

HABITAT MANAGEMENT & MONITORING PLAN (HMMP)

Site: Land South of Cricklade, Farfield Lane, Cricklade, Wiltshire

Applicant: Lawrence Webb

Date: 28/11/2025

BNG Duration: 30 years

1. Purpose of the Plan

This Habitat Management & Monitoring Plan sets out how the habitats created and enhanced as part of the development will be maintained for a minimum of 30 years to ensure delivery of the predicted Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

The plan covers:

- Modified grassland management
- Newly planted rural trees (75)
- General ecological enhancement features (bird and bat boxes)
- Annual monitoring and reporting requirements

2. Summary of Habitats Covered by This Plan

Habitat Type	Area / Number	BNG Role
Modified grassland	0.08115 ha (approx.)	Habitat enhancement
Rural trees	75 trees	New habitat creation
Bird nest boxes	Number as installed	Additional ecological benefit (not counted in metric)
Bat boxes	Number as installed	Additional ecological benefit (not counted in metric)

No hedgerows or watercourses are created, removed, or enhanced.

3. Management Objectives

3.1 Modified Grassland

- Maintain grassland in **moderate condition or better**.
- Enhance species diversity through appropriate management.
- Prevent dominance of coarse/rank grasses.
- Prevent scrub encroachment.

3.2 Newly Planted Trees

- Establish all 75 trees with **>90% survival in first 5 years**.
- Maintain trees so they develop into healthy rural tree habitat.
- Protect trees from drought, machinery damage, and weeds.

3.3 Bird and Bat Boxes

- Maintain boxes in usable condition.
- Ensure safe, undisturbed placement and retention for 30 years.

4. Management Prescriptions

4.1 Modified Grassland - Management Actions

- **Cutting regime:**
 - One cut per year (late summer – July to September).
 - Remove all arisings to prevent nutrient build-up.
- **Optional additional cut:**
 - A spring cut (April/May) if growth is excessive.
- **Scrub control:**
 - Remove any saplings or brambles annually.
- **Fertiliser/chemicals:**
 - No fertilisers, herbicides, or pesticides to be used (except spot treatment for invasive species).
- **Invasive species control:**
 - Monitor for Himalayan balsam, ragwort, thistle, or docks; remove by hand or targeted treatment.

4.2 Rural Trees - Management Actions

- **Planting specification:**
 - Native species suitable for the local landscape.
 - Planted with stakes and guards.
- **Watering:**
 - Newly planted trees watered weekly April–September during first 2 years, or during dry periods.
- **Weed management:**
 - 1m weed-free circle around each tree, strimmed or mulched.
- **Guard inspection:**
 - Inspect twice per year and repair or replace as necessary.
- **Replacement:**
 - Any dead or failing trees replaced like-for-like in the next planting season.
- **Light pruning:**
 - Formative pruning in years 2–5.

4.3 Bird and Bat Boxes - Management Actions

- **Inspection:**
 - Boxes checked once per year outside breeding season (September–February).
- **Cleaning:**
 - Bird boxes cleaned annually.

- Bat boxes must NOT be cleaned or opened except by a licensed bat worker.
- **Maintenance:**
 - Replace damaged boxes as needed.
- **Retention:**
 - Boxes must remain in place for the full 30-year BNG period.

5. Monitoring Schedule

Monitoring must be carried out **annually** and a short report provided to the LPA every **5 years** or upon request.

5.1 What to monitor

- Grassland condition
 - Sward height, species diversity, scrub cover (<5%), absence of nutrient enrichment
- Tree establishment
 - Survival rate, growth, damage, water stress
- Tree guard/fencing condition
- Presence of invasive species
- Bird and bat box condition

5.2 Monitoring method

- Walkover survey each summer
- Photographic record from fixed-point locations
- Update on management actions completed that year
- Identify any required remedial actions

5.3 Corrective measures

If monitoring shows decline (e.g., <90% tree survival, poor grassland condition), the following actions must be taken:

- Increase watering/replacement planting
- Adjust cutting regime
- Implement targeted scrub removal
- Control invasive species

6. Responsibilities

Responsible Person:

Lawrence Webb

(or a qualified land manager / contractor appointed by him)

You are responsible for:

- Carrying out or commissioning management tasks
- Annual monitoring

- Replacing failed trees
- Submitting reports when required by the LPA

7. Duration

This plan must be implemented for **a minimum of 30 years** from the date the development is first completed, in line with statutory BNG requirements.

8. Summary

This Habitat Management & Monitoring Plan ensures:

- All on-site habitat enhancements are delivered
- Biodiversity Net Gain (+39.64%) is secured for 30 years
- Grassland and newly planted trees are managed to remain in target condition
- Ecological enhancements remain functional long-term

This HMMP forms part of the submitted BNG package for Land South of Cricklade.