
Land west of North Lodge, Codford St. Peter

Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

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Client: Mr R Payne
Report Ref: SEB3172_04 v3
Author: Emma Shaw
Reviewer: Kate Hayward
MCIEEM
www.seasonsecology.co.uk



1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Biodiversity Enhancement Plan (BEP) details the habitat and species-specific enhancement features to be created during and post-development at Land west of North Lodge, High Street, Codford St. Peter, Wiltshire, BA12 0NJ, (central grid reference: ST 96141 40161).
- 1.1.2 The site is the subject of a planning proposal for the construction of two dwellings, with associated access, vehicle parking and landscaping.
- 1.1.3 Species-specific biodiversity enhancement such as two integrated bat boxes within the two new dwellings, two attached swift boxes on the two dwellings, and creation of two reptile and amphibian hibernaculum (log/rock piles) are included within the proposal. Further habitat creation is also proposed on site, including the planting of numerous new lengths of species-rich native hedgerow to form the boundaries of the proposed new residential plots, as well as further native tree and shrub planting within the retained off-site woodland to the north-west. This habitat creation will benefit a range of species, including bats, birds, badger, hedgerow, other small mammals, reptiles and amphibians, and invertebrates.
- 1.1.4 Section 2 and 3 below provides specifications of the species-specific and habitat features to be created, and their locations are shown on the plan at Section 4. Species-specific feature management prescriptions and habitat management prescriptions are provided in Section 5.



2. Specific-Specific Enhancement Features

2.1 Bat Boxes

- 2.1.1 Two built-in bat boxes, such as the Vivara Pro Build-in Woodstone Bat Box (or similar to match the external wall material), will be installed onto the south-west elevations of the two new dwellings, at the roofline.

2.2 Bird Boxes

- 2.2.1 Two swift boxes, such as the Woodstone Swift façade nest box or similar, will be attached to the north-east elevation of the new dwellings, at the roofline.

2.3 Refuge/Hibernaculum

- 2.3.1 Two refuge/hibernacula are provided along the north-west site boundary, created pre-construction.

3. Habitat Features

3.1 Species-rich Native Hedgerows

- 3.1.1 New lengths of species-rich native hedgerows will be planted across both proposed residential plots, totalling a length of 135 meters (m). These hedgerows will form the new north-west, south-east and south-west garden boundaries of the two proposed dwellings, providing screening between the dwellings and the adjacent Priority Habitat Deciduous Woodland, as well as enhanced connectivity and providing foraging resources for local wildlife.
- 3.1.2 The hedgerows will be planted between November and March, as bare root or root-balled stock. If planting outside of the planting season, then containerised stock will be used.
- 3.1.3 A 1.5m wide strip will be prepared by removing existing tall herbs and ruderal vegetation through harsh and vigorous raking, or using a small digger, with removal of all arisings. Shrubs will be planted in double staggered rows, 40cm apart, with a minimum of five plants per metre, across all proposed hedgerow lengths.
- 3.1.4 Table 1 below provides the Planting Schedule for hedgerows.

Table 1: Hedgerow Planting Schedule

Composition	Common Name	Species Name
30%	Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
15%	Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
20%	Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
15%	Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>
20%	Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>



3.2 Broadleaved Woodland Enhancement

- 3.2.1 Due to the loss of tree canopy coverage on site, within an area of Priority Habitat Deciduous Woodland, provision of new woodland planting/enhancement across the retained north-west woodland (offsite) is included within the proposal. Eight larger tree species (4no. each of common lime and hornbeam) and twelve understorey shrub species (3no. each of field maple, hazel, hawthorn and spindle) will be planted scattered across the interior and boundaries of the retained woodland, amongst existing tree, shrub and deadwood/stump coverage. The proposed woodland planting will mitigate for the previous loss of Priority Habitat Deciduous Woodland, provide increased connectivity with the adjacent Priority Habitat Deciduous Woodland (bounding the A36) and provide optimal foraging, commuting and refuge resources for local wildlife.
- 3.2.2 The trees and shrubs will be planted between November and March when soil is in a friable condition, as bare root or root-balled stock. If planting outside of the planting season, then containerised stock will be used. Plant with spacings to achieve a naturalistic effect, avoiding grid or linear planting patterns.
- 3.2.3 A 1m diameter area at each location for planting will be prepared by removing existing tall herbs and ruderal vegetation through harsh and vigorous raking, or using a small digger, with removal of all arisings. Trees and shrubs will be planted with 'naturalistic effect' spacings, avoiding grid or linear planting patterns. Each tree/shrub is to be staked and fitted with a 1200mm high tree guard, to minimise damage from wild herbivores and small mammals (deer and vole).
- 3.2.4 Table 2 below provides the Planting Schedule for the retained off-site woodland.

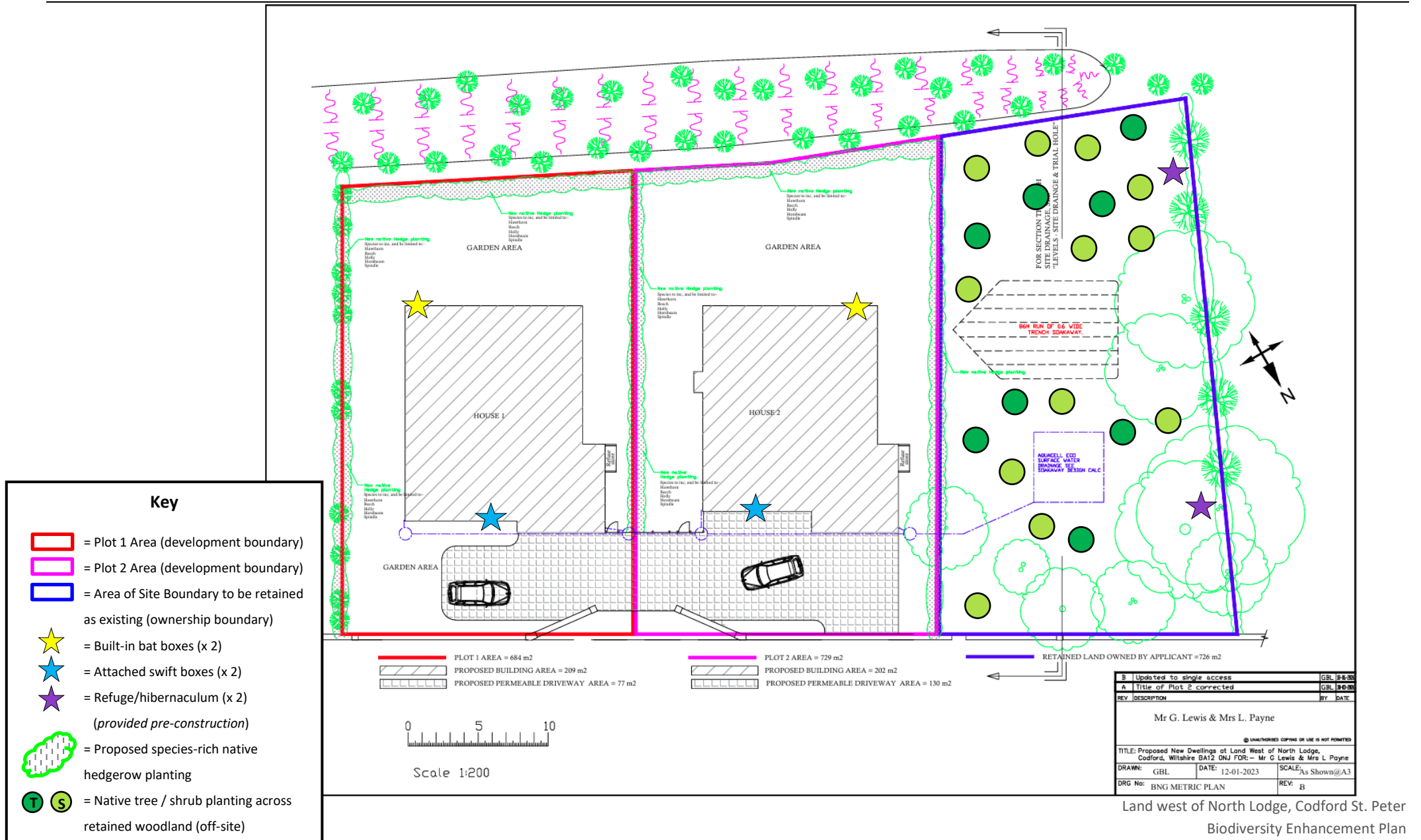
Table 2: Woodland Planting Schedule

No. of Specimens	Common Name	Species Name
4	Common lime	<i>Tilia x europaea</i>
4	Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>
3	Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
3	Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
3	Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
3	Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>

- 3.2.5 Section 4 shows the locations of species-specific biodiversity enhancements and the proposed hedgerows and woodland planting provided post-development. Section 5 details the long-term management prescriptions for these species-specific biodiversity enhancements and proposed hedgerows and woodland planting.



4. Biodiversity Enhancement Plan



5. Management Prescriptions

5.1 Management Prescriptions of Species-Specific Biodiversity Enhancements

Table 3: Management Prescriptions – Species-Specific Biodiversity Enhancements

Feature	Management/Monitoring	Timing	Frequency
<i>Refuges/Hibernacula</i>	Check of condition, evidence of water logging and repair/replace or relocate as necessary.	March to October	Annually
<i>Bat Roosting Features</i>	Condition check of bat boxes. If replacement is required, seek advice from a Licensed Bat Ecologist before removal.	November to February	Annually
<i>Bird Nesting Features</i>	Ground check condition of nest boxes and repair/replace as necessary.	Anytime	Annually
	Remove old nest material from nest boxes and record all material found (evidence of use).	November to February	Annually

5.2 Management Prescriptions of Species-rich Native Hedgerows and Woodland

Table 4: Management Prescriptions – Species-rich Native Hedgerows

Management/Monitoring	Timing	Frequency
Weed control – A 1.5m strip at the base of the hedgerows will be kept clear of vegetation until plants have established. Mulches can be effective at suppressing weeds and will be applied to a minimum depth of 100mm.	All year	Annually for first 5 years
Replace any dead plants with same species and stock as original planting.	November to March	Years 1 and 2
Remove guards when plants are well established.	All year	Year 3-5 as appropriate
Monitor plants for any sign of defects or poor health every two years. Take remedial action when required.	October to February	Biannually
Annually trim new hedgerows to encourage the development of a dense structure until established (aiming to maintain a height of approximately 2m).	October to February	Annually until established
Trim every three years, varying height from one year to another and cutting on a rotational basis i.e. ensuring not all hedgerows on-site are cut in the same year, or cut only one side of a hedge at a time. Do not cut to the same height every time, allow incremental growth in height and width, preferably between 2m and 3m height. Avoid using a mechanical flail if possible and leave any strong saplings to grow into hedgerow trees.	October to February	Every three years once established
Fungal bodies and deadwood should be left in-situ where possible, unless it poses a health and safety risk. If removed it should be placed in the 3m-wide buffer.	October to February	Annually

Table 5: Management Prescriptions – Other Broadleaved Woodland

Management/Monitoring	Timing	Frequency
Preparation and Planting of Replacement Native Trees and Shrubs - Plant native tree and shrub species across existing woodland between November and March when soil is in friable condition. Plant with spacings to achieve a naturalistic effect, avoiding grid or linear planting patterns. Tree/shrub planting is to be in accordance with BS 8545:2014 'Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations'. Each tree/shrub to be staked and fitted with a 1200mm height biodegradable tree guard to remove risk of wild herbivore damage.	November to March	Year 1
Weed control – Initial maintenance operations to ensure planting establishment including weed control around the base of each tree, for a 1m diameter, if risk of new tree/shrub planting becoming smothered by adjacent vegetation. Mulches can be effective at suppressing weeds and should be applied to a minimum depth of 100mm. Also carrying out any necessary repairs to protection fencing, firming of canes/stakes and watering. In dry conditions water trees and shrubs as necessary to ensure establishment is successful.	All year	Annually, until Year 5
Annual replacement of poor/failed plants with a specimen to match the original specification in the following planting season.	November to March	Annually, from Year 2 to Year 10
Remove tree guards when plants are well established.	All year	Year 3 to Year 5, as appropriate
Monitor plants for any sign of defects or poor health every two years. Take remedial action when required.	October to February	Biannually
Thin weaker specimens as necessary. Leave arisings in deadwood log piles in clearings or on the edge of woodland area. Should any tree specimens contain fungal bodies, crevices, loose bark or associated standing deadwood, these trees should be retained in longevity, as these features provide value habitat to wildlife and increase the biodiversity value of the site. If removed, due to health and safety concerns, it should be placed at the base of a tree or hedgerow in an undisturbed location.	October to February	Biannually, as appropriate