

Ecological Mitigation, Enhancement and Management Plan

Land north of Whitehouse Road, Ruskington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 9TP

Rippon Homes

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Rippon Homes

Industry Guidelines and Standards

This report has been written with due consideration to:

- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2017). Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. 2nd edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2018). Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Version 1.1. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2017). Guidelines on Ecological Report Writing. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2020). Guidelines for Accessing, Using and Sharing Biodiversity Data in the UK. 2nd Edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- British Standard 42020 (2013). Biodiversity –Code of Practice for Planning and Development.
- British Standard 8683:2021 (2021). Process for Designing and Implementing Biodiversity Net Gain.

Proportionality

The work involved in preparing and implementing all ecological surveys, impact assessments and measures for avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement should be proportionate to the predicted degree of risk to biodiversity and to the nature and scale of the proposed development. Consequently, the decision-maker should only request supporting information and conservation measures that are relevant, necessary and material to the application in question. Similarly, the decision-maker and their consultees should ensure that any comments and advice made over an application are also proportionate.

The desk studies and field surveys undertaken to provide a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) might in some cases be all that is necessary.

(BS 42020, 2013)

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1.0 Introduction

Arbtech Consulting Limited was instructed by Rippon Homes to produce an Ecological Mitigation, Enhancement and Management Plan for Land north of Whitehouse Road, Ruskington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 9TP (hereafter referred to as "the site"). A planning application for a new residential development totalling 77 new dwellings (hereafter referred to as "the proposed development") was granted approval, with conditions, by North Kesteven District Council in February 2019. This plan has been produced to inform the discharge of nine, which states:

A Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan (BEMP) shall be submitted to, and be approved in writing, by the District Planning Authority prior to first occupation of any dwelling on the site. The content of the BEMP shall include the following:

a) Description and evaluation of features to be created and managed (including but not restricted to species-rich grassland, hedgerows and SUDS).

b) Aims and objectives of management.

c) Prescriptions for habitat creation and ongoing management actions to meet aims and objectives.

d) Detailed design(s) and/or working method(s) to achieve stated objectives, including timings.

e) Description, extent and location of proposed works on appropriate scale plans.

f) Type and source of materials to be used where appropriate, e.g. native species of local origin.

g) A scheme for the provision of not less than 10 bird and bat boxes to be integral to the construction of the dwellings,, including location.

h) Details of initial aftercare and long-term maintenance for the life-time of the development (including an annual work plan capable of being rolled forward over a fifteen-year period). i) Details of the body or organization responsible for implementation of the plan. The approved plan will be implemented in accordance with the approved details unless otherwise agreed in writing with the District Planning Authority.

Reason: To enhance the biodiversity of the site in accordance with policy LP21 of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2017).

A plan showing the proposed development is provided in Appendix 1.

The aim of this plan is to outline mitigation measures required to minimise impacts on biodiversity as well as to outline habitat creation and enhancement opportunities and long-term management which will ensure that a net gain in biodiversity is achieved and maintained on the site, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This plan has been informed by a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal which was completed by Ecological Services Ltd in September 2016 (Ecological Services Ltd, 2016).

2.0 Site Context and Survey Information

2.1 Site Location and Landscape Context

The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 0851 6852 and has an area of approximately 3.2ha comprising mostly arable land with boundary ditches, hedgerows and scattered trees. The surrounding landscape is arable to the north and amenity playing fields to the west. An active railway line bounds the site to the east with further arable land beyond and residential properties adjoin the site's southern edge. A site location plan is provided in Appendix 2.

2.2 Ecological Information

A summary of the survey findings for the site and outlines any potential impacts as a result of the proposed development along with recommendations and biodiversity enhancement opportunities, as detailed in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Ecological Services Ltd, 2017).

'All habitats and plant communities recorded on the site are common and widespread in a local and national context. No nationally rare, nationally scarce or Red Data plant species, defined by Wigginton (1999), Stewart, Pearman and Preston (1994) and Stroh et al (2014) respectively and no S41 Principal Species or Lincolnshire BAP Priority Species of plant were recorded from the site. None of the hedgerows in the survey area meets the criteria for importance for wildlife or landscape under the Hedgerow Regulations although all native hedgerows now qualify as S41 Habitats of Principal Importance to reflect their importance to biodiversity. Hedgerows are also covered by Habitat Action Plans (HAP) in the Lincolnshire BAP.'

Recommendations:

The nests and eggs of all native British birds are protected by law. To avoid an offence, should any clearance of trees or scrub be required, this should not be undertaken during the breeding bird season which runs from the beginning of March to the end of August. If this is not possible, the impacted vegetation must be carefully searched by an experienced ecologist before any clearance and any active nests found must be cordoned off and the nest left undisturbed until the young have fledged.

Whilst no evidence of badgers was found during the survey, they are widespread and common in the county and are highly mobile creatures that can easily excavate a new sett overnight. Any holes greater than 250mm diameter and especially when accompanied by large amounts of spoil should be investigated by an ecologist before any work within 30m of the hole is carried out.

Hedgerows are acknowledged as providing sheltered connectivity between bat roost sites and foraging areas as well as offering foraging opportunities in their own right (English Nature, 2004). The hedgerows around the site provide excellent connectivity to the wider landscape for bats, birds and other wildlife in the local area and as such should be retained and protected throughout the proposed works wherever possible.

As nocturnal mammals, most species of bats are adversely affected by high levels of artificial lighting and so light levels adjacent to the boundary hedgerows and trees should be kept to a minimum and lighting should be focussed downwards to prevent unnecessary light spill.

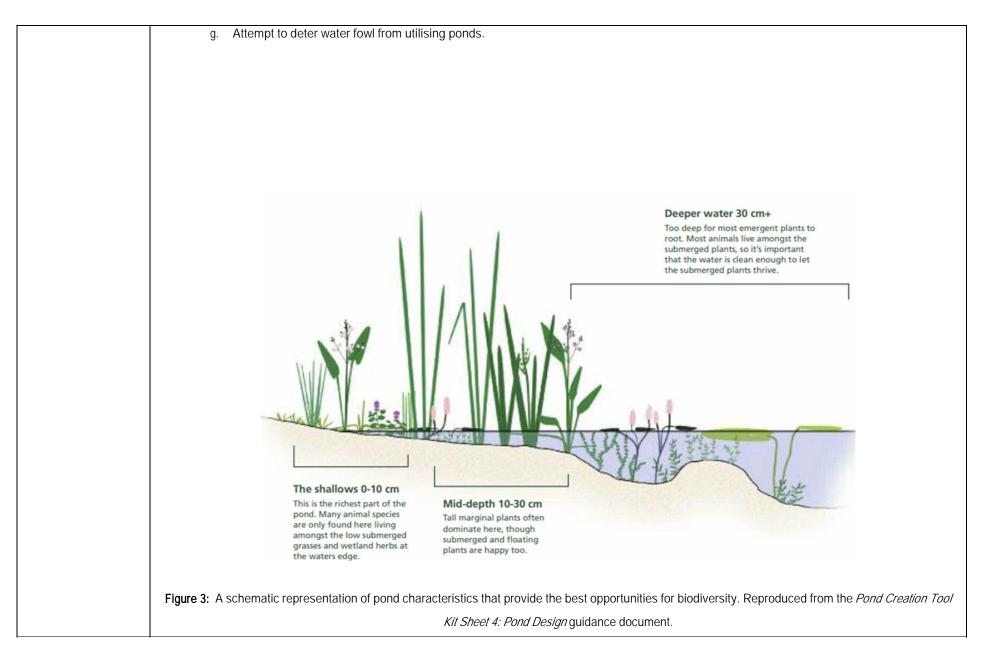
Ecological Mitigation, Enhancement and Management Plan

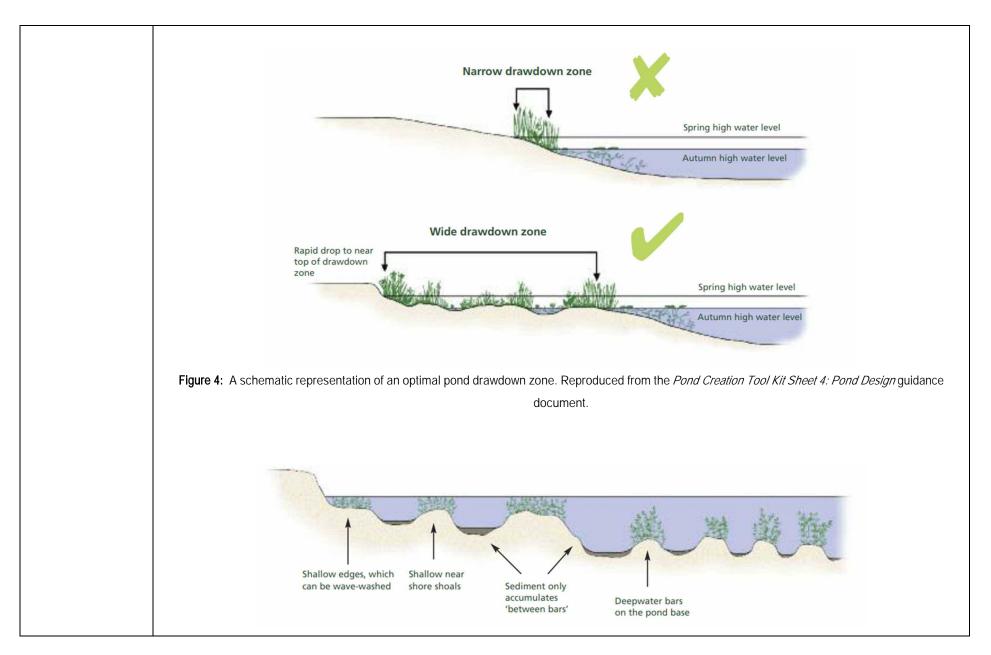
3.0 Provision of New Landscaping and Species-Specific Enhancements

Table 3: Provision of New Landscaping and Species-Specific Enhancements

| Works | Specification |
|--------------------------|---|
| Persons Responsible | The Biodiversity Champion will be responsible for the provision of the new landscaping and species-specific enhancements. The occupier of the proposed |
| | development (i.e. the landowner or managing agent) will be responsible for the management of these features post development. |
| Management Term | The management prescriptions outlined within this table must be implemented over a period of at least 30 years. |
| Site Visit and Reporting | The ECoW will make a final site check and sign off once the landscaping and installation of species-specific enhancements are complete. |
| SUDS Pond creation | Overview: |
| | A pond will be created on site, as shown in Appendix 1 & 3. |
| | Objectives: |
| | To develop habitat suitable to support a range of protected and/ or notable species including; aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates; amphibians; and reptiles. |
| | To create a pond in accordance with current guidance provided by the Freshwater Habitat Trust as detailed within the following documents: <i>Pond Creation Tool Kit Sheet 4: Pond Design</i> ¹ and <i>Creating Ponds for Amphibian and Reptiles</i> ² . To achieve this, the following core structural principals will be adhered to for pond creation. Figures 3 , 4 , and 5 below exemplify the benefits of these key structural principles. |
| | a. Ensure that almost all pond slopes are shallow, less than 1:5 (12°) and preferably less than 1:20 (3°); b. Create underwater bars and shoals to benefit aquatic plants; |
| | c. Ensure a clean water supply;d. Create variable pond depths; |
| | e. Plant submerged and emergent vegetation; f. Ensure an absence of fish; and |

https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/pond-design.pdf
 https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Amphibians- Common-Toad-Great-Crested-Newt-and-Grass-Snake -new-logo.pdf





| Figure 5: A schematic re | presentation of the value of internal sh | oals/ islands that prev | rent domination of sediment accumulation |
|--------------------------|---|--|---|
| | Creation Tool K | it Sheet 4: Pond Desig | nguidance document. |
| Creation Method: | | | |
| | | ently free draining, a p | ond liner permeable to vegetation growth |
| effective water | retention. | | |
| The initial shap | e of the pond should be dug out using s | suitable machinery for | the size of the pond, such as a small digge |
| More refined al | terations to the pond structure should | then be created using | more refined tools; this is best done using |
| Once the shape | e and structural diversity of the pond ha | as been established th | e pond should be planted with emergent v |
| filled with water | using a clean water source. | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Management Prescription | 15: | | |
| Management Prescription | | .1: Pond managemen | t prescriptions |
| Management Prescription | | .1: Pond managemen | t prescriptions Rationale |
| Management Prescription | Table 3 | | |
| Management Prescription | Table 3 Management | Detail | Rationale |
| Management Prescription | Management Weed growth should be cut back | Detail Twice annually in | Rationale Encourages establishment of good |
| Management Prescription | Management Weed growth should be cut back regularly upon the banks and | Detail Twice annually in early March/ and | Rationale Encourages establishment of good perennial ground cover and prevents |
| Management Prescription | Management Weed growth should be cut back regularly upon the banks and amongst emergence vegetation. | Detail Twice annually in early March/ and in Autumn | Rationale Encourages establishment of good perennial ground cover and prevents colonisation of non-native species. |
| Management Prescription | ManagementWeed growth should be cut backregularly upon the banks and amongst emergence vegetation.When removing vegetation, do | Detail Twice annually in early March/ and in Autumn Twice annually in | Rationale Encourages establishment of good perennial ground cover and prevents colonisation of non-native species. Ensure not just one habitat within the |
| Management Prescription | ManagementWeed growth should be cut backregularly upon the banks andamongst emergence vegetation.When removing vegetation, donot focus on one plant | Detail Twice annually in early March/ and in Autumn Twice annually in early March/ and | Rationale Encourages establishment of good perennial ground cover and prevents colonisation of non-native species. Ensure not just one habitat within the |
| Management Prescription | ManagementWeed growth should be cut backregularly upon the banks andamongst emergence vegetation.When removing vegetation, donot focus on one plantcommunity but evenly remove | Detail Twice annually in early March/ and in Autumn Twice annually in early March/ and | Rationale Encourages establishment of good perennial ground cover and prevents colonisation of non-native species. Ensure not just one habitat within the |
| Management Prescription | ManagementWeed growth should be cut back regularly upon the banks and amongst emergence vegetation.When removing vegetation, do not focus on one plant community but evenly remove from all to maintain a suitable | Detail Twice annually in early March/ and in Autumn Twice annually in early March/ and | Rationale Encourages establishment of good perennial ground cover and prevents colonisation of non-native species. Ensure not just one habitat within the |

| | 1 | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|-------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| | | macrophyte coverage. | | amphibians use open water for | |
| | | | | breeding display. | |
| | | Remove plant detritus and litter. | Check annually in | Prevents organic matter and litter | |
| | | | Autumn | building up and preventing exposure | |
| | | | | to sunlight. | |
| | | Remove non-native or other | Check annually in | Prevents organic matter building up | |
| | | unwanted plants and dispose. | Autumn | Puts back wildlife in pond living within | |
| | | Where possible rinse the | | the removed plants | |
| | | removed plants and replace water | | | |
| | | in the pond. | | | |
| | | Should the pond freeze over a | Check annually in | Allows air breathing wildlife to gain | |
| | | hole in the ice should be created. | Winter | oxygen | |
| | | Never artificially stock with fish. | At all times | Fish predate amphibians and their | |
| | | | | young. | |
| Wildflower grassland | Overview: | | | | |
| creation | Areas of wildflower grasslan | d will be created on site around the pr | oposed SUDS pond, | as shown in Appendix 1 & 3 . | |
| | | | | | |
| | Objectives: | | | | |
| | To create a succes | sful and species rich wildflower grass | sland that will provide | habitat for pollinating invertebrate species | that will in turn, provide |
| | foraging opportunit | ies for notable species groups includir | ng bats, birds, badger | s, and hedgehogs. | |
| | Ensure a healthy sp | becies diverse sward is maintained; | | | |
| | | | a seed mix alongside | allowing native species of local prevenance | to recolonise from the |
| | seedbank; | an appearance is retained by atmong | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | Employ techniques | that use organic fertilizers and minim | ise the use of chemic | als wherever possible. | |
| | | | | | |

| Creation Method: |
|--|
| Ground preparation |
| The location of the proposed wildflower meadow creation currently comprises areas of dense vegetation and areas of hardstanding. For areas of |
| ground currently covered by vegetation, any existing weeds should be removed through repeated cultivation and the land subsequently ploughed/ |
| turned to bury all remaining vegetation. For areas of ground currently covered by hardstanding, the hard surface will need to be broken up and |
| removed leaving exposed bare earth suitable for seeding. Once the land has been ploughed/ turned or cleared to bare earth, the soil should be |
| rolled or stamped to produce a firm surface ready for seeding. It is noted that the underlying soil substrate is expected to contain a high clay content |
| in places. Clay is generally unworkable when very wet or very dry and autumn sowings may therefore not be possible. It is often better to dig or |
| plough the soil in the autumn, allow winter frosts to break down the clods, and prepare a seedbed in the spring. |
| Seeding |
| To be undertaken in the spring between April and May. The following seed rates are recommended: |
| 40 kg/ha of a wildflower and grass seed mix. |
| Inclusion of yellow rattle Rhinanthus minor in the seed mix will help suppress vigorous grass growth that may suppress the success of wildflowers |
| within the sward. |
| Bedding in of seed: |
| After sowing, seeds will be 'bedded' in by trampling or light rolling. |
| Seed mix: |
| A combination of two seed mixes is proposed. Specifically, a 50/50 mix of Emorsgate General Purpose Seed Mix EM2 and Emorsgate Mixture for Clay |
| Soils EM4 are proposed to be utilised. This combination of seed mixes will help create a minimum of 9 species per m ² of grassland and retain a |
| species composition consistent with the UKHabs definition of other neutral grassland. The proposed seed mix combination includes numerous |
| grassland and wildflower species suitable for neutral and clay dominated soils. Notably, the species mix includes yellow rattle which is known to |
| suppress dominant grass species which will allow existing grasses within the seed bank to colonise whilst preventing dominance and thus increasing |
| species diversity per m2. For exact specifications, please refer to: https://wildseed.co.uk/product/mixtures/complete-mixtures/general-purpose- |
| meadow-mixtures/standard-general-purpose-meadow-mixture/ and https://wildseed.co.uk/product/mixtures/complete-mixtures/meadow- |
| mixtures-for-specific-soils/meadow-mixture-for-clay-soils/ |
| |

| riptions: | | | |
|--|------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Table 3.2: Wildflower meadow management prescriptions. | | | |
| Management | | When | Rationale |
| Cut meadow t | wice annually | Late March / early April and- | This ensures the meadow does not |
| | | late August/ early Sept | grow excessively long and become |
| | | | rank but allows wildflowers to set |
| | | | seed and invertebrates to breed. |
| | | | This will also allow a diverse sward |
| | | | of varying lengths to naturally occu |
| | | | in accordance with growth |
| | | | characteristics of each species. |
| | | | Cutting twice annually will also |
| | | | prevent encroachment of scrub and |
| | | | bracken. |
| Cut grass as to | o provide a | Late March / early April and- | To retain a diverse sward whilst |
| heterogeneou | s habitat | late August/ early Sept | limiting impacts to protected |
| structure aimi | ng to maintain | | species potentially present at |
| at least 20% o | f grass <7cm | | ground level and ensuring the |
| and 20% >7cm | n. As such, each | | natural germination of seeds. |
| cutting phase | must cut 20% of | | |
| the area to gro | ound level, 60% | | |
| of the area to | 15cm, and the | | |
| remainder to 3 | 30cm. These | | |
| areas must be | e rotated each | | |
| year to mainta | ain a diverse | | |

| | sward. | | |
|----------------|---|------------------------------|---|
| | Turn and dry the cut grass | Post cut | This allows the seeds to drop |
| | over 3-5 days before | | encouraging species diversity and |
| | removing arisings off Site | | invertebrates to relocate |
| | | | unharmed. |
| | Do not apply chemical | At all times. | The use of chemical fertilisers will |
| | fertilisers | | encourage vigorous grasses and |
| | | | weeds to grow or cause large areas |
| | | | of bare ground due to inhospitable |
| | | | growing conditions, |
| Tree and Shrub | Overview: | | |
| Planting | Multiple areas of proposed landscaping will be created the | hrough new tree and shru | ub planting including: |
| | • The planting of introduced shrubs on site, as she | own in Appendix 1 & 3. | |
| | • The planting of new trees on site, as shown in A | ppendix 1 & 3. | |
| | Objectives: | | |
| | To plant native trees and shrubs that will provid | le pollinating, foraging, ar | nd refuge opportunities for protected and/ or notable species groups |
| | including amphibians, bats, birds, hedgehogs, ir | | |
| | Ensure that good horticultural practice is employ | | |
| | | | |
| | Ensure well-balanced crowns and/ or natural sh | hape by preventing over co | ompetition. |
| | | | |
| | Creation Method: | | |
| | Ground preparation and planting | | |
| | Each tree and shrub should be panted within a h | nole three times as wide c | of the supplied pot and of a similar depth. Root balls should be soaked |
| | thoroughly in water before planting and root bal | Is should be loosened to | expose restricted roots before planting. The planted trees and shrubs |
| | should then be backfilled ensuring there are no | air pockets around roots | or any roosts protruding out of the ground. |
| | | | |

| Timing | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| It is best to prepare th | ne land during the summer ready | r for planting between Novemb | er and March. Planting trees an |
| | poting and subsequent establish | | - |
| ' | 5 | 5 5 | 5 5 5 |
| Management Prescriptions: | | | |
| | | | |
| | Tab | le 3.3: New tree and shrub pla | nting. |
| | Management | When | Rationale |
| | At the end of each growing | When required; checked | To maintain amenity and |
| | season all plant failures are | annually in Autumn. | wildlife value. |
| | to be 100% replaced | | |
| | If required, provision of | N/A | Protect from damage |
| | stakes and guards. Guards to | | |
| | be left on for a minimum of | | |
| | 5 years | | |
| | Stakes should be checked | When required; checked | Maintain protection |
| | and any broken or damaged | annually in Autumn. | |
| | stakes during this time | | |
| | would be removed (as | | |
| | above) and replaced with | | |
| | ties re-fixed | | |
| | Remove weeds | When required; checked | Reduce competition for |
| | | twice annually in early | resources nutrients etc.by |
| | | spring and in Autumn. | weeds |
| | Application of bark mulch at | Immediately after planting | Reduce competition for |
| | a depth of 50 mm | and then when required; | resources nutrients etc.by |

| | | | checked annually in | weeds |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | Autumn. | |
| | | Do not apply chemical | At all times. | The use of chemical |
| | | fertilisers | | fertilisers will encourage |
| | | | | vigorous grasses and weeds |
| | | | | to grow |
| | | Apply a light dressing of | Annually in the winter | Note the overuse of manure |
| | | well-rotted manure | | fertilisers will encourage |
| | | | | vigorous grasses and weeds |
| | | | | to grow. |
| | | Removal of spent flowers | Twice annually, late spring | Allows plants to place more |
| | | from perennial plants should | and in the Autumn. | energy into re-growth. |
| | | be removed through | | |
| | | 'deadheading' | | |
| | | Watering should be | When required; provide | Ensures plants do not dry |
| | | undertaken before and after | more water during periods | out and subsequently fail. |
| | | planting out and as | of draught and less water | |
| | | necessary for the continued | during times of prolonged | |
| | | thriving of all planting. | rain. | |
| | | Check and replace any plant | For the first 5 years | To ensure no gaps form. |
| | | failures once a year | | |
| Native Hedgerow | Overview: | | | |
| Planting | New native hedgerow pla | nting is proposed on site, as shown in | Appendix 1 & 3. | |
| | Objectives: | | | |
| | | | | |

| | badgers, and hec | lgehogs. | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| | • To ensure native | species only are planted. | | | |
| | Ensure cultural to wherever possib | | e a variety of mulches and organic | fertilisers and which minimise the use | of chemicals and peat |
| C | Creation Method: | | | | |
| | Ground prepara | tion | | | |
| | Prepare the grou | nd by digging over a strip approxir | nately 60-90cm (2-3ft) wide and c | one spit (or spade blade) deep. Soils tha | at become waterlogged in |
| | winter may requi | re a permanent drainage system. | Alternatively, form the soil into a | ridge about 15-20cm (6-8in) high and § | 50-70cm (20-28in) across |
| | to plant into. | | | | |
| | Planting | | | | |
| | | | | for the hedgerow to develop and mat | |
| | . . | | | erow width >1m; as such, plants should | be planted in a staggered |
| | | oximately 45-60cm apart, where ir | idividual plants are planted 90cm | apart within each row. | |
| | • Timing | | | | |
| | | - | | per and March. Planting before the new | year helps ensure better |
| | rooting and Subs | equent establishment including fa | | | |
| M | Nanagement Prescription | ns: | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | Tab | e 3.4: New hedgerow planting he | edgerow. | |
| | | Management | When | Rationale | |
| | | At the end of each growing | When required; checked | To maintain amenity and wildlife | |
| | | season all plant failures are to | annually in Autumn. | value. | |
| | | be 100% replaced | | | |

| If required, provision of stakes | N/A | Protect from damage |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| and guards. Guards to be left on | | |
| for a minimum of 5 years | | |
| Stakes should be checked and | When required; checked | Maintain protection |
| any broken or damaged stakes | annually in Autumn. | |
| during this time would be | | |
| removed (as above) and | | |
| replaced with ties re-fixed | | |
| Remove weeds | When required; checked twice | Reduce competition for |
| | annually in early spring and in | resources nutrients etc.by weeds |
| | Autumn. | |
| Application of bark mulch at a | Immediately after planting and | Reduce competition for |
| depth of 50 mm | then when required; checked | resources nutrients etc.by |
| | annually in Autumn. | weeds |
| Apply a light dressing of well- | Annually in the winter | Note the overuse of manure |
| rotted manure | | fertilisers will encourage |
| | | vigorous grasses and weeds to |
| | | grow. |
| Watering should be undertaken | When required; provide more | Ensures plants do not dry out |
| before and after planting out | water during periods of draught | and subsequently fail. |
| and as necessary for the | and less water during times of | |
| continued thriving of all | prolonged rain. | |
| planting. | | |
| Check and replace any plant | For the first 5 years | To ensure no gaps form. |
| failures once a year | | |
| Once the hedgerow reaches an | To be checked annually once | To ensure the hedgerow is not |

| | average height of 1.5m or above | hedgerow reaches 1.5m in | maintained at a low level of |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|--|
| | along the hedgerow length, this | height. | worse value to biodiversity. |
| | height or above must be | | |
| | retained. | | |
| | Once the hedgerow reaches an | To be checked annually once | To ensure the hedgerow is not |
| | average width of 1.5m or above | hedgerow reaches 1.5m in | maintained at a thin density of |
| | along the hedgerow length, this | width. | worse value to biodiversity. |
| | width or above must be | | |
| | retained. | | |
| Bat Boxes | Five bat boxes are recommended to be installed on the retai | ned trees along the boundaries of | the site. |
| | Bat boxes specification: | | |
| | • The recommended bat boxes will be constructed of | f woodcrete/ woodstone. Boxes of | this construction are designed to require no maintenance and |
| | have a lifespan of 25 years plus. | | |
| | 5x General Purpose Bat Boxes (or similar alternative | e brand) are recommended on the | trees, as shown in Figure 7 . |
| | Bat boxes should be positioned 3-5m above groun | d level facing in a south, southea | st, or southwest aspect with a clear flight path to and from the |
| | entrance, away from artificial light. | | |

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| | Figure 7: General Purpose Bat Box (image credit https://www.nhbs.com/convex-wood-concrete-bat-box) | |
|------------|---|--|
| | <i>Recommended Management:</i> The proposed bat boxes are designed to require no management or maintenance. Furthermore, preventing physical disturbance of bat boxes will increase the | |
| | chances of occupation by roosting bats. However, it is recommended that the bat boxes are inspected annually for the first five years outside of the typical | |
| | active season for bats (May to September inclusive) following installation. Bat boxes must be replaced if they are damaged, removed, or have fallen from their | |
| | recommended location. | |
| Bird Boxes | Five bird boxes are recommended to be installed on site, upon the retained mature trees present around the boundaries of the site. | |
| | Bird box specification: | |
| | • The recommended bird boxes will be constructed of woodcrete/ woodstone. Boxes of this construction are designed to require no maintenance and | |
| | a lifespan of 25 years plus. | |
| | 5x Woodstone Nest Boxes (or a similar alternative brand) with 28mm entrance holes are proposed on the trees, as shown in Figure 8. Woodstone Nest Boxes should be positioned approximately 3m above ground level where they will be sheltered from prevailing wind, rain and | |
| | woodstone vest boxes should be positioned approximately sin above ground level where they will be shellered non-prevailing wind, rain and strong sunlight. | |

| | Figure 8: Woodstone Nest Box (image credit arkwildlife.co.uk) | |
|------------|--|--|
| | | |
| | Recommended Management: | |
| | The proposed bird boxes are designed to require no management or maintenance. Furthermore, preventing physical disturbance of bird boxes will increase | |
| | the chances of occupation by nesting birds. However, it is recommended that the bird boxes are inspected annually for the first five years outside of the typical | |
| | nesting bird season (March to September inclusive) following installation. Bird boxes must be replaced if they are damaged, removed, or have fallen from their recommended location. | |
| Insect Box | An insect box will be installed on the southern boundary fencing, beyond the newly installed SUDS pond (Figure 9). An insect box suitable for the site (or a similar alternative brand) can be found here: https://www.nbbs.com/national-trust-apex-insect-house | |
| | | |

| | Figure 9: Insect box (image credit https://www.nhbs.com/national-trust-apex-insect-house) | |
|----------------|---|---|
| Hedgehog House | A hedgehog house will be installed within the new species rich grassland around the SUDS pond. A hedgehog house suitable for the site (or a similar alternative | I |
| | brand) can be found here: https://www.nhbs.com/hedgehog-house | 1 |

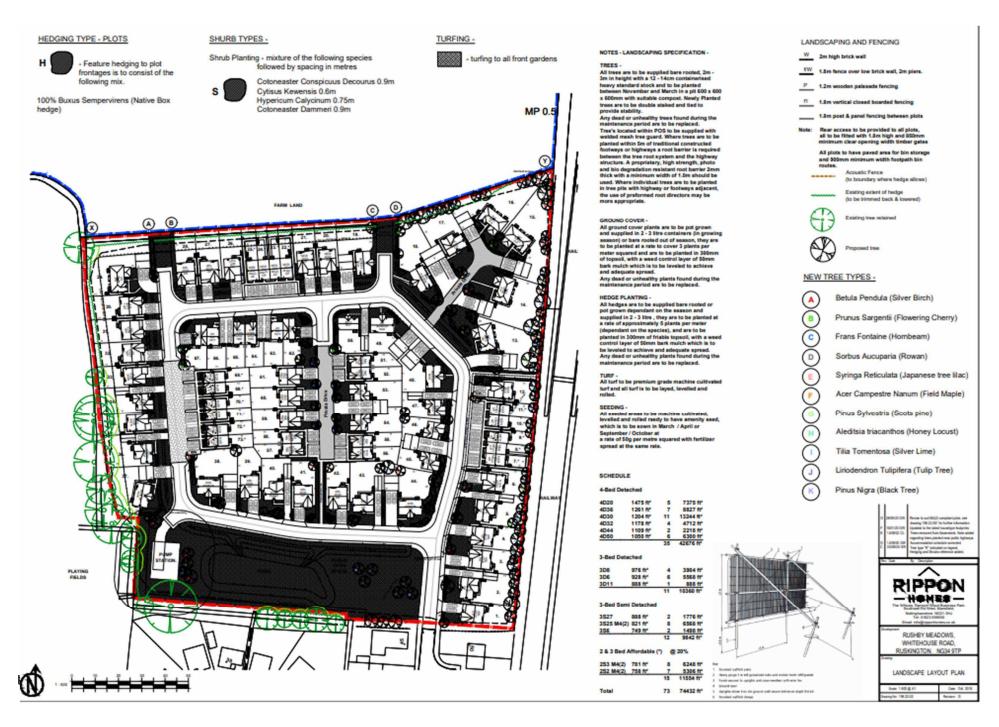
| | Figure 10: Hedgehog house (image credit https://www.nhbs.com/hedgehog-house) |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Post Development Monitoring Visit | A post development monitoring visit should be undertaken once the development has been completed to ensure all recommended ecological enhancements have been installed on site. |

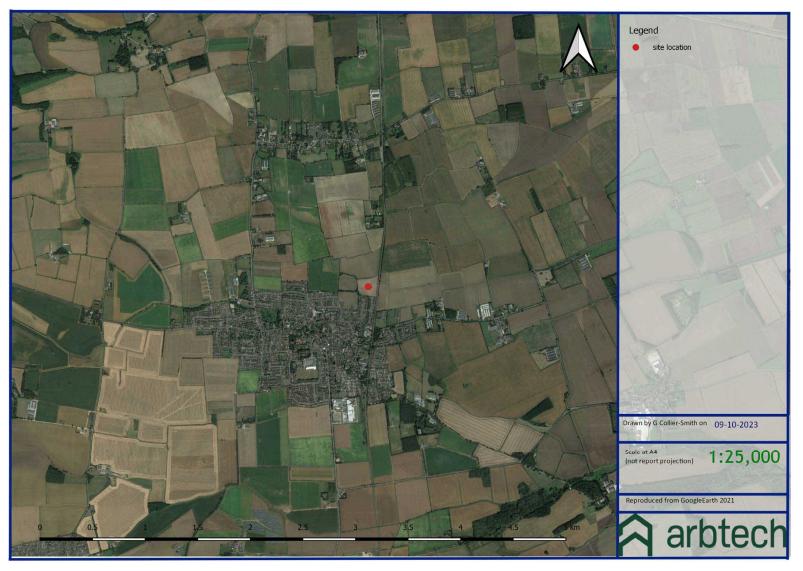


Appendix 1: Proposed Development Plan

Rippon Homes

Land north of Whitehouse Road, Ruskington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 9TP





Appendix 2: Site Location Plan



Appendix 3: New Landscaping and Species-Specific Enhancements Plan