

Habitat Management & Monitoring Plan

Land off Shore Road Drigg

November 2024

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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 approved under application 4/24/2330/0F1 at land off Shore Road, Drigg.

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 3 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

The Landowner is responsible for carrying out the works identified within this Plan.

PLANNING HISTORY

There are a number BNG conditions attached to the approval as set out below. The following report provides the information required within the conditions.

Condition 3

The development hereby approved must be carried out in accordance with and implement all the mitigation measures set out in the following approved documents:

- Biodiversity Net Gain Statement, Prepared by Planning Branch Ltd August 2024, received by the Local Planning Authority on the 24th September 2024.

The development must be carried out in accordance with the approved document at all times thereafter.

Reason

In the interests of ensuring measurable net gains to biodiversity and in accordance with the provision of the National Planning Policy Framework and The Environment Act 2021

Condition 4

Prior to the commencement of the works hereby approved a Biodiversity Net Gain Plan must be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development must be carried out in accordance with the approved document at all times thereafter.

Reason

In the interests of ensuring measurable net gains to biodiversity and in accordance with the provision of the National Planning Policy Framework and The Environment Act 2021

Condition 5

Prior to the commencement of development/the development must not commence until a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

The Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan must include the following:

- i. A detailed scheme of habitat creation and habitat enhancement works that demonstrate the delivery of a minimum 10% net gain in biodiversity value post development over a minimum period of 30 years.*
- ii. Planned management activities including details of site-wide aims and objectives.*
- iii. Details of the persons and organisation(s) responsible for delivery of the habitat creation and habitat enhancement works.*
- iv. The habitat condition targets that form the basis of what the Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan is setting out to achieve.*
- v. Details of monitoring methods and a monitoring reporting schedule.*

Details of adaptive management approaches.

Reason

In the interests of ensuring measurable net gains to biodiversity and in accordance with the provision

of the National Planning Policy Framework and The Environment Act 2021.

Condition 6

The development hereby approved must not be operational until the habitat creation and habitat enhancement works detailed in the Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan secured by planning condition 5 have been completed in accordance with the approved details.

Reason

In the interests of ensuring measurable net gains to biodiversity and in accordance with the provision of the National Planning Policy Framework and The Environment Act 2021

Condition 7

Within 3 months of the completion of the habitat creation and habitat enhancement works detailed in Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan secured by planning condition 5, a completion report, evidencing the completed habitat creation and habitat enhancements must be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason

In the interests of ensuring measurable net gains to biodiversity and in accordance with the provision of the National Planning Policy Framework and The Environment Act 2021.

Condition 8

The habitat creation and habitat enhancement works detailed in the Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan secured by planning condition 5 must be managed and maintained in accordance with the provisions of approved Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan secured by planning condition 5 for a minimum period of 30 years post completion of the habitat creation and habitat enhancement works.

Reason

In the interests of ensuring measurable net gains to biodiversity and in accordance with the provision of the National Planning Policy Framework and The Environment Act 2021.

Condition 9

Monitoring reports demonstrating how the habitat creation and habitat enhancement works detailed in Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan secured by planning condition 5 is delivering on its site-wide aims and objectives and habitat condition targets

Monitoring reports must be submitted to the Council during years 2, 5, 7, 10, 20 and 25 posts completion of the habitat creation and habitat enhancement works detailed in the Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan secured by planning condition 5 unless otherwise stated in the Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan secured by planning condition 5.

Reason

In the interests of ensuring measurable net gains to biodiversity and in accordance with the provision of the National Planning Policy Framework and The Environment Act 2021

RESPONSE TO CONDITIONS

Condition 3

The BNG enhancement will be carried out in accordance with the Biodiversity Net Gain Statement, Prepared by Planning Branch Ltd August 2024, received by the Local Planning Authority on the 24th September 2024.

No further action required.

Condition 4

This condition required a Biodiversity Net Gain plan which was actually previously included within the approved BNG statement as part of the original application submission. This has therefore already been submitted and approved, however for clarity the BNG plan will be submitted again.

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

The BNG plan is referenced to as Block Plan PB2 and was approved as part of the previous application. The proposal was to create a neutral grassland area to the side of the approved livestock handling pens.

Condition 5

The contents of this report provide the information required to discharge this condition.

Condition 6

Confirmation that the approved livestock pens will not become operational until the BNG habitat area has been created.

Condition 7

A completion report will be submitted within 3 months of the habitat works being carried out.

Condition 8

Confirm that the habitat will be managed in accordance with this report.

Condition 9

This report will set out the time requirements for the monitoring report as although the conditions suggests a monitoring report is submitted in 2, 5, 7, 10, 20 and 25 years this report will set out amendments to this timescales.

Overview of baseline site use

The area is modified grassland which has a

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	F	F	F	P	P			2	Poor	Areas of poaching along the edge of the site and patches of damage.
Key: P – Criteria passed F – Criteria failed Condition Assessment for Area Habitats - Existing													



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 managed grazing of the area to create Other Neutral Grassland (ONG).

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 Assessment	Notes
		CA	CB	CC	CD	CE	CF	CG	CH	CI			
Other neutral grassland	GRASSLAND: Medium-Very High distinctiveness	P	P	P	P	F					4	Moderate	
Key: P – Criteria passed F – Criteria failed													
Appendix Table B1: Condition Assessment for Area Habitats - Enhanced													

Criteria A

To increase the number of characteristic indicator species the management of the site will be changed as set out in the management section of this report along with the introduction of Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*) seeds allows the resulting ONG passing criteria A

Criteria B

Due to the management of the grazing density and timing in this area it would allow the sward height to vary resulting in the new ONG passing this criteria.

Criteria C

The areas of bare land would be scarified to allow seed regrowth, reducing the amount of bare ground.

Criteria D

No bracken on the site and none proposed to be introduced.

Criteria E

As the grazing of the area would be restricted in this area, species such as Broad leafed dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) and Spear thistles (*Cirsium vulgare*) will regenerate.

Criteria F

This criteria fails due to the number of forbs within the resulting ONG.

Planned Management Activities

- Fencing area to manage livestock grazing times and density. (reduction in number of cattle grazing the area will allow the emergence of thistle growth). Reducing excessive sheep grazing in the months of November and December will also encourage forbs growth the following years.
- No use of herbicides on the area of land.
- No artificial or natural fertilizers spread on the land
- Scarification of the area using a chain harrow to encourage seed disbursement and reactivate dormant seeds.
- Introduction of Yorkshire Fog seeds to the area
- The condition of the grassland would be reviewed within 6 months of its seeding and scarification to assess areas which have failed to establish would be re-seeded.
- The grass can be cut once a year if grazing has not allowed for the management of the thistles, docks and nettles establishing in the area. All arisings should be removed to prevent nutrient enrichment of the sward.

Monitoring Schedule

In order to ensure that the ONG (Other neutral grassland) 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 create the ONG thus a monitoring report in year 2 would not provide any useful information. The ONG would then be established by year 5 thus the need for the monitoring report in that year to establish the changes required once established. Year 10 monitoring would cover any changes required over time to ensure the balance of species within the ONG 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 ONG area a summary of any works carried out between monitoring stages and any proposed works to ensure a moderate ONG 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.

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.

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	
Grassland	Scarify the land	1													Chain harrow the area. Second chain harrow if mole hills to spread soil and avoid mounds and disturb dormant seeds
	Sow seed	1													Sow seeds sporadically over areas of existing poaching
	Grazing	1-5													Alternate between cattle and sheep grazing. No sheep grazing between April – June to avoid low sward grazing.
	Cut														If required.
General maintenance	Maintaining fences.	1-30													During each visit to site
Reporting		5, 10, 20													Report to LPA on conditions of habitats