

EEL982 Downland School – Biodiversity Gain Plan and Tree Planting Statement

Ellendale Environmental Limited was commissioned by CMS Group, on behalf of their client, to input into a Biodiversity Gain Plan by recommending tree species to be planted in an area of land at Downland School, Downlands Road, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 5EF ('the site'). Planning consent was granted by Wiltshire Council in September 2025 (application reference PL/2025/04263) for the partially retrospective installation of a temporary modular unit at the site to provide two additional classrooms with toilet facilities.

This document has been written to satisfy Condition 6 of the planning consent, relating to the Biodiversity Gain Plan, which states:

The effect of paragraph 13 of Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 is that planning permission granted for development of land in England is deemed to have been granted subject to the condition (biodiversity gain condition) that development may not begin unless:

- (a) a Biodiversity Gain Plan has been submitted to the planning authority, and*
- (b) the planning authority has approved the plan.*

The planning authority, for the purposes of determining whether to approve a Biodiversity Gain Plan, if one is required in respect of this permission would be Wiltshire Council.

There are statutory exemptions and transitional arrangements which mean that the biodiversity gain condition does not always apply. For further information on exempt developments please refer to:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-net-gain-exempt-developments>

Based on the information available this permission is considered to be one which will not require the approval of a biodiversity gain plan before development is begun because one or more of the statutory exemptions or transitional arrangements is considered to apply

A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment was previously undertaken for the site and submitted as part of the planning application; this indicated a net gain of **47.96%** for non-linear habitats, via the planting of 10 small trees. However, given the heavy disturbance at the site, it has been subsequently agreed that these trees will be planted on an area outside of the site's redline boundary in a space to the south, where tree planting has already taken place as part of a woodland school.

With respect to the species of these trees, it is recommended that fruiting and flowering tree species are planted within the area of the woodland school. This will increase biodiversity and provide flowers, fruits and seeds for a number of species throughout the year. The recommended tree species are shown in Table 1.

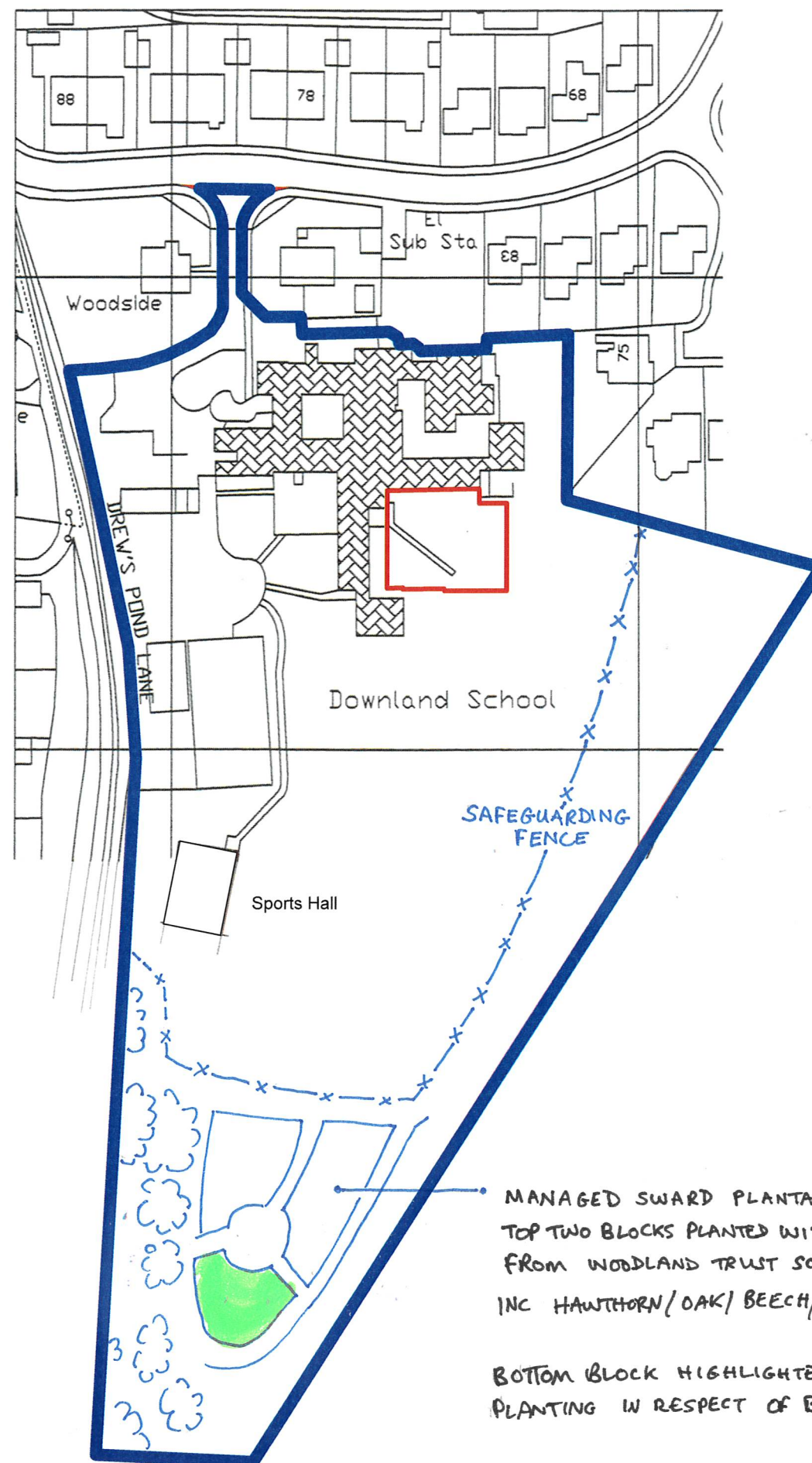
Table 1: Suggested species of trees to be planted within the woodland school

SPECIES	COMMON NAME	NATURE CONSERVATION
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	Hawthorn can support hundreds of other species and is the foodplant for caterpillars of many moths. Its flowers provide nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinating insects. The haws are eaten by migrating birds as well as small mammals. The dense, thorny foliage makes fantastic nesting shelter for many species of bird.
<i>Quercus robur</i>	English oak	Quercus 'robur' is known for attracting bees, beneficial insects, birds, butterflies/moths and other pollinators. It is a caterpillar food plant, has nectar/pollen rich flowers, provides shelter and habitat, has seeds for birds and makes a good wildlife hedge. This species will account for 20% of this native hedge mix.
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> (N)	European beech	Fagus 'Sylvatica' is known for attracting beneficial insects and birds. It is a caterpillar food plant, provides shelter and habitat, has seeds for birds and makes a good wildlife hedge. This species will account for 7% of this tree mix.
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver birch	Known for attracting bees, beneficial insects, birds, butterflies/moths and other pollinators. It is a caterpillar food plant, has nectar/pollen rich flowers, is used for nesting materials, provides shelter and habitat, has seeds for birds and makes a good wildlife hedge.
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	Known for attracting bees, beneficial insects, birds and butterflies/moths. It is a caterpillar food plant, has nectar/pollen rich flowers, provides shelter and habitat and has seeds for birds.



<i>Coryllus avellana</i>	Hazel	Hazel leaves provide food for the caterpillars of moths and butterfly. moths Its flowers provide nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinating insects. Hazel nuts are also eaten by birds and small mammals.
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	Provides dense evergreen shelter and nesting sites for birds; red berries are an important winter food source for birds such as thrushes and blackbirds; flowers offer nectar and pollen for bees and other insects.
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field maple	Field maple is attractive to aphids and their predators, including many species of ladybird, hoverfly and bird. Lots of species of moth, such as the mocha, feed on its leaves. The flowers provide nectar and pollen sources for bees and birds, and small mammals eat the fruits. Field maple is attractive to aphids and their predators, including many species of ladybird, hoverfly and bird. Lots of species of moth, such as the mocha, feed on its leaves. The flowers provide nectar and pollen sources for bees and birds, and small mammals eat the fruits.

Appendix A – Biodiversity Gain Plan



- Site Boundary: 76,612m²
- Proposed Temporary Modular Building Location: 528m²

MANAGED SWARD PLANTATION / GLADE ETC
TOP TWO BLOCKS PLANTED WITH TYPICAL UK SPECIES
FROM WOODLAND TRUST SCHEME / PURCHASED LARGER 'STANDARDS'
INC HAWTHORN / OAK / BEECH / HAZEL / ROWAN ETC

BOTTOM BLOCK HIGHLIGHTED - IDEAL FOR SUSTAINABLE
PLANTING IN RESPECT OF BNG IF LOCATION ELIGIBLE.

TENDER

No.	Date	Dr/Ch	Revision Notes
T01	06/08/2025	HG	Tender Issue.

Project Title
Downland School
Project Client
Wiltshire Council
Suitability
Code - Description
D1 SUITABLE FOR COSTING

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Date: 07/04/2025
Drawn By: HG
Reviewed By: PR

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Project ID - Originator - Volume - Level - Type - Role - Number
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Site Location Plan
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