

The Land South of the Lion and Fiddle

Biodiversity Mitigation and Enhancement Plan

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Johns Associated Ltd have been commissioned by Mrs. Joy Singer to produce a Biodiversity Mitigation and Enhancement Plan (BMEP) for the construction and operation of works on the land to the south of Lion and Fiddle, Trowbridge Road, Hilperton, Trowbridge, BA14 7QQ. This is to discharge Planning Condition 4 of the granted planning permission PL/2021/03253. The central Grid Reference of the Site is ST 87329 58944. A Location plan including the onsite redline boundary and offsite blueline boundary is presented as Figure 1.

The Planning Condition cannot be discharged until full details of Biodiversity Mitigation and Enhancement measures have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. In accordance with the approved Biodiversity Metric 2.0 Calculation Tool for Lion and Fiddle dated October 2021 (produced by Dr Stephen Dangerfield of Malford Environmental) the proposed plans will deliver a total of 0.06 habitat units resulting in a 5.8% BNG. This shall be achieved through the retention of hedgerows and woodland and the enhancement of poor condition modified grassland to good condition other neutral grassland.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN

The Plan shall be in accordance with the approved Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment 2.0 and with current best practice guidelines and shall include the following (as per condition 4 of PL/2021/03253):

1. An up-to-date UKHab habitat map for on-site proposed habitats.
2. Habitat Management Plan detailing the long-term management and protection measures for all retained habitats and species, including fencing and boundary details.
3. Long term aims and objectives for habitats (extents, quality) and species.
4. Detailed management prescriptions and operations for newly created habitats; locations, timing, frequency, durations; methods; specialist expertise (if required), specialist tools/machinery or equipment and personnel as required to meet the stated aims and objectives.
5. A detailed prescription and specification for the management of habitats within the Site including other neutral grassland and woodland.
6. Details of any management requirements for species-specific habitat enhancements.
7. Annual work schedule for at least a 20-year period (the time to target condition for other neutral grassland enhancement).
8. A list of activities and operations that shall not take place and shall not be permitted within the BMEP area (for example use of herbicides; disposing of grass cuttings / arisings in "compost" heaps on-site or in hedgerows (or other on-site waste disposal); routinely cutting ivy where there is no specific arboricultural justification; inappropriate maintenance methods; storage of materials; machine or vehicle access).
9. Detailed monitoring strategy for habitats and species, and methods of measuring progress towards and achievement of stated objectives.
10. Details of proposed reporting to the Local Planning Authority and proposed review and remediation mechanism.
11. Proposed costs and resourcing, and legal responsibilities.

The Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plan shall be implemented in accordance with the agreed details and timetable, and all habitats and measures shall be retained and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved details.

1.3 PERSONNEL

A Phase 1 ecological survey, BNG calculations and reporting was undertaken by Malford Environmental Consulting in February 2021.

Using the data and reporting provided within the full planning application, this BMEP was produced by Ellie Brine BSc (Hons) ACIEEM, a Consultant Ecologist at Johns Associates Ltd who has worked and studied within the environmental sector since 2015 and has a BSc (Hons) in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science. Ellie is an Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (ACIEEM) and holds a FISC Level 4.

1.4 SCOPE OF WORKS

This Biodiversity Mitigation and Enhancement (BMEP) should be read in association with the Ecology Survey and Mitigation Strategy (Malford Environmental Consulting, February 2021), drawing no. 2745-05 Live/Work Homes for Life – Plans, Elevations & Site (Ashely Design) (Appendix A), the post-development UKHab Plan (Appendix B) and the Biodiversity Metric 2.0 Calculation Tool for Lion and Fiddle dated October 2021, produced by Dr Stephen Dangerfield of Malford Environmental.

This BMEP describes a scheme of habitat protection, creation, and enhancement, and the subsequent management and monitoring that is required to ensure that the ecological and landscape framework is sustained, such that all benefits to ecological biodiversity and visual amenity are delivered successfully.

The BMEP therefore serves as a handbook for future landscape and ecological management and monitoring following the construction phase and considers the whole of the proposed planning application area.

The BMEP includes the following:

- Description and evaluation of features to be managed, as contained in the Post-Development UKHab Plan, Johns Associates Ltd, October 2025 (Appendix B).
- Appropriate management actions for achieving the aims and objectives.
- Preparation of a typical work schedule (including an annual work plan capable of being amended for future use).
- Body or organisations responsible for implementation of each element of the plan.
- Monitoring and review measures.
- Timeframe for reviewing the plan.

It provides details of the required maintenance, management, and monitoring of all retained, newly created and enhanced habitat areas within the application site, as outlined below. The management prescriptions shall be implemented in full in accordance with the approved details.

This BMEP covers the period of ongoing monitoring, maintenance and management associated with the construction and operational phases of the proposed development at the land to the south of the Lion and Fiddle, Trowbridge Road, Hilperton, Trowbridge, BA14 7QQ to achieve the calculated Biodiversity Net Gain at the site of at least 0.06 habitat units following the initial 12-month implementation and establishment phases. Any replacement planting to be carried out during the period of this BMEP will follow the Site Layout Plan specification forming part of the proposals unless otherwise agreed.

The BMEP will be reviewed and updated as necessary following ongoing monitoring visits throughout the implementation stages of the proposed development, in consultation with Wiltshire Council.

1.5 SITE ROLES/SUPERVISION

Mrs. Joy Singer holds the overall responsibility for the adoption and implementation of this BMEP and will be contractually obliged to adhere to the following prescriptions through a Section 106 Agreement. The management, monitoring and maintenance regimes for the Site, as specified in this document, will be carried out by a suitably experienced landscape contractor appointed by Mrs. Joy Singer and overseen by a suitably qualified ecologist (SQE), as required: these are collectively referred to as the client representative (CR). Appointments are to be agreed.

Where the appointed landscape contractor may have concerns regarding maintenance of any areas within the site, this must be discussed and agreed with the CR prior to carrying out any works. Mrs. Joy Singer has overall responsibility for all health and safety matters required for ecological and landscape maintenance operations within the site. Site specific Risk Assessment and Method Statements (RAMS), evidence of suitable training and qualifications, insurance cover and use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other required equipment will need to be provided by all organisations/ individuals implementing the works set out in this BMEP, which will be reviewed and approved by Mrs. Joy Singer in advance of works being undertaken.

It shall be the landscape contractor's responsibility to request all relevant and up to date details regarding any protected species identified on site, and to ensure that all operatives are fully trained and aware of their obligations regarding legally protected species. Extreme care must therefore be taken to ensure that no maintenance/management works are carried out on site that will adversely affect protected species without prior discussions with the SQE/CR.

Where the contractor identifies the presence of species thought to be of importance and previously unidentified on site, they shall immediately stop work and contact the SQE/CR.

Ecological condition assessments of new habitat areas will be conducted in years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, and 20 post implementation and a monitoring report for the Site will be submitted to Wiltshire Council with actions for the next 12-month period following each monitoring visit. The report will include representative photographs and plans of habitat areas to demonstrate compliance with the BMEP. Further details of the proposed Monitoring Strategy are provided in Section 6 of this BMEP.

These reports will identify all actions taken and will identify where deviations have been made and why. The reports will include the results of Defra Metric Condition Assessments to demonstrate progress towards the target habitat conditions.

1.5.1 Deviation from Approved Drawings

Where any deviation from the specification/drawings occurs, consultation will first be made with Wiltshire Council. It is the landscape contractor's responsibility to request all relevant details prior to carrying out any maintenance operations in these areas.

1.6 DOCUMENT REVIEW

To ensure that the Plan continues to remain appropriate, applicable, and effective, a review will be undertaken every 5 years by both the CR and Wiltshire Council to ensure that all information contained within the document remains relevant.

Monitoring of all semi-natural habitats will be undertaken annually for the first 5 years post-construction, and a report will be prepared by the CR which will summarise the results of the monitoring and which will be submitted to the landowner/operator and Wiltshire Council.

Should it be determined that the aims of the Biodiversity Mitigation and Enhancement 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.

1.7 CONTROLLING AUTHORITY

The controlling authority is Wiltshire Council, who will be consulted on any matters relating to the approved proposals for the scheme.

1.8 HEALTH AND SAFETY

The CR will ensure that the Site is managed to comply with all relevant health and safety legislation, approved codes of practice (ACOP's) and Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance.

Figure 1: Site Location Plan



2 ECOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS

This Biodiversity Mitigation and Enhancement Plan sets out a range of suitable measures that will need to be implemented to safeguard both protected species and their associated habitats within the site boundary and immediately adjacent areas (where applicable). The ongoing management of the Site will therefore take account of these ecological receptors.

2.1 HABITATS

The site, including the adjacent off-site compensation area is 0.2 hectares in size and is located within the Hilperton suburb of Trowbridge, approximately 1 km northeast of Trowbridge Town Centre. Trowbridge Road and The Lion & Fiddle Hotel are located to the north of the site, with residential streets and agricultural fields present within the wider local landscape.

The habitats described within this document are as per the Ecology Survey and Mitigation Strategy (Malford Environmental Consulting, 2021). For continuity with current guidelines and condition assessments, the Phase 1 habitat classifications have been translated to UKHab V 1.0 habitat types.

The vehicle access right of way through the car park of the Lion and Fiddle and the majority of Development Plot 1 (to the north of the Site) comprises u1b6 hard standing. To the south of the site is an area of g4 modified grassland and w1g other broadleaved woodland. There are two short lengths of other native hedgerow to the east and west of the site.

2.2 PROTECTED SPECIES

Habitats and habitat features present within the site boundary and in immediately adjacent areas have the potential to support legally protected and/or notable species.

As per the Ecology Survey and Mitigation Strategy (Malford Environmental Consulting, 2021), the site has potential to support the following species:

- Reptiles – due to the presence of tussocky grassland, rubble piles and habitat connectivity to adjacent gardens
- Bats – foraging and commuting – due to the presence of boundary hedges and woodland
- Badger – the presence of an outlier sett and latrine was identified within the southern-most boundary of the woodland (40m south of Development Plot 2)
- Nesting birds – common birds were noted utilising the site and it is likely they nest within the woodland and hedgerows
- Amphibians – records of common toad within the area that may use ephemeral water features to breed

Bat and Bird Boxes are to be integrated within the building design.

2.2.1 Habitat Management & On-Site Vehicle Movements

Should trees, grassland, scrub or woodland habitat require management within the site, the following species must be considered during clearance, pruning, strimming, and/or mowing works and with respect to vehicle movements at the Site:

October/November to March/April (temperature dependent)

- Hibernating reptiles, amphibians and hedgehogs within tree/scrub roots, deep within rubble piles and/or holes in the ground. Hibernating bats in bat boxes.

March to August inclusive

- Nesting birds in hedgerows, trees, woodland and bird boxes.

March/April to October/November (temperature dependent)

- Active reptiles, amphibians and hedgehogs under hedgerows and in woodland edges. Bats in bat boxes.

Year Round

- Foraging/traversing badgers.

2.2.2 Avoidance Actions

Bats

Any potential roost features (PRFs) and bat boxes present to be checked for roosting bats by a bat licensed SQE prior to works to trees with suitable holes, cracks, and/or crevices or artificial bat boxes present.

All species of British bat are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

Nesting Birds

The habitats within and adjacent to the site (particularly other broadleaved woodland and other native hedgerows) provide suitable nesting habitat for a range of common breeding birds. Works over the period covered by this BMEP that disturb bird boxes and/or the habitats listed above should be undertaken outside of the bird breeding season (1st March – 31st August inclusive).

If works are necessary during the breeding season, potential bird nesting habitat will be inspected by a SQE no more than 48 hours prior to works commencing and the appropriate level of avoidance applied prior to any works to avoid disturbance of nesting birds which may be present. A suitable disturbance buffer will be implemented around the nest and no disturbing works will be conducted until the young have fledged the nest and the nest is confirmed by the SQE to be inactive (up to 8 weeks).

It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to willfully destroy or damage the nest of a wild bird while it is being built or is in use in any location.

Reptiles

To mitigate potential harm to individual slow worm that may be present, vegetation manipulation measures will be implemented to reduce the suitability of the site for reptiles and to encourage them towards the eastern section of the site. The vegetation clearance works will be completed under the supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist or ecological clerk of works (ECOW).

These measures will include:

- Southern section of the site to be retained in suitable condition for potential reptile population.
- Directional two-phase cutting of the vegetation initially to 15 cm (from northern boundary to southern boundary) to reduce vegetation height.
- A fingertip search of the Site will be conducted prior to the second cut of vegetation by a suitably qualified ecologist.
- A second cut will then be conducted within 48 hours of the first and following the fingertip search. Vegetation will be cut to ground level, to remove suitable refuge areas for reptiles.
- All arisings to be removed from the site.
- All waste and construction materials will be stored either raised on pallets in areas of hardstanding, within skips, or removed from the Site, to avoid the creation of suitable artificial refuge or hibernacula (in winter) for reptiles during construction phases.

3 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND PRESCRIPTIONS (YEARS 1-5)

This Biodiversity Mitigation and Enhancement Plan aims to manage both existing habitat/vegetation types to be retained and enhanced and newly created habitats within the site (described below) in order to allow them to develop and thrive whilst introducing the additional landscape and biodiversity net gain elements associated with the proposals.

The management objectives for habitats within the site are:

- To preserve and enhance the existing ecological value of the habitats to be retained to the south of the Site boundary.
- To create and maintain new habitats within the site to achieve the calculated Biodiversity Net Gain (at least 0.06 habitat units).
- To monitor, manage and remediate each habitat as per the specifications outlined in Sections 4 and 5 of this BMEP in Years 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

3.1 PRE-CONSTRUCTION

The retained grassland and woodland to the south of the site should be separated from the construction area through the erection of protective fencing. The grassland to be removed to facilitate the development should be cut down completely and cleanly to 15 cm. Tall herb and tussocky grass (if applicable) will be subject to a phased cut (see Section 2.2.2) as a precautionary method to avoid injury to protected species such as reptiles.

- First cut the grass to a height of 15cm. Cut vegetation will be raked or blown from the works area into a small number of piles outside of the working area working from the centre to the edge. Arisings should then be removed from areas that will be affected by construction.
- The area will then be left to settle for at least 24 hours to allow reptiles to move away from this works area.
- The area will then be inspected by a suitably qualified ecologist to confirm no reptiles remain.
- A subsequent cut to ground level (within the working area) with arisings being removed from areas that will be affected by construction. Vegetation maintained with a short sward height until construction works commence.
- The vegetation will be maintained in an unsuitable condition by strimming for the duration of the works, not being allowed to grow more than 5cm tall, and inspected weekly during the growing season by the construction manager with a periodic inspection by the project ecologist.

3.2 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

3.2.1 Responsibilities

The BMEP will be implemented by Mrs. Joy Singer who will be responsible for its delivery including coordination of inputs as prescribed/necessary including by the appointed landscape contractor, and ecologist etc.

Maintenance and management operations are to be undertaken in such a way as to allow healthy plants to develop, and habitats to establish unhindered by weed growth or other inhibiting factors to deliver the landscape and ecological objectives for the site.

3.2.2 Timescale

The following operations are those required for the first 5 years following creation/enhancement works. The management prescriptions are described in the text below. The management prescriptions cover both the retained vegetation and new areas of planting as part of the proposed development. The scope of the BMEP (management objectives and prescriptions) are to be reviewed annually to ensure that the overall vision for the site as set out above is being delivered.

3.2.3 Management

Management of the habitat areas shall be undertaken by an experienced landscape maintenance contractor. Maintenance visits shall be undertaken, at a minimum, once monthly throughout the year or as otherwise agreed/required. Visits may need to be increased at certain times of the year to enable the operations set out in this management plan to be properly executed.

The appointed landscape contractor shall programme and vary their agreed time of visits to coincide with appropriate weather conditions for carrying out operations, with regard to the use of chemicals and the mowing of grassland areas, as required.

3.3 BIOSECURITY & LOCAL PROVENANCE

In the interest of biosecurity, replacement trees will not be imported directly from European suppliers and planted straight into the field, unless they have appropriate certification that they are 100% disease free and have come from an area with no known horticultural diseases. If disease free certification is not possible, the trees shall have spent a full growing season in quarantine, in a British nursery to ensure plant health and non-infection by foreign pests and diseases. This is a measure to address the threat of the introduction of pests and diseases from outside the UK. For current advice refer to DEFRA website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/importing-and-exporting-plants-and-plant-products>.

The landscape contractor must demonstrate local provenance sourcing of all native trees and shrubs where possible and appropriate to follow best practice to sustain regional biodiversity.

3.4 GENERAL (ALL AREAS)

3.4.1 Establishment Period (Post Practical Completion and 12 Month Defects Period)

The general intent of habitat management at the site is to ensure that the new planting and seeding works achieve successful establishment during this critical phase.

Maintenance and management operations are to be undertaken in such a way as to allow healthy plants to develop, unhindered by weed growth or other inhibiting factors.

The landscape contractor shall make themselves aware of all ecological constraints, drainage infrastructure and services prior to commencing maintenance operations.

3.4.2 Landscape Maintenance/Management Schedules

All landscape maintenance/management work is to be undertaken by an experienced/suitably qualified landscape contractor appointed by the CR.

Maintenance visits will typically be undertaken once monthly between October and March and twice monthly between April and September. A guide minimum number of 12 visits per year shall be undertaken.

The primary maintenance operations will include:

- Watering trees, shrubs, plants, and grass areas as necessary to ensure vigorous and successful establishment during the early years after planting/sowing.
- General pruning and trimming to ensure footways etc. are not obscured and to ensure plants develop appropriately according to their species.
- Checking and adjusting all shelter guards/tree stakes and ties at every maintenance visit during the first five years after planting. Remove when trees have established and these are no longer required.
- Removal of litter.
- Replacing plants that fail where required in the following planting season with the approved species. All planting will be inspected annually in late summer. Any dead, dying or diseased plants shall be removed and replanted according to the approved plan in the following planting season (November - March).
- Grass cutting and collection of arisings (see Grassland notes below).

3.4.3 Pesticides, Herbicides & Fertiliser

NB: No pesticides, herbicides, or fertilisers to be used in the ongoing management and maintenance of the other neutral grassland or woodland to the south of the site unless otherwise approved by the CR.

Where the use of pesticide/herbicide is deemed necessary for the removal of injurious or invasive species they are only to be used with prior agreement of the SQE/CR. Any pesticides/herbicides to be applied by appropriately certified contractors.

Detailed records of any such applications must be kept in accordance with relevant legislation. These records shall be available for viewing during normal working/office hours by any person wishing to see them.

3.4.4 Undesirable Species Control

Undesirable species control is to be kept to a minimum, and be restricted to hard standing areas, and those areas immediately adjacent to them unless otherwise specified. In all other areas, control is to be restricted to the control of injurious and invasive species, undesirable species and highly competitive weeds, unless otherwise instructed. When weeding, ensure that the methods used cause the minimum of damage to adjacent plants/vegetation, including trees and grass, as well as to animal species. Preferred method of removal of all encroaching scattered scrub/weeds is by mechanical methods or hand pulling weeds as required.

Hand Removal

Remove all undesirable species, including roots, by hand using hoes, trowels or forks, taking care to remove not more than a minimum quantity of soil, causing minimum disturbance to neighbouring plants and leaving the area in a neat, raked, clean condition.

Undesirable Species Cutting by Hand or Machine

Cut down completely and cleanly all undesirable grass, brambles, herbaceous growth, etc. to a maximum height of 7.5 cm. Tall herb and tussocky grass (if applicable) will be subject to a phased cut as a precautionary method to avoid injury to protected species such as reptiles.

- First cut the grass to a height of 15cm. Cut vegetation will be raked or blown from the works area into a small number of piles outside of the working area working from the centre to the edge. Arisings should then be removed and can be left in compost piles around the boundary of the site and away from well-used areas.
- The area will then be left to settle for at least 24 hours to allow reptiles to move from this works area.
- A subsequent cut to 5 cm and then to ground level with arisings being removed.

Cutting Around Tree and Plant Stems

Do not allow nylon filament rotary cutters or other mechanical tools closer than 100 mm to the stem of any tree or shrub to be retained. Complete operations close to stems using hand tools.

Herbicide Application

To be carried out only as a last resort. Application rate as per manufacturer's instructions. Remove arisings before applying.

Application of General Systemic Weedkiller only where required for invasive weed species and following approval of the SQE/CR.

Spray or spot-treat individual plants or whole colonies in April/May. Spot-treat new plants as they appear and re-treat in August/September as necessary. Application to be carried out as per manufacturers' recommendations. Apply herbicide in calm weather conditions and at the appropriate time of the year.

NB: General systemic weed killers will kill/ damage all plant matter that it touches. Care must be taken to cover any adjacent plant material with polythene or similar to protect it from spray drift.

3.4.5 Vegetation Clearance (if required)

Any vegetation clearance will avoid the bird nesting season (March-August, inclusive), otherwise pre-works checks will be undertaken by an SQE.

Groundworks/movement of soil/tree roots during the winter hibernation period (mid to late October to March) will be avoided to prevent harm to herptiles, and other legally protected and/or notable species that may be present.

3.4.6 Snow Removal

Remove snow from boughs of trees, etc. when necessary or when instructed by the SQE/CR.

3.4.7 Autumn Clearance

Collect excess accumulations of drifted leaves from planting and hard surfaces. Removal of leaves to be by the most efficient means. Care to be taken around existing planting. Arisings to be removed from site, unless distributed evenly as a mulch over suitable areas, following discussions with the SQE/CR.

3.4.8 Arisings

Unless otherwise specified, deal with arisings from operations as follows:

Biodegradable arisings

Remove to a designated recycling facility.

Grass cuttings and brash - where grass cuttings are to be boxed, remove them to a designated recycling facility. Where agreed with the SQE and/or Wiltshire Council, create piles from grass cuttings as reptile/hedgehog habitat along the edges of grassland adjacent to woodland habitat.

Leaf fall, branches and prunings

To be chipped and reused on site and/or removed to designated recycling area. Where appropriate create piles from leaf litter/small prunings in suitable areas for wildlife.

Litter and non-biodegradable arisings

Remove from site to designated recycling/refuse facilities.

3.4.9 Removal of Tree Guards

At year five after planting, or once plants are established, all tree stakes, ties, supports and shelters can be removed and disposed of (recycled/composted) off-site.

3.5 OTHER NEUTRAL GRASSLAND

3.5.1 Planting

The existing ground will be scarified after mowing to 'open up' the ground to optimise the important need for seed to soil contact. The grassland will be seeded soon after scarification with an appropriate species-rich mix during autumn, potentially incorporating species such as yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor* to support species diversity. Note that alternative spring-sowing will require vernalisation (exposure to prolonged cold) of the seed mixture to stimulate germination prior to seeding.

A grassland mix consisting of 80:20 grass to wildflower mix will be planted such as Wildflower & Grass Seed Mix: EM2 or EM4 80:20 grass to wildflower mix, as supplied by Emorsgate Seeds or equivalent and approved, sown at 4g/m². This should have a relaxed mowing regime to allow for the mix to establish with annual hay cuts to give the mix opportunities to flower. Certain areas should be cut back to allow for areas of high and low grassland to be maintained, to create a healthy sward as well as providing refuge for invertebrates.

3.5.2 Management

Initial establishment maintenance will require a modified cutting regime to help keep dominant or aggressive grass or weed growth from outcompeting the desirable sward species – likely to comprise more regular topping cuts to discourage excessive growth and overshadowing.

During the first year after sowing, the sward will be topped every 1-2 months (depending on growth rate), so that persistent weeds and dominant grass can be reduced to benefit the finer meadow species. Pernicious weeds such as dock, thistle and common nettle can be dug up using hand tools or at a last resort spot treated with an appropriate herbicide before they flower and set seed or establish in large stands.

Once established, grassland will be mown twice a year; once in July or August to give wildflowers time to set seed, and once in March/April as a topping cut to knock back dominant grass. Hay arisings from mowing will be left on the ground to dry and shed seed for 7-14 days and then removed off-site. Removing the arisings will lower the nutrient content of the soil over time, favouring a range of wildflowers and reducing competition from grasses which may otherwise come to dominate the sward. Annual mowing will also prevent the encroachment of scrub into the site.

3.5.3 Remediation

Reinstatement sowing for areas that have failed to establish and thrive, will be prepared for overseeding by cutting to reduce aggressive weed-growth. Subsequent scarification of the ground after mowing will then be conducted. Reinstatement areas will be overseeded soon after scarification with an appropriate species-rich mix during autumn, potentially incorporating species such as Yellow Rattle. Initial establishment maintenance will require a modified cutting regime to help keep dominant or aggressive grass or weed growth from outcompeting the desirable sward species – likely to comprise more regular topping cuts to discourage excessive growth and overshadowing.

4 LONGER TERM MANAGEMENT (YEARS 6-20)

4.1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The following section sets out broad management and maintenance tasks for the long-term care and protection of ecological features on-site. Given the dynamic nature of habitats and their ability to change over time, it is both inappropriate and impractical to set out a fixed and prescriptive set of management tasks to be implemented 'regardless of progress.' A key element of the plan is flexibility.

It is therefore considered that this plan should be reviewed every five years with any necessary changes to management documented within an updated BMEP. However, the recommendations for management discussed below will be broadly adopted during the management regime of years six to twenty and included within an updated BMEP as required.

4.2 HABITAT-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES

4.2.1 Woodland and Hedgerows

To ensure the long-term viability of all retained and planted trees on-site, and all newly planted trees and hedgerow planting, inspections will be undertaken every 5 years, with all recommended tree surgery works implemented in full within three months of the inspection, or within the next appropriate season.

Hedgerows will be managed to create bushy structures.

Hedgerows are to be managed on rotation with no more than one third, or one side, of a hedgerow cut in any one year.

Cutting should ideally be undertaken in January or February, but certainly between September to February inclusive to avoid the main bird breeding season.

Pruning

Deadwood provides ecological niches for invertebrate and as much as possible should be left on woody vegetation and trees. An assessment of the need for selective/formative pruning to remove any dead branches (only for H&S) should be made every 5 years with work carried out in the following winter or spring depending on species and undertaken to promote healthy new growth. Inspections and assessment are to be carried out by a suitably qualified arborist.

Where absolutely necessary, pruning/trimming is to be carried out to the highest horticultural standards using secateurs, approved mechanical hedge cutters and hand saws. Pruning/trimming will be undertaken so as to achieve a natural habitat.

Suckers are to be removed by cutting back to their source on the affected plant.

Thinning Works (to BS 3998 – 2010)

The need for selectively thinning the woodland in addition to the above items will be reviewed at the end of Year 10.

Likely management that is to occur will be the selective coppicing of hazel coppice stools to allow light penetration to the woodland floor and promote a diversity in age and structure.

Any selected trees and shrubs identified for removal will be cut down to c.300mm from the ground and the bark/cambium scarred over 50% of its surface with chainsaw.

Thinning, trimming and shaping will be conducted according to species, variety, season, state of growth and visual effect.

4.2.2 Grassland Areas

Assessment every year in years 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 post-development and then every 5 years to inform any required management actions within this area will be undertaken by a SQE and communicated to the CR. Intervention within this area is to be minimal to maximise its value to wildlife and as an amenity feature but may involve scrub removal, litter, debris, undesirable species removal and/or the control of invasive species.

Grassland will be mown twice a year; once in July or August to give wildflowers time to set seed, and once in March/April as a topping cut to knock back dominant grass. Hay arisings from mowing will be left on the ground to dry and shed seed for 7-14 days and then removed off-site. Removing the arisings will lower the nutrient content of the soil over time, favouring a range of wildflowers and reducing competition from grasses which may otherwise come to dominate the sward. Annual mowing will also prevent the encroachment of scrub into the site.

5 MONITORING STRATEGY

This BMEP has been prepared to ensure an appropriate long-term monitoring strategy covering all habitat areas and ecological features is implemented, and that these are maintained and enhanced for the 20-year period required for the creation and maintenance of habitat. As such it serves as a handbook for monitoring the site. The scheme of monitoring is focused on the key aspects of the ecological enhancement for the site.

The monitoring and management site visits will be conducted in Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15 and 20.

5.1 MONITORING SCHEDULE OBJECTIVES

The biodiversity requirements of the site are to create, maintain and enhance the habitats at the site to achieve the stated biodiversity net gain. This document refers in detail to the ecological requirements and specifications for the existing habitats and those to be created on site.

Specific monitoring (including BNG Condition monitoring) of:

- Grassland species abundance and composition – Modified and Other Neutral Grassland
- Existing areas of woodland habitat
- Existing native hedgerow

5.2 LONG-TERM MONITORING AIMS

- To monitor the site to ensure habitats become established and/or are managed appropriately achieve the target condition in order to preserve and enhance the existing biodiversity value.
- To monitor the site to confirm the biodiversity specifications and targets have been achieved as a result of the implementation of appropriate management and monitoring regimes.

5.3 MONITORING SPECIFICATIONS

5.3.1 Timing of Monitoring Site Visits

An initial site visit will be conducted immediately following completion of the construction works. This site visit will establish whether all ecological measures have been implemented. The CR will be notified of any remedial actions required at the site following this inspection. The post-construction habitats will be surveyed, vegetation species and abundances will be recorded, and the baseline condition established.

The subsequent monitoring site visits will be conducted starting one year post construction, in Monitoring Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15 and 20.

Monitoring visits will be conducted between May and June in the Monitoring Years.

Blank BNG habitat condition sheets to be completed during the habitat monitoring site visits can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides>.

5.3.2 Monitoring Compliance Reporting

An initial post-construction report will be produced and submitted to Mrs. Joy Singer and Wiltshire Council following implementation of any remedial actions that may be required and a second site visit conducted within 3 months of the first to inspect the remedial actions.

A Monitoring and Management Compliance Report will be produced/updated following each monitoring site visit and issued to the CR. The report will be issued to the LPA within 6 months of the site visit and following re-inspection

of the implementation of any remedial management actions or adaptations to the management regime required to enhance the condition of the habitats present.

The report will include the previous monitoring survey results in tables of abundances/population counts as appropriate so that any increase/decrease in abundances of species can be clearly monitored and remedial action taken if required.

5.4 MONITORING METHODOLOGY

5.4.1 Habitats

The on-site habitats will be classified following current UK Habitat Classification guidelines.

Habitat types will be assigned a primary code to a hierarchical level of at least three, and secondary codes will be used to further clarify the habitat and record additional information linked to the primary habitat such as habitat management. The full range of secondary codes will be used as necessary.

During the UKHab survey the condition of the habitats found within the site will be individually assessed using the habitat condition assessment criteria defined by DEFRA.

Where appropriate, maps will be supplemented with target notes which provide specific information on habitats present that are too limited in extent to map at the scale at which data is presented, or the presence of species and habitats of ecological interest.

An annotated habitat map together with descriptions of the recorded habitat types will be produced, which will be subsequently digitized using a geographical information system (ArcGIS). The survey will also include identification of any non-native invasive plant species. Flora taxonomy will follow the nomenclature detailed in New Flora of the British Isles (4th Edition) (Stace C., 2019), with any necessary future changes to be clearly stated in the subsequent monitoring report (for example, should subsequent editions become available). Flora, where appropriate, will be given a descriptive score of abundance using the DAFOR scale, as follows:

- D – Dominant
- A – Abundant
- F – Frequent
- O – Occasional
- R – Rare
- L – Locally (to be used as a prefix for any of the above)
- V – Very (to be used as a prefix for any of the above)

5.5 MONITORING SPECIFICATIONS

5.5.1 Grassland

- Monitor abundance of species using DAFOR and assess against the UKHab criteria for the habitat.
- To enhance and maintain the existing 'Modified Grassland' from Poor condition to 'Other Neutral Grassland' in Good condition as per the Defra Metric 2.0 Calculation Tool (Malford Environmental Consulting, 2021). Time to target condition is 15 years.
- Create and maintain diversity in structure and species of flora.

Grassland arisings will be removed from the site. The site will be seeded as necessary to increase the botanical species diversity within the grassland sward.

5.5.2 Woodland

- To maintain 'Other woodland; broadleaved' in Moderate condition as per the Defra Metric 2.0 Calculation Tool (Malford Environmental Consulting, 2021).
- Create and maintain diversity in age, structure and species of trees and shrubs.
- Create and maintain a diverse woodland ground flora.

An understory vegetation layer will be encouraged within the existing woodland area through suitable management. A more botanically diverse ground flora community will result from management including thinning of the woodland.

5.5.3 Hedgerows

- To maintain the 0.11 km of native hedgerow in poor condition as per the Defra Metric 2.0 Calculation Tool (Malford Environmental Consulting, 2021).

6 REMEDIATION MEASURES

The monitoring and management site visits will be conducted in Years 5, 10, 15 and 20. Additional site visits will be required 3 months after any remediation measures have been undertaken to assess the success or implement any further measures that may be required.

6.1 GRASSLAND

- Sowing a suitable seed mix two years prior to target condition if the condition is not likely to be met.
- Cut and remove grassland arisings one to two times prior to construction commencing.
- Overseeding.
- Late season cut if required (after grassland has gone to seed).
- Scarify to remove thatch build up.

6.2 WOODLAND/ INDIVIDUAL TREES

- Selective thinning, as required to improve condition.
- Scrub clearance.
- Planting ground flora if required to improve condition.
- Clearance of INNS and non-desirable species, under an appropriate Method Statement/licence, as required.
- Clearance of litter and removal of tree guards.
- Identifying deadwood to be retained (following H&S inspection by a Qualified Arboriculturist).
- Identifying trees that need replacement.

6.3 HEDGEROWS

- Gapping up with native species to increase diversity.
- Clearance of INNS and non-desirable species, under an appropriate Method Statement/licence, as required.
- Clearance of litter and tree guards.
- Identifying planted trees and shrubs that need replacement.

APPENDIX A – LANDSCAPE PLAN



NOTES

1. Perimeter Boundary Vegetation Retained and Incorporated into Scheme

REVISIONS	
REV	DATE
A	01/01/2021
B	01/01/2021
C	01/01/2021
D	01/01/2021

CLIENT

Mrs Joy Singer

PROJECT

Land to there of
of Lion & Fiddle
Hilberton
BA14 7GQ

DESCRIPTION

Live/Work Homes
For Life-Plans,
Elevations & Site

THE OLD FISH

Bath Road

Eastford on Avon

Wiltshire

Tel 01225 865220

Fax 01225 865220

ASHLEY

DESIGN

SCALE

1:100 & 1:250

DATE

February 2021

DESIGNED

RMS

CHECKED

DRAWING NUMBER

2745-05

REVISIONS

A	B	C	D
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APPENDIX B POST-DEVELOPMENT UKHAB HABITATS MAP



JOHNS
ASSOCIATES

- Ownership boundary
- Site Boundary
- g3c - other neutral grassland
- u1b5 - buildings
- u1b6 - other developed land
- u1c - artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- u1d - suburban mosaic of developed/natural surfaces
- w1g - other woodland, broadleaved
- h2a6 - other native hedgerow

CLIENT Joy Singer

PROJECT Lion and Fiddle BMEP

TITLE UKHabs Post Development Plan

SCALE @ A3	CREATED BY	CHECKED BY
1:500	AE	EB
REFERENCE	ISSUE/REVISION	DATE
J01848-002		22/10/2025

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