20	

Marsh marigold	*Caltha palustris*	20	
Greater pond sedge	*Carex riparia*	20	

Other Woodland - Broadleaved (Medium Distinctiveness)

Table 15: Other Woodland - Broadleaved (Medium Distinctiveness) Prescriptions

Target Habitat:		Ponds (non-priority habitat) – Moderate Condition				
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Targeted score**	**Relevant Parcels**	**Creation Approach**	**Enhancement Approach**	**Management Approach**
1	Age distribution of trees	1	Labelled as 6 in Appendix 1	An area of broadleaved woodland is proposed in the south of the site within the extensive open space. This habitat is targeted to score 25 (poor condition).	N/A	*Establishment* Proposed planting will use the species outlined within the accompanying soft landscaping scheme, including a mix of field maple (*Acer campestre*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*), pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) Planting will follow the accompanying detailed planting plan (BG24.292, August 2024) and should be conducted in early spring, planting approximately 1m apart. Any dead or dying plants should be removed and replaced during the next available planting season. Stock will be, as far as is reasonably possible, locally sourced and of appropriate local provenance (as defined by Forestry Commission Practice Note [1999] Using Local Stock for Planting Native Trees and Shrubs) [Local Provenance Regions 304 or 403 - regions ordered by preference, most preferable – least preferable]. The ground layer will be seeded with EM2 mixture and managed as detailed in Table 7.
2	Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	2				
3	Invasive plant species	3				
4	Number of native tree species	3				
5	Cover of native tree and shrub species	2				
6	Open space within woodland	3				
7	Woodland regeneration	1				
8	Tree health	3				
9	Vegetation and ground flora	1				
10	Woodland vertical structure	2				
11	Veteran trees	1				
12	Amount of deadwood	1				
13	Woodland disturbance	2				

Table 16: Other Woodland (Broadleaved) – Poor Condition Species List

Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance / %	Comments
Field maple	*Acer campestre*	5%	
Silver birch	*Betula pendula*	13	
Dogwood	*Cornus sanguinea*	5	
Hazel	*Coryllus avellana*	5	
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*	13	
Wild cherry	*Prunus avium*	12	
Bird cherry	*Prunus padus*	11	
Sessile oak	*Quercus petraea*	8	
Pedunculate oak	*Quercus robus*	18	

Individual Trees (Urban Trees)

Table 17: Individual Trees (Urban Trees) Prescriptions

Target Habitat:		Individual Trees (Urban Trees) Poor Condition				
Condition Assessment Criteria		Targeted	Relevant Parcels	Creation Approach	Enhancement Approach	Management Approach
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	Yes	Appendix 1	Scattered native trees will be planted following the areas indicated within the detailed planting plan (BG24.292, August 2024)	N/A	Tree stakes will be used to support newly planted whips, boarded by biodegradable tree guards to protect during establishment. Sufficient manual watering and tie checks will be conducted at regular intervals to promote establishment. In the first year of establishment, from May until September young trees will be watered with 5-10L of water, supplied once per week.
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	No				
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	No				
D	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	No				

	regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.					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. Any dead or dying plants will be removed and replaced during the next available planting season. 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.
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No				
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	No				

Table 18: Individual Trees (Urban Trees) Species List

Common Name	Scientific Name	Number of specimens	Comments
Common alder	*Alnus glutinosa*	18	
Common silver birch	*Betula pendula*	23	
Common hornbeam	*Carpinus betulus*	25	
Common hazel	*Coryllus avellana*	4	
Common crab apple	*Malus sylvestris*	28	
Wild cherry	*Prunus avium*	51	
Pedunculate oak	*Quercus robur*	12	

Mixed Scrub (Medium distinctiveness)

Table 19: Mixed scrub (Medium distinctiveness) Prescriptions

Target Habitat:		Mixed Scrub - Poor Condition				
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Targeted**	**Relevant Parcels**	**Creation Approach**	**Enhancement Approach**	**Management Approach**
A	"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). - At least 80% of scrub is native, - There are at least three native woody species, - No single species comprises more than 75% of the cover (except hazel *Corylus avellana*, common juniper *Juniperus communis*, sea buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides* or box *Buxus sempervirens*, which can be up to 100% cover).	Yes	Labelled as 7 in Appendix 1	Patches of mixed scrub are proposed with areas of open space, targeted to achieve 'poor' condition. This has been included within the revised metric as no scrub was previously proposed.	N/A	*Establishment* Planting should 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, hawthorn and dogwood proposed for coppicing should be cut back annually to prevent them becoming dominant. 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. *Management* Prune annually to prevent woodiness, remove dead branches and promote a dense bushy structure. Shrubs such as hazel, hawthorn and dogwood proposed for coppicing should be cut back annually to prevent them becoming dominant.
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran) shrubs are all present.	Yes				
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species4 (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and species indicative of suboptimal condition make up less than 5% of ground cover.	No				
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	No				
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	No				

Table 20: Mixed Scrub – Poor Condition Species List

Common Name	Scientific Name	% abundance	Comments
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*	30	
Dogwood	*Sabucus nigra*	20	
Blackthorn	*Prunus spinosa*	15	
Dog rose	*Rosa canina*	10	
Elder	*Sambucus nigra*	15	
Guelder rose	*Viburnum opulus*	10	

Table 21: Native Species Rich Hedgerow (Medium Distinctiveness) Prescriptions

Target Habitat:		Species Rich Native Hedgerow– poor condition				
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Targeted**	**Relevant Parcels**	**Creation Approach**	**Enhancement Approach**	**Management Approach**
A1	>1.5 m average along length (Height)	Yes	Labelled as H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, H6, H9, H10, H11, H12, H13, H14, H15, H16 and H17 in Appendix 1	Species rich native hedgerows are to be planted across the scheme in line with the detailed planting plan (BG24.292, August 2024)	N/A	*Establishment* A staggered double row of trees and shrubs will be planted, with 0.3m centres and a 0.3m offset. These shall consist of 40-60cm transplants. This general pattern would be subject to local variation to reflect conditions. It has been conceived in order to generate a multi-layered functional hedge to achieve a planting specification that is expected to have a reasonably high survival rate. The smaller containerised trees will provide low level cover and are likely to have a better survival rate and to grow more rapidly following establishment. The larger trees will provide immediate height but will grow more slowly following establishment. The trees will be, as far as is reasonably possible, locally sourced and of appropriate local provenance (as defined by Forestry Commission Practice Note [1999] Using Local Stock for Planting Native Trees and Shrubs) [Local Provenance Regions 304 or 403 - regions ordered by preference, most preferable – least preferable].
A2	>1.5 m average along length (Width)	No				
B1	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	No				
B2	"Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m"	Yes				
C1	">1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least)."	No				
C2	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	No				
D1	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA3) and recently introduced species.	Yes				

Target Habitat:		Species Rich Native Hedgerow– poor condition				
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Targeted**	**Relevant Parcels**	**Creation Approach**	**Enhancement Approach**	**Management Approach**
D2	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	Yes				Tree stakes should be used to support newly planted whips, boarded by bio-degradable tree guards to protect during establishment. Feathered whips will be protected by a mulch mat, e.g. c.1m2 Hemcore Biomats (or similar). Biomats are fully biodegradable and will reduce the need for post restoration watering and weed control. Tubex (or equivalent) tree shelters will be used to protect trees from rodent and rabbit damage and held in place by a bamboo stake. *Management* Undertake formative pruning on an annual basis to encourage growth and a dense structure to the hedgerow. In years 1 and 2, the formative pruning needs to comprise of the central plant leader to be clipped to a height of two-thirds of its annual growth, with the remainder of the hedge trimmed to an A-shape. Hedgerows to be maintained at a minimum height of 1.5m and all pruning operations to be undertaken in line with good horticultural practice and current standards. The hedgerows need to be inspected quarterly and any dead, dying, damaged or diseased plants recorded/reported. These defective plants are to be removed and replaced with stock of the same species, size and form of that originally planted (or a suitable alternative as agreed with the Local Planning Authority) during the next available

Target Habitat:		Species Rich Native Hedgerow– poor condition				
Condition Assessment Criteria		Targeted	Relevant Parcels	Creation Approach	Enhancement Approach	Management Approach
						planting season (November to March inclusive) and in line with BS8545 (British Standards Institute, 2014). Prior to any replacement works, the cause of death of the plant must be identified and any notifiable pests and diseases reported to the relevant authorities and treated accordingly. The hedgerows need to be monitored and managed to ensure that the original planting composition is retained.

Table 22: Native Species Rich Hedgerow – Poor Condition Species List

Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance / %	Comments
Field maple	*Acer campestre*	20	
Hazel	*Coryllus avellana*	30	
Blackthorn	*Prunus spinosa*	30	
Dog rose	*Rosa canina*	10	
Guelder rose	*Viburnum opulus*	10	

Table 23: Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees (High Distinctiveness) Prescriptions

Target Habitat:		Species Rich Native Hedgerow with trees – Moderate condition				
Condition Assessment Criteria		Targeted	Relevant Parcels	Creation Approach	Enhancement Approach	Management Approach
A1	>1.5 m average along length (Height)	Yes	Labelled as H7 and	Species rich hedgerow with	N/A	*Establishment*

Target Habitat:		Species Rich Native Hedgerow with trees – Moderate condition				
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Targeted**	**Relevant Parcels**	**Creation Approach**	**Enhancement Approach**	**Management Approach**
A2	>1.5 m average along length (Width)	Yes	H8 in Appendix 1	trees shall be planted in the southern area of open space in line with the detailed planting plan (BG24.292, August 2024).		A staggered double row of trees and shrubs will be planted, with 0.3m centres and a 0.3m offset. These shall consist of 40-60cm transplants. This general pattern would be subject to local variation to reflect conditions. It has been conceived in order to generate a multi-layered functional hedge to achieve a planting specification that is expected to have a reasonably high survival rate. The smaller containerised trees will provide low level cover and are likely to have a better survival rate and to grow more rapidly following establishment. The larger trees will provide immediate height but will grow more slowly following establishment. The trees will be, as far as is reasonably possible, locally sourced and of appropriate local provenance (as defined by Forestry Commission Practice Note [1999] Using Local Stock for Planting Native Trees and Shrubs) [Local Provenance Regions 304 or 403 - regions ordered by preference, most preferable – least preferable]. Tree stakes should be used to support newly planted whips, boarded by bio-degradable tree guards to protect during establishment. Feathered whips will be protected by a mulch mat, e.g. c.1m2 Hemcore Biomats (or similar). Biomats are fully biodegradable and will reduce
B1	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	Yes				
B2	"Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m"	Yes				
C1	">1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least)."	Yes				
C2	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	No				
D1	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and recently introduced species.	Yes				
D2	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	Yes				
E1	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present	No				

Target Habitat:		Species Rich Native Hedgerow with trees – Moderate condition				
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Targeted**	**Relevant Parcels**	**Creation Approach**	**Enhancement Approach**	**Management Approach**
	(for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.					the need for post restoration watering and weed control. The trees designated to become standards will have the tree stake marked and not subject to management to allow to form a standard shape.
E2	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	No				Tubex (or equivalent) tree shelters will be used to protect trees from rodent and rabbit damage and held in place by a bamboo stake. *Management* Undertake formative pruning on an annual basis to encourage growth and a dense structure to the hedgerow. In years 1 and 2, the formative pruning needs to comprise of the central plant leader to be clipped to a height of two-thirds of its annual growth, with the remainder of the hedge trimmed to an A-shape. Hedgerows to be maintained at a minimum height of 1.5m and all pruning operations to be undertaken in line with good horticultural practice and current standards. The hedgerows need to be inspected quarterly and any dead, dying, damaged or diseased plants recorded/reported. These defective plants are to be removed and replaced with stock of the same species, size and form of that originally planted (or a suitable alternative as agreed with the Local Planning Authority) during the next available planting season

Target Habitat:		Species Rich Native Hedgerow with trees – Moderate condition				
Condition Assessment Criteria		Targeted	Relevant Parcels	Creation Approach	Enhancement Approach	Management Approach
						(November to March inclusive) and in line with BS8545 (British Standards Institute, 2014). Prior to any replacement works, the cause of death of the plant must be identified and any notifiable pests and diseases reported to the relevant authorities and treated accordingly. The hedgerows need to be monitored and managed to ensure that the original planting composition is retained.

Table 24: Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees – Moderate Condition Species List

Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance / %	Comments
Field maple	*Acer campestre*	20	
Hazel	*Coryllus avellana*	30	
Blackthorn	*Prunus spinosa*	30	
Dog rose	*Rosa canina*	10	
Guelder rose	*Viburnum opulus*	10	
Trees			
Pedunculate oak	*Quercus robur*	2 specimens	
Field maple	*Acer campestre*	3 specimens	

5.3 Faunal Enhancements

5.3.1 The following faunal enhancements are to be integrated into the external walls of the scheme and plan detailing locations has been included in Appendix 2:

- 24 x Habibat 001 (or similar approved) bat boxes are to be integrated into the external walls of 10% of the proposed dwellings. Boxes to be positioned on a south/south-western elevation at a height of at least 5m.

- 8 x Habibat Sparrow boxes, 8 x Habibat Swift Boxes and 8 x Habibat Starling Boxes (or similar approved) are to be integrated into the external walls of 10% of the proposed dwellings. Boxes to be positioned on a north/north-eastern elevation at a height of at least 4m .

6 Habitat Monitoring Plan

6.1 Monitoring Strategy

6.1.1 The plan will 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. A rolling 5- year revision of the management plan should be conducted thereafter. Monitoring of habitats will be conducted at years 1, 2, 3 and 5 with a rolling 5-year monitoring schedule to ensure prescriptions remain relevant, and that predicted target conditions within the Biodiversity Net gain are being met. Reviews, monitoring and management of the site will be conducted for the operational lifetime of the development and for thirty years following completion of development to comply with the monitoring requirement of Biodiversity Net Gain.

6.2 Monitoring Reports

6.2.1 A monitoring report will be prepared for the LPA and submitted following the completion of habitat creation and initial enhancement works.

6.2.2 The organisation responsible for submitting the responsible works is to be determined upon finalisation. The organisation responsible for receiving and reviewing the reports will be Sheffield City Council. Reports will be submitted to the below approximate schedule in Table 25.

Table 25: Monitoring report schedule (All timings are approximate)

Project Year	Submission Month	Review Month	Comments
Year 2	September	November	
Year 3	September	November	
Year 4	September	November	
Year 5	September	November	
Year 10	September	November	
Year 15	September	November	
Year 20	September	November	
Year 25	September	November	
Year 30	September	November	

6.3 Monitoring Methods and Intervals

Table 26: Monitoring Methods and Intervals

Habitat Type	Monitoring Methods	Monitoring Interval	Timing
Enhanced Habitats			
Species Rich Native Hedgerow with trees – Moderate condition	Confirm number of species per 30m length. Measure average height and width along length of hedgerow. Measure gap at hedge base if present and presence of gaps along length make less than 10% Measure if present width of undisturbed understorey and list species present within understorey, asses if invasive or non native species are present. Record any signs of damage from public use or excessive management. Check health of trees for signs of damage, pests, decay.	Year 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30	May - August
Created Habitats			
Modified Grassland – Poor Condition	Undertake quadrat sampling to identify the habitat type that is establishing and then number of species per $m^{2.}$ Estimate percentage of bare ground, bramble and bracken cover. Collect a botanical species list across grassland to check against target species list	Year 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30	May - August
Other Neutral Grassland – Moderate Condition	Undertake quadrat sampling to identify the habitat type that is establishing and then number of species per m2. Estimate percentage of bare ground, bramble and bracken cover. Collect a botanical species list across grassland to check against target species list	Year 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30	May– August
Other Neutral Grassland – Poor Condition	Undertake quadrat sampling to identify the habitat type that is establishing and then number of species per m2. Estimate percentage of bare ground, bramble and bracken cover. Collect a botanical species list across grassland to check against target species list	Year 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30	May– August
Ponds (non priority) – Moderate Condition	Asses water quality for turbidity and signs of pollution. Confirm immediate surrounding habitat comprises moderate distinctiveness' or above for at least 10m from pond edge. Assess presence of duckweed, filamentous algae or non native plant or animal species or fish.	Year 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30	May– August
Ponds (non priority) – Poor Condition	Asses water quality for turbidity and signs of pollution. Confirm immediate surrounding habitat comprises moderate distinctiveness' or above for at least 10m from pond edge. Assess presence of duckweed, filamentous algae or non native plant or animal species or fish.	Year 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30	May– August

Habitat Type	Monitoring Methods	Monitoring Interval	Timing
Other Broadleaved Woodland (Poor Condition)	Record ages classes of trees present and number of storeys present, make species list of trees present and % of species distribution, record if any presence of invasive species. Record evidence of herbivore damage, signs of tree disease through fungus, pests or damage and presence of deadwood. Quadrat samples of the ground flora.	Year 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 30	May– August
Individual Trees – Urban Trees – Poor Condition	Measure diameter at breast height, check for evidence of damage by human activities, check vegetation presence at base of tree, check overall tree health, signs of disease or fungus.	Year 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 30	Unrestricted
Mixed Scrub – Poor Condition	Record number of woody species, and % proportions. Record number of ages classes (seedlings, saplings, young and mature) Record is any invasive non native species are present Record if ecotone is present along scrub edge Record presence of any glades or clearings within the scrub	Year 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30	May– August
Species Rich Native Hedgerow – Poor condition	Confirm number of species per 30m length. Measure average height and width along length of hedgerow. Measure gap at hedge base if present and presence of gaps along length make less than 10% Measure if present width of undisturbed understorey and list species present within understorey, asses if invasive or non native species are present. Record any signs of damage from public use or excessive management.	Year 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30	May– August
Species Rich Native Hedgerow with trees – Moderate condition	Confirm number of species per 30m length. Measure average height and width along length of hedgerow. Measure gap at hedge base if present and presence of gaps along length make less than 10% Measure if present width of undisturbed understorey and list species present within understorey, asses if invasive or non native species are present. Record any signs of damage from public use or excessive management. Check health of trees for signs of damage, pests, decay.	Year 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30	May– August

6.4 Site Wide Risk Register

6.4.1 The potential risks of habitats not meeting their targets condition assessment criteria are detailed below and provide a strategy for remedial measures to undertaken if they are found not to meet their targeted criteria.

Table 27: Habitat Creation and Management – Risk Register

Risk Identification Date	Habitat Type	Risk Factor	Trigger for Action	Remedial Measure
16/08/2024	Individual Trees	Newly planted trees failing to establish	Any tree found failing to establish during years 1-10	Monitoring of stakes to remain in place, watering regime adjusted to climatic conditions, use of appropriate signage to prevent public disturbance to trees.
16/08/2024	Modified Grassland	Erosion of amenity areas from public	More than 5% cover of bare ground recorded during years 1-30	Reseeding eroded areas and temporarily fenced off from pupils and public until grassland has re-established.
16/08/2024	Other Neutral Grassland	Failure to reach 9 species per metre square	Less than 9 species per metre square recorded during years 1-30	Scarify and seed with flower only mix such as EM2F
		Erosion of amenity areas from public	More than 5% cover of bare ground recorded during years 1-30	Reseeding eroded areas and temporarily fenced off from pupils and public until grassland has re-established.
16/08/2024	Broadleaved Woodland	Newly planted trees failing to establish	Any tree found failing to establish during years 1-10	Monitoring of stakes to remain in place, watering regime adjusted to climatic conditions, use of appropriate signage to prevent public disturbance to trees.
		Damage to newly planted trees by public	Tress found to be permanently damaged by public	Replace with same species, and provide additional tree protection such as temporary posts.
16/08/2024	Mixed Scrub	Failure of scrub specimens	Any scrub habitat found to be dead during monitoring	Review management regime, replant with replacement scrub specimens, assess need for additional protection measures such as fencing.

7 Prescriptions for Management Action and Proposed Work schedule

Management to establish habitats will be undertaken following standard practice and following the manufacturer's instructions. During establishment management should follow the prescriptions described in section 5. Once established from Year 2, prescriptions outlined within Table 28 will be followed for the perpetuity of the development.

Table 28: 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
Newly planted Trees															
Check guards and tree supports until established	Unrestricted	✓	✓	✓	✓										
Remove stakes and tree guards once establishment is deemed complete.	Unrestricted					✓									
Weed by hand around tree base	Apr/May	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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		✓	✓	✓	✓									

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
Safety checks and tree condition assessment undertaken on a 4-year rotation from establishment.	Unrestricted			✓				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grassland															
Spot treat or remove by hand any noxious weeds within grassland areas	March – April	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
EM2 Species rich grassland to be closely mown, cuttings to remain in situ for 1-7 days before removed from site. No more than half the area to be cut at any one time	August	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Amenity areas to be mown fortnightly during the growing season	March - October	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Check and repair eroded areas as required. Rotovate to 150mm, 100mm topsoil and reseed	May – September	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hedgerows															
Safety checks and tree condition assessment undertaken on a 4-year rotation from establishment.	Unrestricted				✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lay mature hedgerows on an 8 -15-year rotation.	November – February							✓			✓			✓	✓

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
Gap-fill hedgerow with specimens where necessary to encourage a thick hedgerow and prevent basal gaps.	October – March	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Flail hedgerow 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.	November – February			✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ponds															
Spot treat or remove by hand any noxious weeds within wetland areas.	Mar – April	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scrub and marginal vegetation to be managed to ensure encroachment does not exceed 50% shadow cover	September -November	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pond should be cleared of leaf fall and rubbish during the winter. Any debris should be left on the side of the pond to allow creatures to return to the pond.	November – February	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Where necessary control the spread of duckweed and blanket weed with a net or the prescriptions within section 5.	March – April	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Woodland															

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
Control climbing plants such as ivy, and bramble. Cover will remain under 20%	Unrestricted	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Remove self-sown saplings and dispose.	Unrestricted	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maintain open areas and remove scrub as necessary to provide clearings within the woodland	January - March				✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Monitor for presence of invasive species and treat as required.	May - September	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scrub															
Ongoing gap-filling with specimens where necessary to encourage a thick scrub layer and prevent basal gaps.	October - March		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

8 Monitoring Programme

The table below sets out time timeframe for the proposed monitoring outlined in section 5.4. Reports of monitoring habitat condition should be submitted to the LPA upon completion of the site visit at each interval.

Table 29: Monitoring Sub-programme

Ecological Receptor	Timing of Monitoring	Year 1	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
Monitoring of woodland, trees, scrub and hedgerows and assess against condition criteria	May – August		✓	✓		✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Monitoring of grassland and ponds and assess against condition criteria	May – August		✓	✓		✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

9 Details of the Organisation responsible for the implementation of the plan

9.1.1 The owner (Persimmon Homes North Midlands) will be responsible for implementing the management associated this condition.

9.1.2 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 organisation implementing this plan will be undertaken by a management company 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

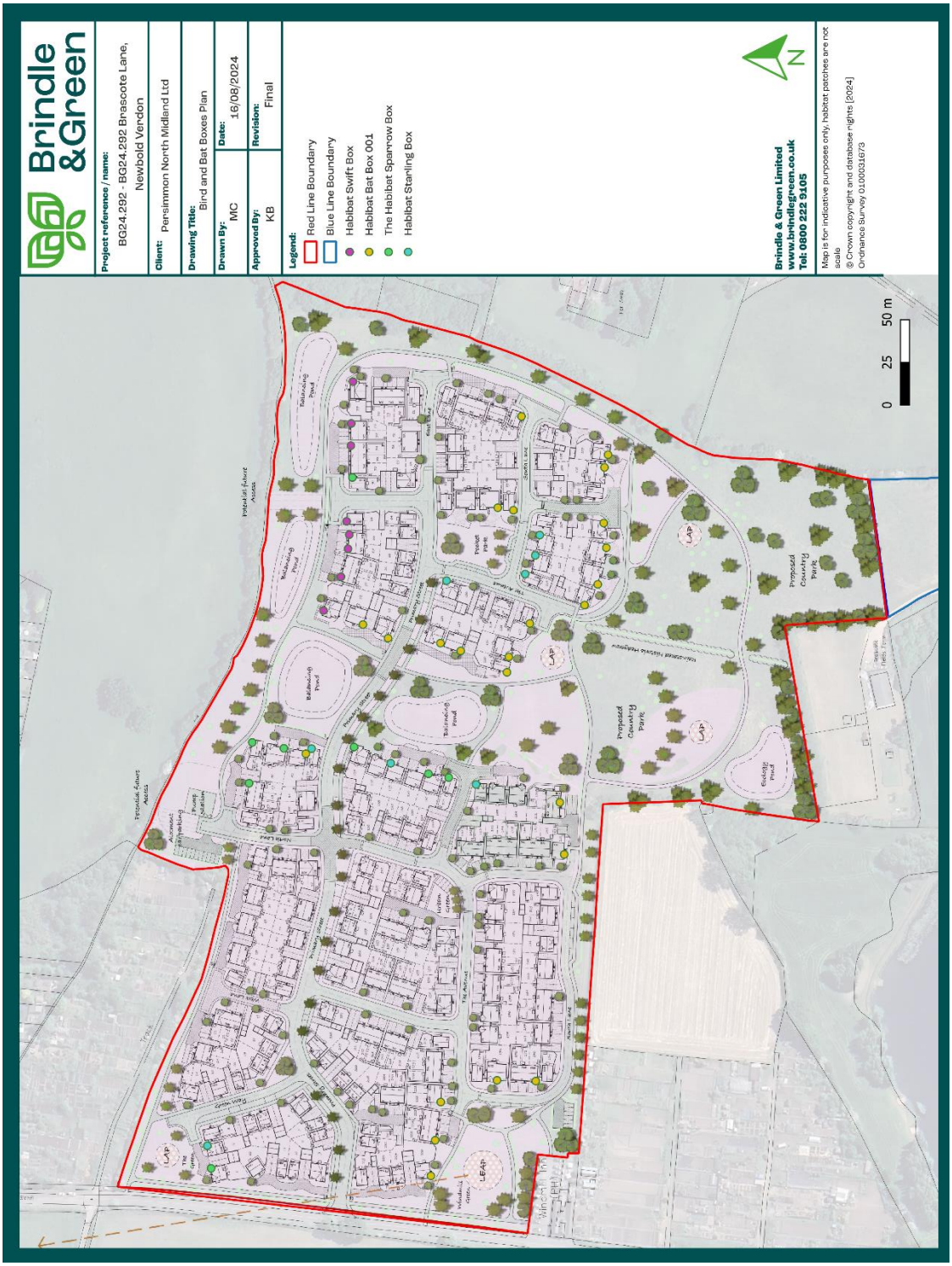
9.1.3 The management period of this plan is 30 years. In order to ensure that the plan continues to remain appropriate, applicable and effective, a review will be undertaken by both the landowner, and the controlling authority, to ensure that all information contained within the document remains relevant. 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 conservation aims 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

9.1.4 The controlling authority are Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, who should be consulted on any matters relating to the existing trees and the approved proposals for the scheme.

Appendix 1. Location Plan of Areas to be used for BNG

Appendix 2. Bat and Bird Box Plan



Appendix 3. Target Habitat Conditions

Appendix 4. Construction Access Plan