

Habitat Management & Monitoring Plan

Seascale Cricket Club

January 2025

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INTRODUCTION

The following Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HM&MP) has been prepared by Planning Branch Ltd in relation to the works at Seascale Cricket Club. It is understood that this will need to be resubmitted to the Local Planning Authority as a discharge of the BNG condition after the approval of this proposal however it has been submitted as part of this original BNG so that any issues can be addressed at this stage to reduce the time taken to agree these details at the next stage.

This HM&MP covers thirty years management and provides information on the management of newly-created habitats within the site boundary in accordance with the agreed Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment ensuring the long-term biodiversity value on the site.

The HM&MP and objectives should be reviewed after 5 years and adjusted if required but indicative management requirements are specified for a full 30 years.

The basis of this HM&MP is guided by the HM&MP created by Natural England.

Roles and Responsibilities

Anthea Jones MA, MRTPI, MArbA of Planning Branch Ltd provides the required advice to Mr Ireland (Applicant) in relation the BNG and Habitat creation. Anthea Jones has been accepted as a competent person due to the details below.

Qualifications

- BTEC in Land Based Studies from Harper Adams Agricultural College
- BSc (Hons) Agriculture with Land and Farm Management from Harper Adams Agricultural College
- HND in Arboriculture from Myerscough College

Anthea Jones often attends conferences, seminars and workshops run by both Arboricultural Association and Natural England (NE).

Anthea has attended many courses run by NE as part of the Farm Environment Plans (FEP) that she used to prepare which required assessment of vegetation on farmland.

Attendance of Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) courses in relation to Biodiversity Net Gain and Natural Environment.

Practical experience

As part of the FEP full assessments of the vegetation on the sites were required. Both courses at Harper Adams required assessment of vegetation. The understanding of surrounding vegetation in relation to impact on trees is part of the Arboricultural requirements.

Landowner

Seascale Cricket Club (Applicants) are responsible for carrying out the works identified within this Plan.

PLANNING HISTORY

The standard BNG condition will be attached to the approval that requires the submission of this Habitat and Monitoring plan. This document will be amended to address the exact wording of the condition prior to the submission in order to discharge the BNG condition.

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

The BNG plan is referenced to as Block Plan PB2 and has been submitted as part of the initial BNG submission. The proposal is to site 2 container and creation of net facilities at the edge of the cricket pitch area.

Overview of baseline site use

The build area and the BNG area are both modified grassland as set out below.

UK Hab Equivalent	Condition Sheet	Other Habitat Criteria Score										Total Score	Condition Assessment	Notes
		CA	CB	CC	CD	CE	CF	CG	CH	CI				
 Modified Grassland	GRASSLAND: Low distinctiveness	F	F	P	F	F	P	P			3	Poor	A - Below 4 plant species within the area B – sward height below 7cm due to excessive cutting C – No scrub present D – Physical damage is in over 5% of area. E – Bare ground is over 10% of total area of pitch. F – No bracken on the area G – no invasive species	
Modified Grassland BNG area	GRASSLAND: Low distinctiveness	F	F	P	P	P	P	P			5	Poor	A – although more species than the pitch area sill below 6 B – sward height is over 7cm C – No scrub currently present D – Minimal physical damage E – Minimal bare ground F – No bracken on the area G – no invasive species	
Key: P – Criteria passed F – Criteria failed														
Appendix Table A1: Condition Assessment for Area Habitats														



Overview of proposed site use

The proposal is for the area identified on the BNG Plan to be fenced off to manage the activities on the site and to allow natural regeneration of the area in both low ground coverage and establishment of self-seeded shrub plants.

This appendix presents the assessment of the post-development habitats against the condition sheets in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessment 23.07.24.

UK Hab Equivalent	Condition Sheet	Other Habitat Criteria Score									Total Score	Condition	Notes
		CA	CB	CC	CD	CE	CF	CG	CH	CI		Assessment	
Heathland & Scrub	Mixed	P	P	P	P	P						Good	A & B – once established as the area will have established vegetation spreading into the area and newly planted vegetation the mix would provide a good example of habitat. C – no invasive species D – a strip of 1m from the edge of the site adjacent to the pitch will be kept cut to stop shrub establishment there which would conflict with pitch use. E – as the habitat is natural regeneration and spreading areas will be established faster than other creating gaps.
Key: P – Criteria passed F – Criteria failed													
Appendix Table B1: Condition Assessment for Area Habitats													

Criteria A

The area is adjacent to the existing established landscape area that has a number of ground coverage species and shrubs at the edge of the area such as Rugosa (*Rosa rugosa*), Brambles (*Rubus fruticosus*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*). The applicant has cut back the vegetation when it started to spread into their land. The area is therefore a good example of potential habitat.

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Criteria B

If the area is fenced off and no cutting back of the vegetation then natural regeneration would be able to establish and the ground creeping plants of Creeping Buttercup, Brambles would extend into the area.

Criteria C

There are no invasive species within this area or adjacent to this area.

Criteria D

The resulting shrub area will have a combination of ground coverage, shrubs at the edge of the area and grass left to reseed. A 1m strip will be cut free of shrubs along the edge of the

pitch to ensure that shrubs do not enter the cricket pitch area. This will also allow an improved grassland strip along the edge of the area.

Criteria E

There are no clearings in the area however due to the vegetation that is along the existing boundary at the edge of the landscape area, natural regeneration will establish at different areas thus producing gaps.

Planned Management Activities

- Fencing area with post and wire fence to remove people from the area and allow natural regeneration.
- No use of herbicides on the area of land.
- No artificial or natural fertilizers spread on the land
- Review after 5 years to identify if the area has naturally regenerated with additional plants of to be planted to assist the regeneration of the area.

Due to the salt environment and strong winds in the area due to the seaside location many plants do not establish within this area. The natural regeneration and spread from existing allows plants to establish that establish in this area. Escallonia shrub have been grown in the locality and thus it is proposed to plant 3 Escallonia shrubs within the area to the northern part of the BNG where there will be less natural regeneration and spreading of adjacent vegetation.

Monitoring Schedule

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In order to ensure that the shrub habitat created within the site reaches and maintains their maximum value to nature conservation, all habitats should be monitored to check establishment. Results of this monitoring, together with ongoing checks during routine works should be used to inform changes to annual work prescriptions, with the management plan reviewed towards the end of the five-year work program period. The prescriptions provided here are for overall guidance and should be flexible depending on success of management. Prescriptions should be altered if required.

Monitoring Methods and Intervals

Management will be for 30 years in accordance with BNG requirements. A report to confirm management conditions are met will be submitted to the council in years 5, 10, and 25.

The reasons for the reduced monitoring reports to 5, 10 and 25 years rather than 2, 5, 7, 10, 20 and 25 is that it would take more than 2 years to successfully allow the natural regeneration thus a monitoring report in year 2 would not provide any useful information. The shrub would then be established by year 5 thus the need for the monitoring report in that year to establish the changes required once established. Additional planting may be required to strengthen the habitat established. Year 10 monitoring would cover any changes required over time to ensure the balance of species within the shrub area remains balanced.

Monitoring Reports

As set out above the monitoring reports will be submitted in years 5, 10 and 25. The report will provide an assessment of the vegetation within the shrub area, a summary of any works carried out between monitoring stages and any proposed works to ensure a moderate shrub habitat.

Adaptive Management

In order to ensure that the habitats created within the site reach and maintain their maximum value to nature conservation the site will be monitored and managed by the land owner as part of the wider farm management.

In year 5 an assessment of the natural regeneration will be undertaken. In the event that that area has not naturally regenerated then an assessment will be carried out to the extent of planting that would be added to the area in order to create a good shrub area.

OBJECTIVES AND HABITAT CREATION, ENHANCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

The following section provides the prescriptions and management objectives of the proposed habitat. The management plan and objectives should be reviewed after 5 years and adjusted if required. The management plan will run for 30 years. The months the work will be carried out are shaded.

Habitat/ Feature	Operations/ Works	Year	Anticipated Timing of Visits/ Operations (months)												Frequency, notes
			J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
Shrub area	Fence area	1													Post and wire fence erected along the boundary on the north and west as per BNG plan PB2
	Planting	5													Assessment of habitat regenerated. Escallonia planted if natural regeneration not established within the area.
	Cut	1-30													Cut an area of 30cm along the edge of the fence area if vegetation growing up the fencing to avoid damage to the fence and pitch.
General maintenance	Maintaining fences.	1-30													During each visit to site
Reporting		5, 10, 20													Report to LPA on conditions of habitats