



HABITAT MANAGEMENT & MONITORING PLAN

SITE LOCATION

Queensmead House School,
Kings Road,
Windsor
SL4 2AX

ISSUE DATE

12th April 2024

SEED REF

1450-HMMP-V1-A

CLIENT

Queensmead House School

ARBORICULTURAL CONSULTANCY

SEED-ARB.CO.UK

DOCUMENT CONTROL

The version control is used for updates to the content. Record the initial version and further version control details in this table each time the management plan is altered throughout the management and monitoring period.

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NOTE:

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1. Project Background

Site Overview – Table PB-B01	
Project type	Planning Permission – commercial development
Development Name and Address	Queensmead House School, Kings Road, Windsor SL4 2AX
BNG Project Name and Address	As above
Author Organisation	SEED Arboriculture Ltd
Landowner	Queensmead House School
Land Manager	Queensmead House School
Responsible person/organisation for creating or enhancing the habitat	Queensmead House School
Period covered by this management plan	30 Year Management and Monitoring
Planning authority	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
Planning reference (if applicable)	22/00996
BNG register reference (if applicable)	N/A
Central OS grid reference	SU 96750 75585
Metric revision/title	The Small Sites Metric from DEFRA (2022)
Are any Irreplaceable Habitats present onsite	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Summary of Management Plan

Habitats to be Retained, Created and Enhanced PB-B02
<p>Retained and enhanced habitats include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12 medium trees <p>All other remaining habitats are to be lost.</p> <p>Habitats to be created include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed land; sealed surface (873m²) - Other neutral grassland (862m²) - defined as EM2 Standard General Purpose Meadow Mixture. <p>The proposed Garden has been excluded from the management as it relates to a recreational garden that was not included within The Small Sites Metric from DEFRA (2022). This Garden is to include tree planting, hedge planting and ornamental shrub and herbaceous planting schedule.</p>
Timescales for Actions PB-B03
Start date unknown. Management and monitoring to cover 30 years.
Monitoring Requirements PB-B04
Monitoring visits at Years 1,3,5 and then every 5 years until 30 years has completed.
Required Consents and Licences PB-B05
N/A
Funding PB-B06
Queensmead House School to provide.
Legal Agreement PB-B07
Queensmead House School to provide.

Site Boundary Plan – PB-F01



Phasing Strategy

Will the proposed work measures be delivered in phases? PB-B08	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Not delivered in phases.</p>	

Roles & Responsibilities

Ecologist or Other Professional Responsible for HMMP - PB-B09				
Name or Initials		Katie Bird		
Organisation		SEED Arboriculture Ltd		
Responsibility	Start Date:	N/A	End Date:	N/A
<p>Production of HMMP. Monitoring visits to be organised by Queensmead House School and are not the ecologist's responsibility to book.</p>				
Statement of Competency				
<p>Katie is an Associate Member of CIEEM with over 8 years professional experience in ecological consultancy. Katie is the Associate Director and has key experience undertaking BNG Assessments and recommending management.</p>				

Land Use Summary

Overview of Baseline Site Use - PB-B13
<p>The site currently forms an area of recreational land of Queensmead House School.</p> <p>The site comprises vacant/derelict land/bareground (1615m²) which comprised of bare ground, comprising woodchip piles and bare earth. The bare ground was mainly in association with the former buildings were and have been demolished.</p> <p>A strip of modified grassland utilised for amenity purposes was present (120m²).</p> <p>Two 'small' trees and 12 'medium' trees are located within the site.</p>
Overview of Proposed Site Use - PB-B14
<p>A classroom block is to be constructed with additional parking spaces to installed.</p>

Site Context Photos – PB-F03



2. Planned Management Activities

Habitat and Condition Targets – PM-T01

This table presents a summary record of what you have agreed to deliver based on the biodiversity metric. These habitat condition targets form the basis of what the management plan is setting out to achieve. Include the relevant 'Area', 'Hedgerow', and 'Watercourse' types to be implemented and managed throughout the period of 30 years or more. Under The Small Sites Metric, a condition assessment is not applicable for Baseline Habitats. Table 3.1 summarises the baseline habitats and area size.

Baseline Habitat Type	Target Habitat Type	Parcel / Feature Refs	Baseline Condition	Targeted Condition	Years to Targeted Condition	Condition Assessment Targets	Comments
Individual Trees	Individual Trees	N/A	N/A	Moderate	27	Moderate condition targeted by achieving a pass for criteria B, C, D, E and F	It should be noted, under the Small Metric, a condition assessment is not applied with individual trees.
Other Neutral Grassland	Other Neutral Grassland	4.69 ha	N/A	Moderate	5	Moderate condition targeted by achieving a pass for criteria A, B, C, D, E	N/A

Habitat Retention

Provide a concise description of the habitats that are to be retained in their baseline condition. Habitats being retained may still require ongoing measures to maintain their baseline condition.

Measures to be Implemented to Protect Retained Habitats PM-03

All 12 'medium' sized trees are to be retained. The trees are to be protected during the construction phase as per the methods detailed within the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (reference: 1427-AIA-V1-A).

Specification of Protective Measures to be Used PM-04

Please refer to the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (reference: 1427-AIA-V1-A).

Creation, Enhancement and Management Targets and Prescriptions

Grassland (Medium, High, and Very High Distinctiveness)

Creation, Enhancement and Management Summary (GH-T01)

Target Habitat			Other Neutral Grassland (Moderate Condition)			
Condition Assessment Criteria	Targeted	Relevant Parcels	Creation Approach	Enhancement Approach	Management Approach	
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relevant to the specific habitat type. Note – this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	Yes	All	EM2 Standard General Purpose Meadow Mixture to be seeded. EM2 is a complete mix composed of 15% native wildflowers and 85% slow growing grasses (by weight). The flower and grass components are also available to order separately as EM2F for the flower component and EG1 for the grass component.	N/A	Mowing and edging: In the first year of establishment the grass shall be mowed regularly to prevent weeds smothering the slower growing grasses. Allow for at least one cut a month from May to October. In the following years mowing of wildflower grass should be kept to a minimum. Allow for maximum of 2 cuts a year (June-July and September-October). All grass shall be mown with a rotary/flail mower. Delay cutting of grass in case of extreme draught. The edge of paving and grass shall be kept neat using strimmers or edge clippers once per month during the growing season.
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20 per cent is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	Yes	All	N/A	N/A	As per criteria A mowing and edging specification.
C	Cover of bare ground between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	Yes	All	N/A	N/A	Watering grass areas: During the first 3 years following initial seeding or following re-seeding operations, water wildflower grass areas during periods of extreme drought (4 or more weeks without substantial rainfall) to a maximum of 15 occasions. To aid the natural establishment of grass areas, only water where unavoidable, where the grass is going brown and appears to be suffering from severe drought stress. When watering, water to field capacity in the morning or in the evening to reduce water evaporation, when the water is more likely to reach the roots. The Contractor shall be entirely responsible for varying the frequency of these visits according to climatic conditions and for contacting the landowner and agreeing the timing of any additional watering visits if required and where restrictions are placed on the use of water, sources and costs of obtaining second class water. Replacement of failed grass: Small areas showing signs of degradation shall be reseeded directly following the cutting. For more wholesale degradation of the grass sward, the entire area will require to be re-seeded. Cultivate or power-harrow the affected area until a fine tilth is achieved (removing stones greater than 20 mm) and grade

						until level with adjoining areas. Seed with a species rich seed mix, raking until the seed is a few millimetres below the surface. Water thoroughly and maintain the soil in a moist condition, removing stones, weeding and mowing until the grass is established.
D	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble) less than 5%.	Yes	All	N/A	N/A	General grass care: Apply a selective weed killer once a year, applying strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, Control of Pesticide Regulations, COSHH Regulations and product COSHH sheet in suitable weather conditions. Do not apply any fertilisers to the sward. Removal of bracken and bramble within grassland areas via strimming.
E	Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area. If any invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	Yes	All	N/A	N/A	As detailed for Criteria C.
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m ² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type. Note – this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Additional Management Prescriptions (GH-B01)

N/A

Creation, Enhancement and Management Detailed Methods (GH-T02)

Action	Relevant Parcels	Timing	Prescriptions
Allow for maximum of 2 cuts a year (June-July and September-October). All grass shall be mown with a rotary/flail mower. Delay cutting of grass in case of extreme draught. The edge of paving and grass shall be kept neat using trimmers or edge clippers once per month during the growing season.	All	Allow for maximum of 2 cuts a year (June-July and September-October).	Reseeding as required by manufacturer's instructions if areas become bare.
Check for presence of non-native invasive species.	All	Once a year minimum in late summer. Autumn cut can also be undertaken if required. Check for nesting birds will be required.	Removal of invasive species by hand/ with trimmer's as required by certified contractor.

Creation, Enhancement and Management Targets and Prescriptions

Individual Trees

Creation, Enhancement and Management Summary (GH-T01)

Target Habitat		Individual Trees (Moderate Condition)				
Condition Assessment Criteria		Targeted	Relevant Parcels	Creation Approach	Enhancement Approach	Management Approach
A	The tree is a native species (or more than 70% within the block are native species).	Yes	All	Trees currently exist and are native.	N/A	Checks annually on tree health and establishment. Remedial planting where trees fail.
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Yes	All	Trees currently exist.	No excessive pruning to occur.	Prune back any diseased or rotten wood (including the removal of main stems and limbs) back to sound wood as required. Remove all cut material from site. No excessive pruning to occur.
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	Yes	All	Trees currently exist	All trees are currently mature in age.	N/A
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide, or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Yes	All	Trees currently exist	No excessive pruning to occur.	As detailed for Criteria B. Checks annually on tree health and establishment. Remedial planting where trees fail and/or human disturbance has occurred.
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	Yes	All	Trees currently exist	Individual trees allowed to present features such as niches and crevices. Limb felling sensitive to allow for this where safety allows.	N/A
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Additional Management Prescriptions (GH-B01)

Tree Inspections - To ensure that the above management criteria are met, existing trees should be inspected on completion of the development process by a qualified Arboricultural consultant and appropriate recommendations for remedial work should be made. The frequency and level of future tree inspections should be determined by the appointed Arboricultural consultant, based on the condition of the existing trees and access / occupancy of areas surrounding the trees.

Implementation of Tree Works - Tree work should be carried out in accordance with British Standard 3998 Tree Work - Recommendations (2010) and all relevant health and safety legislation. On undertaking the recommended works, the contractor must report any defects observed while climbing or working on the tree/s in question. This must be reported immediately to the relevant manager, landowner and/or the Arboricultural consultant to enable the appropriate follow up action.

Creation, Enhancement and Management Detailed Methods (GH-T02)

Action	Relevant Parcels	Timing	Prescriptions
General tree maintenance during establishment	All	Annually	Check all trees for firmness and stability in the ground. Check and adjust tree ties, replacing if necessary. Top up bark mulch levels where necessary around the base of new trees, using the same or similar product to that previously supplied to maintain an approximate depth of 50mm to reduce competition from weeds and retain soil moisture. Where trees are in grass areas, remove weed growth by hand and retain a circle of bark mulch

			(approximate radius of 500 mm) to aid mowing and prevent damage to the main stem. Prune back any diseased or rotten wood (including the removal of main stems and limbs) back to sound wood as required. Remove all cut material from site.
Check for pests/ disease	All	Annual in May - September	Any pests/ diseases identified to be reported to ecologist and arborist for advice.
Watering trees	All	As required	Water trees during dry periods (being any period without substantial rainfall for 14 days or more), until trees are successfully established. Apply water at a frequency of once per fortnight from April to the end of September (to a maximum of 15 visits). Increase watering frequency during any continuous hot weather lasting more than 7 days.

Habitat Creation and Management – Risk Register and Remedial Measures PM-T02

Provide a site-wide risk register associated with creating, enhancing and, or, managing each habitat type. Consider your approach to delivering the BNG targets in case the management prescriptions do not deliver as expected.

Risk Identification Date	Habitat Type	Risk Factor	Trigger for Action	Remedial Measure
	Grassland	Bare ground areas	More than 5% shows areas of bare ground	Re-seeding of bare ground areas using appropriate seed mix in line with supplier’s instructions
	Grassland	Excessive bracken and scrub presence.	Scrub cover is more than 5% of habitat area. Bracken cover is more than 20% of habitat area.	Sensitive scrub and bracken clearance using hand tools/ strimmer’s (being mindful of breeding bird season).
	Grassland	Presence of Invasive Species	Any invasive species identified during monitoring visits.	Removal of invasive species by certified contractor using industry best practice guidance.
	Individual Trees	Pests/ disease	10% of over of trees present within woodland showing signs of pests/ disease	Consult with arborist.

3. Monitoring Schedule

To deliver BNG, a robust strategy is critical to monitor successes and challenges. Routine monitoring informs progress and facilitates the required management plan updates at set intervals.

Monitoring Strategy

Provide details of the monitoring strategy to encourage successful implementation of the management plan (MS-B01)

Monitoring visits should be conducted by a Suitably Experienced and Qualified Ecologist who has experience undertaking Condition Assessments for Biodiversity Net Gain. The monitoring visits should be undertaken in Years 1, 3, 5, and then every 5 years until the 30-year period is concluded.

Monitoring visits will be undertaken on all habitats and all parcels in the above time period to assess the condition assessments using the methods listed in the table below.

Monitoring Methods and Intervals MS-T01

Provide details of the methods you will use to adequately monitor the progress towards the targets stated in the management plan and as agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

Habitat Type	Monitoring Methods	Monitoring Interval and Timing
Other neutral grassland	<p>To be undertaken on all parcels.</p> <p>Undertake quadrat sampling to identify the habitat type that is establishing and then number of species per m².</p> <p>Estimate percentage of bare ground, bramble and bracken cover.</p> <p>Collect a botanical species list across grassland to check against target species list</p>	<p>Years 1,3,5 then every 5 years.</p> <p>Surveys to be completed between May and August</p>
Individual Trees	<p>Identify any failed trees.</p> <p>Identify any pests/ diseases present.</p> <p>Undertake assessment as to maturity.</p> <p>Estimate % of canopy oversailing vegetation underneath.</p>	<p>Years 1,3,5 then every 5 years.</p> <p>Surveys to be completed between May and August</p>

Monitoring Reports

Following completion of habitat creation and initial enhancement works, prepare for your monitoring report for the Local Planning Authority or Responsible Body. You should monitor each habitat type comprising the BNG project. Provide sufficient detail for the reviewing authority to assess the progress. The 'Monitoring Report Template' can help you do this. The requirements and regularity with which the monitoring reports are required are at the discretion of the LPA or Responsible Body. Prepare the monitoring requirements below.

Monitoring Report Schedule MS-T02

Provide details of the person or organisation that will be responsible for submitting the monitoring reports. Also state the responsible organisation for receiving and reviewing the reports

Organisation Responsible for Submitting the Monitoring Reports	Organisation Receiving and Responsible for Reviewing Reports
Queensmead House School	Queensmead House School

Provide details of when the monitoring surveys and reports will be undertaken and submitted. You can extend the table and adjust according to your required schedule.

Project Year	Month Report to be Submitted	Month Management Plan to be reviewed	Comments
TBD			

Adaptive Management

Summary of Adaptive Management Approaches (MS-B02)

Adaptive management is a systematic approach to natural resource management that involves monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of management actions then adjusting as necessary to improve outcomes over time. It is an iterative process in which management actions are followed by targeted monitoring outcomes. These, in turn, inform the ongoing management.

Monitoring results inform necessary management changes to promote achieving BNG targets stated in the statutory biodiversity metric and HMMP. The monitoring can pick up any unexpected, external influences. Some examples are dealing with a new plant disease, an invasive species that is thriving due to climate change, or changes to site access due to site flooding.

Observations and notes from day-to-day management are important for delivering adaptive management. Consider how this information will be captured and fed into changes in management prescriptions, then through to subsequent monitoring reports.

Regular robust monitoring, and reporting to the responsible authority, should identify issues early on. Then you can make conscious decisions to implement effective actions. If the BNG objectives are affected by external factors, it is important to agree decisions on changes to the management prescriptions and targets with the responsible authority. Following the review, record any changes in this management plan and schedule.