

Liam Toland c/o
Flanigan Estates Ltd
43 Chapel Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5HW

Our Ref: BG22.148.13
13/03/2023

Dear Liam,

Re: SINC Management Plan at North Selby Mine, North Yorkshire

This document outlines a Management Plan to maintain and enhance the conservation status of the North Selby Mine SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation) within the context of the reserved matters application (Planning Ref: 20/01546/FUL). This letter is intended to discharge condition 10 of the outline application which states the below;

Prior to or concurrently with the first reserved matters application, detailed long term management and monitoring of the Site of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINC) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. These shall be in line with the already submitted SINC Management Proposals, FPCR Environment and Design Ltd, July 2019. The scheme shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details.

Proposals within this document have been guided by the accompanying Ecological Survey Summary (BG22.148, January 2023), Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP, BG22.141.1 February 2023), soft landscaping (BG22.148.11 Hard and Soft Landscaping Plan, March 2023), a SINC Survey report (FPCR 2018) and previous SINC management plan (FPCR 2019).

1 North Selby Mine Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

- 1.1 The application site includes the boundary of the SINC, and is a former mine located between the villages of Deighton and Weldrake (grid reference SE 647 442), North Yorkshire. The SINC comprises large areas of coal shale supporting early successional vegetation communities which classify as Open Mosaic Habitat (OMH) and areas of species rich grassland, wet grassland and ponds. The site also supports a population of great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) and potentially breeding willow tit (*Poecile montanus*).
- 1.2 During ecological assessment undertaken in 2018 by FPCR, it was concluded that the North Selby Mine SINC should be qualified under the following three criteria;

MH2 - Sites of 5ha or more in size that support a mosaic of the semi-natural habitats listed in Table 31 that collectively have a habitat diversity score of 6 or more and make a significant contribution to the local biodiversity value of the Natural Area in which they are situated.

*A2 – Any site supporting a good population of great crested newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus**

B3 – Any site which has held one or more breeding pairs of Rare Breeding Birds panel species during at least two of the previous three years.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Habitat enhancements

The proposals will result in the installation of caravans within existing areas of hardstanding within the main site. There is not expected to be any significant built development within SINC boundary, other than limited landscaping, mitigation, fencing and footpath creation (Appendix 1). Recommendations for management have been detailed per qualifying criteria.

2.2 Grasslands; Species-rich Grassland & Associated Wetland

Retained areas of grassland on site should be retained and managed as meadows. Management regimes will limit the dominance of coarse grasses, scrub and undesirable weeds through mowing regimes and spot checks.

2.3 OMH, Shale and Spoil Mounds

Open Mosaic Habitat across the site, Habitat of Principal Importance as listed on Schedule 41 of the NERC Act (2006), is present within the southwestern areas of the site, located upon shale and spoil mounds. Management will focus on preventing the eventual succession of this habitat to grassland or scrub through rotational clearance and control of successional scrub.

2.4 Willow tit (*Poecile montanus*) Woodland and Scrub

Minimal management is required for the woodland areas, other than interventions which may be made to increase the value of on-site woodland and scrub for breeding willow tit. Willow tits require soft standing dead wood to breed, therefore any standing dead wood is recommended to be left in-situ wherever possible. Maintenance of existing areas of scrub should be undertaken to provide structurally varied areas of scrub. A rotational coppice programme is recommended to cut a third of on-site scrub one every 5 years.

2.5 Great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) and ponds

Management of ponds to ensure marginal vegetation does not limit areas of open water is recommended. 60% of the water should remain open for breeding great crested newt (GCN). Colonising scrub at margins of ponds should be controlled to prevent overshadowing.

An EPSDL Licence will be applied for and will include appropriate mitigation measures including trapping and translocation. Details of these works will be included within the licence once submitted. Monitoring of GCN numbers for 6 years post development will be required as a condition of the licence due to the presence of a "good" population of GCN on site.

Detailed management prescriptions for each of the qualifying criteria described above are included within Table 1 below. The timescales for undertaking these works is included within Table 2.

Table 1: Management objectives and proposed implementation for qualifying criteria at North Selby Mine SINC

Management Objective	Target Species	Proposed implementation, Management and Enhancement
<p>Species Rich Grassland and wetland grassland <i>Areas of species rich grassland and wetland grassland associated with onsite ponds</i></p>	<p>Invertebrates, Herptiles, Hedgehog, GCN, breeding birds</p>	<p>For areas of species rich grassland, an annual hay cut once per year in Autumn with all arisings removed is recommended to limit the dominance of coarse grass species.</p> <p>Spot removal of undesirable weeds by hand.</p> <p>Monitoring is to be undertaken to assess the extent, structure and diversity of retained grassland swards in the 1st year post construction, the 3rd year, and every 5 years thereafter for a period of 30 years.</p>
<p>Open Mosaic Habitat, Shale and Spoil Mounds <i>The retained open mosaic habitat located upon spoil heaps and swales to the south of the site</i></p>	<p>Invertebrates, Herptiles, Hedgehog, GCN</p>	<p>Retained areas of open mosaic (Appendix 1) to be delineated and protected with stock-proof fencing to remain in situ for the perpetuity of the development. Whilst open mosaic habitat benefits from occasional disturbance, the fencing will ensure that storage materials and construction traffic do not adversely impact the protected areas through compaction of the substrate and re-current damage to specimen plants.</p> <p>These areas aim to maintain the ecological function and connective value of the site and retain key habitat within the redline boundary where possible.</p> <p>Ongoing disturbance of the habitat is vital in order to emulate the current composition long term and prevent scrub and pernicious weed encroachment. The area will be subject to rotational management over a 5 to 10 year rolling period, this will include the surface layer of vegetation to be scraped, piled and re-levelled, ensuring no more than one third of the total area is scraped during any one season. This management aims to emulate the natural disturbance of the site and re-establish areas of bare ground.</p> <p>Additional management of this area will be subject to annual inspections of the habitat to ensure the floristic value of the site has not been degraded. Prescriptions may include one or more of the following:</p>

Management Objective	Target Species	Proposed implementation, Management and Enhancement
		<p>Scrub management and removal, ensuring pernicious species such as butterfly bush (<i>Buddleja sp.</i>) or bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>) currently present on site do not dominate the habitat, seeks an overall scrub cover of less than 10%.</p> <p>Checking and repairing stockproof fencing if required.</p> <p>Monitoring is to be undertaken to assess the extent, structure and diversity of open mosaic habitat in the 1st year post construction, the 3rd year, and every 5 years thereafter for a period of 30 years.</p>
<p>Willow tit (<i>Poecile montanus</i>) Woodland and Scrub</p> <p>Retained broadleaved woodland and scrub within site and SINC boundary to be retained and protected during development.</p>	<p>Herptiles, Hedgehog, Badgers, Bats, Birds</p>	<p>The areas of woodland associated with the north and west of the site should be retained in situ throughout the development. Tree protection fencing should be installed during construction and utilised as per the accompanying arboricultural method statement (BG22.148 AMS).</p> <p>Management should entail spot removal of any invasive species such as rhododendron and cherry laurel.</p> <p>Standing deadwood is to be left in-situ wherever it is safe to do so to provide suitable nesting habitat for willow tit.</p> <p>Established scrub on site should be subject to rotational coppicing programme, whereby one third of any area of scrub is cut once within a five year period.</p> <p>Monitoring is to be undertaken to assess the extent, structure and diversity of the woodland and the amount of dead wood on site in the 1st year post construction, the 3rd year, and every 5 years thereafter for a period of 30 years. Willow tit presence absence surveys should be undertaken 1 year post construction and every 5 years post.</p>
<p>Great crested newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>) and ponds</p>	<p>GCN, Invertebrates, Herptiles,</p>	<p>Ponds should have vegetation reduced on a three year rotational basis to prevent vegetation from engulfing open water. Vegetation should be removed from the pond by hand or by net, with arisings left at the bank for a minimum</p>

Management Objective	Target Species	Proposed implementation, Management and Enhancement
<p>Retained ponds on site are to remain unaffected by the development, with management undertaken under licence to ensure that ponds retain current suitability for GCN</p>		<p>of one week to allow amphibians and invertebrates to leave the arisings and re-enter the water. One this period has elapsed the arisings should be removed from site. Works should aim to maintain 60% open water within the ponds.</p> <p>Dense stands of single species (eg yellow iris or bulrush) may benefit from selective thinning.</p> <p>All works are to be conducted within the winter months September to November under the supervision of an ecologist watching brief to ensure any or small mammals are not adversely impacted.</p> <p>Spot clearance of scrub at the margins of the ponds should be undertaken to prevent encroachment, to be undertaken at the time of pond vegetation clearance.</p> <p>Monitoring should ensure that the water supply and run off into retained ponds is of good quality with no clear signs of pollution.</p> <p>Population monitoring consisting of 6 presence/absence surveys for GCN to be undertaken once per year for 6 years following the licence application.</p> <p>Monitoring is to be undertaken to assess the extent, structure and diversity of the ponds and the proportions of open water in the 1st year post construction, the 3rd year, and every 5 years thereafter for a period of 30 years.</p>

Table 2: Management and monitoring prescriptions for qualifying criteria at North Selby Mine SINC

Management Prescriptions	Timing of works	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11-15	Year 16-20	Year 21-25	Year 26-30
Species Rich Grassland and Wetland Grassland														
Annual hay cut, arisings removed	September	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spot treat or remove by hand any noxious weeds within grassland areas	Mar - Apr	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scrub to be removed where necessary to remain less than 5% coverage.	Jan – Mar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Monitoring. Walkover survey to determine species presence diversity and structure within grassland areas.	May – Aug	✓			✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Open Mosaic Habitat, Shale and Spoil Mounds														
Monitor the spread of pernicious species and pull or spot treat where necessary, ensuring they do not exceed more than 5% ground cover.	Autumn	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cut back encroaching scrub and sapling trees, ensuring they do not exceed more than 20% ground cover.	Autumn	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scrape surface layer of vegetation to be piled and re-levelled. Rotational with no more than 30% of area to be scraped at any one time.	Autumn				✓					✓		✓		✓
Review of invasive species, removed from site where necessary.	May-August	✓			✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓

Management Prescriptions	Timing of works	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11-15	Year 16-20	Year 21-25	Year 26-30
Check and clearance of detritus which may accumulate.	Unrestricted	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Check fencing to footpaths and site boundary to check in good repair.	Unrestricted	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Willow tit (<i>Poecile montanus</i>) Woodland and Scrub														
Rotational coppicing of one third of scrub area one per five years – to be undertaken on a rotational basis so that no more than 5% of scrub on site is cut in any one year.	October - February				✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Monitor woodland for presence of invasive species and treat as required.	May-Sept	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Monitor for presence of willow tit through breeding bird survey.	March - June		✓			✓			✓			✓	✓	✓
Great crested newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>) and ponds														
Scrub to be managed to ensure encroachment does not exceed 50% shadow cover	Sept-Nov	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Aquatic vegetation should be managed to ensure that 60% of the water column remains clear	Sept-Nov	✓			✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Pond should be cleared of leaf fall and rubbish during the winter. Any debris should be left on the side of the pond to allow creatures to return to the pond.	Nov-Feb	✓			✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Where necessary control the spread of duckweed and blanket weed with a net or the prescriptions within Table 2.	Mar - Apr	✓			✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓

Management Prescriptions	Timing of works	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11-15	Year 16-20	Year 21-25	Year 26-30
Monitoring. Monitor for water clearance, shading and water quality.	May – Aug	✓			✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Monitoring GCN presence/absence surveys to be undertaken once per year	Mar-June	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								

I trust the proposed enhancement measures are sufficient to maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of the North Selby Mine SINC.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further details,

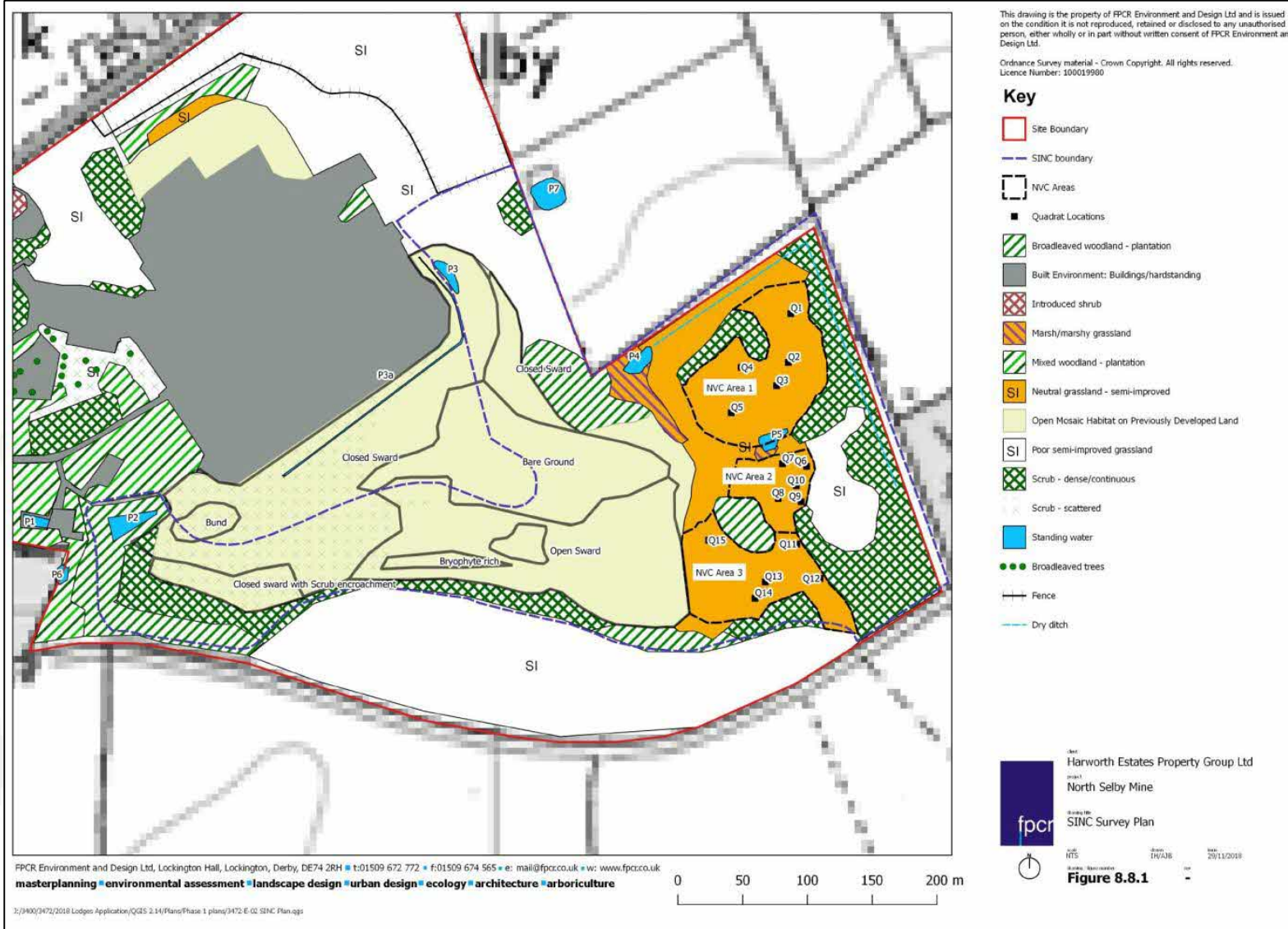
Yours sincerely,



Ellen Marshall

Head of Ecology
For and on behalf of Brindle & Green Limited

Appendix 1. SINC Survey Plan - FPCR



Appendix 2. Site proposals



Project: BG22.148 York Holiday Park
Appendix 2: Site Proposals

- SINC Boundary
- Open Mosaic Habitat
- Grassland Habitat
- Pond Locations

Date Created: 13/03/2023

This drawing is for indicative purposes only, the positioning and classification of habitat areas are not to scale.