



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan

For use with
Small Sites Metric
(Statutory Biodiversity Metric)

Site Name:	Land To The West Of Nursery Mews, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 7BU.
Date:	14/3/25
Version:	Version 1
Small Sites Criteria Met	The site fulfils the criteria for use of the Small Sites Metric (Statutory Biodiversity Metric) calculation tool. Yes ☒ No ☐ If 'No' use the Main HMMP Template for the full statutory biodiversity metric instead of this one.

Author:

Client:

Template Document User Guide

Context – The Small Sites Metric

The Small Sites Metric Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan Template (SSM HMMPT) is designed to complement The Small Sites Metric (Statutory Biodiversity Metric) (SSM) calculation tool. It follows the same criteria as the SSM.

The SSM calculation tool can only be applied to ‘small sites’ as defined in [The Small Sites Metric \(Statutory Biodiversity Metric\) User Guide](#).

This means:

- residential development where the number of dwellings is between 1 and 9 on a site of an area 1 hectare or less, or if the number of dwellings is unknown, the site area is less than 0.5 hectares, or
- commercial development where floor space created is less than 1,000 square metres or total site area is less than 1 hectare, or
- development that is not the winning and working of minerals or the use of land for mineral-working deposits, or
- development that is not waste development

It is not possible to use the SSM, and SSM HMMPT, on all sites defined as ‘small sites’. The following criteria also need to be met to use the SSM:

- where only the habitats available in the SSM are present on-site
- where no priority habitats are present on-site (except some hedgerows and arable field margins that are medium distinctiveness)
- where no statutory protected sites or habitats are present
- where no European protected species are present

Supporting documents

[SSM HMMPT Habitat Guide](#)

Tools and Guidance

- [GOV.UK Statutory biodiversity metric \(small sites\) tools and guides](#)
- [GOV.UK Government Collections Biodiversity Net Gain \(BNG\)-Guidance](#)

Template User Guide

This template provides a series of tables, figures and text boxes. Complete these to show how you’ll create, enhance, manage, and monitor the biodiversity net gain (BNG) habitats.

Small Sites HMMPT Habitat Guide

The accompanying [Habitat Guide](#) provides descriptions of proposed habitat types and conditions allowed in the Small Sites Metric (SSM). These are to assist authors in preparing the habitat creation, enhancement, management and monitoring activities and instructions (the ‘prescriptions’) in sections 3 (SM-T02) and 4 (SM-T04), to achieve the required BNG outcomes. The guide includes target habitat descriptions for a range of typical habitats that can be assessed through the SSM calculation tool. The descriptions illustrate what target habitats should look like in line with the range of conditions possible in the SSM.

Use the guide to help you prepare your plan to achieve the outcomes needed for the habitat(s) selected in your metric calculation. Factor the site-specific conditions of your site into the design. Refer to reputable sources and competent professionals to inform the creation and management methods most suitable to deliver the specific habitat outcomes targeted.

Formatting

The Template uses standard Microsoft Word formatting that has not been locked for editing. Adjust it, as required, to tailor your HMMP for the specific site and according to your preferences. You can increase or reduce the text box sizes, or increase or reduce the size of images, to fit the requirements of your plan.

You can provide and reference additional photographs and plans as separate appendices if required. Provide the reference number of the appropriate appendix. If necessary to include in a separate report, reference the location using the appropriate box within the template. Provide at least one photograph for each relevant area habitat, hedgerow or watercourse feature.

Text in grey is provided as a prompt. Replace grey text with your own words. Remember to change to black text then delete any remaining grey ‘prompt’ text.

Each text box in this HMMPT has a unique ID to assist reviewers. Do not change the reference code of any Boxes or Tables.

Template published by Natural England. We acknowledge the significant input from the HMMPT user-testers and production on Natural England’s behalf by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd.

Checklist of Contents SM-T01

Please complete the table below to confirm the sections in this Template that have been completed.

Checklist of Contents Completed		Sections completed (please tick)
1.	Project Background	
1a	Project Information	☒
1b	Planning Condition	☒
1c	Roles and Responsibilities	☒
1d	Site Boundary Plan	☒
1e	Land Use Summary	☒
1f	Site Photos	☒
1g	Site Proposals Plan	☒
2.	Management Plan Aims and Objectives	
2a	Site Aims and Objectives	☒
2b	Retained and Enhanced Habitats Protection Measures	☒
2c	Habitat Management Proposals	☒
3.	Establishment and Management	
3a	Creation, Enhancement and Management Targets and Prescriptions	☒
4.	Monitoring	
4a	Monitoring Strategy for Each Habitat, Hedgerow and Watercourse Present On-Site	☒

Version Control SM-T02

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 adapted throughout the management and monitoring period.

Version	Issue Status	Prepared by / Date	Approved by / Date
Version 1	Planning Submission	Andy May (ACJ Ecology)	Andy May (ACJ Ecology)

Document Details

Provide ownership, copyright and licensing information within this table.

Authorship Details SM-B01
Use this box to provide relevant details of document ownership by the author, such as company address, email, copyright or map licence information. Andrew May is Managing Director of ACJ ecology. ACJ ecology Limited company registration number: 09004713 England and Wales. VAT registration number: 294241496. Registered address, 483 Green Lanes, London, N13 4BS. andy@acjecology.co.uk

1. Project Background

Summarise the key aspects of your management plan in this section. Tables can be extended to suit the specific needs of individual projects.

Project information SM-T01	
Project type	The proposal is the erection of 6no. affordable residential dwellings, emergency access / pedestrian / cycle route with associated parking and landscaping.
Development Name and Address	Land To The West Of Nursery Mews, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 7BU.
Author	Andrew May
Landowner	Hyde Housing Association
Land Management Organisation	Hyde Housing Association
Period covered by this management plan	30 years
Planning authority	Gravesham Borough Council
Planning reference	20241000 PP-13312272
Central OS grid reference	TQ65175138
Total Site Area	1200 sqm

methodology to ensure the submission of monitoring reports. Monitoring reports shall be submitted to the Council during years 2, 5, 10, 20 and 30 from commencement of development unless otherwise stated in the Biodiversity Management and Monitoring Plan, demonstrating how the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is progressing towards achieving its objectives, evidence of arrangements and any rectifying measures needed. The Biodiversity Management and Monitoring Plan shall also include details of the legal and funding mechanism(s) by which the long-term implementation of the plan will be secured by the developer with the management body(ies) responsible for its delivery. Reason: To ensure the development delivers a biodiversity net gain on site, in accordance with Schedule 7A (Biodiversity Gain in England) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), and Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021

Planning Condition

Details of Planning Conditions to be Discharged by this Document SM-B02
5. No development shall commence until a Biodiversity Gain Plan, a Biodiversity Management Plan and a Monitoring Plan have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The plans must demonstrate a 10% net gain in biodiversity will occur within a 30-year period as a result of the development. The Biodiversity Management and Monitoring Plan shall include 30-year objectives, management responsibilities, maintenance schedules and a

Roles and Responsibilities

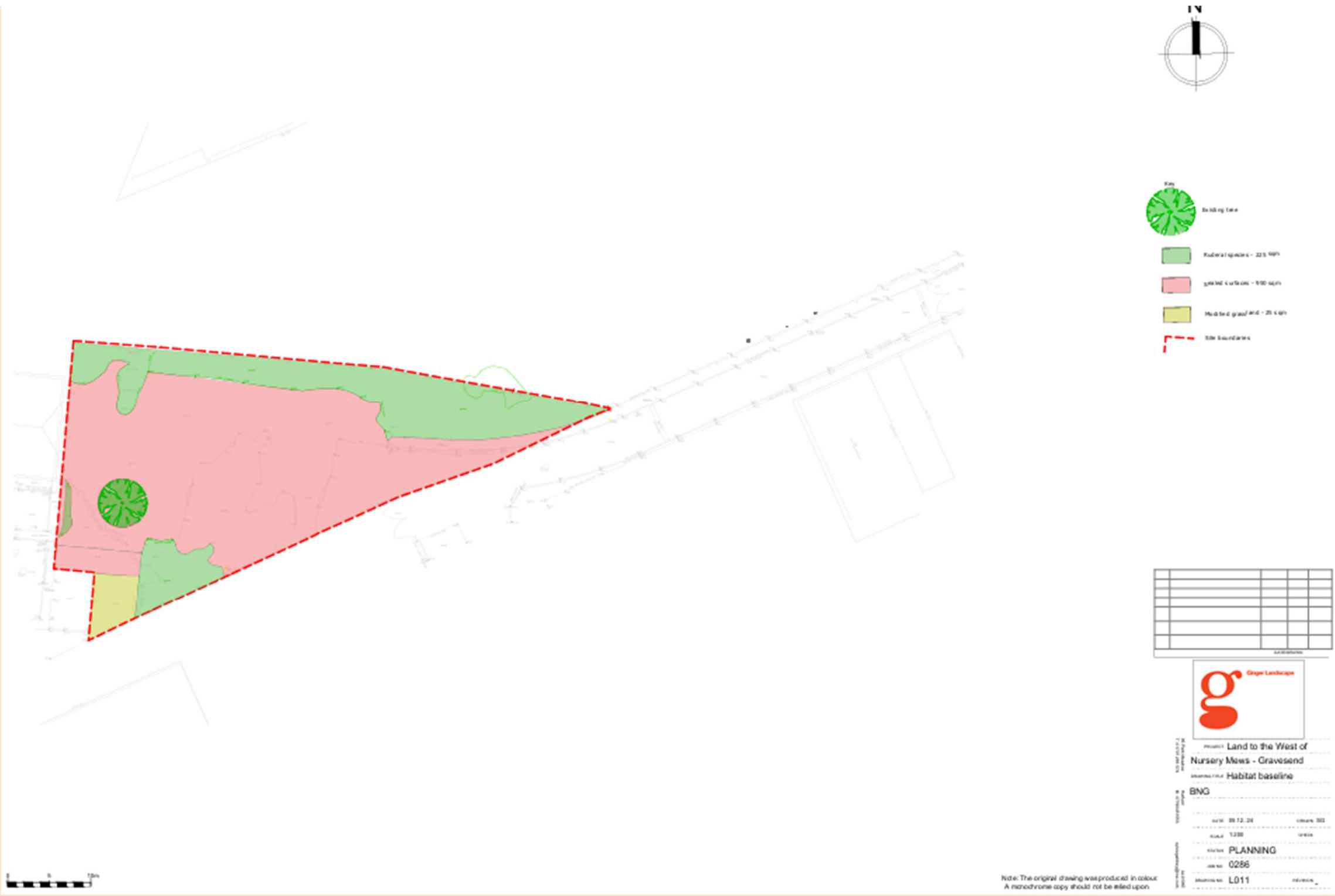
Provide details of the responsible people and organisation(s) delivering this management plan and the legal and funding mechanisms in place to secure the habitat outcomes proposed.

Author Responsible for Preparing HMMP SM-B03			
Name or Initials / Role		Andrew May	
Organisation		ACJ ecology	
Responsibility	Start Date	End Date	31/3/55
1/4/25			
Statement of Competency			
Over 25 years of conservation experience. Founded a new conservation charity and previously worked as Head of Conservation for a Wildlife Trust, Director of Studies for the Field Studies Council, and Course Director and Lecturer for the University of Essex and Cambridge. Respected organisations have been nationally recognised Andy and awarded him various fellowships for his ‘<i>outstanding or significant contribution</i>’ towards these disciplines, including conservation and biodiversity for the delivery of landscape-scale conservation projects. A Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environment Management, Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society, Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology, Fellow of the Linnean Society, and Executive Fellow of the School of Biological Science – University of Essex, demonstrating competence and adherence to a professional code of conduct.			
Landowner / Management Organisation Responsible for Delivering HMMP SM-B04			
Name or Initials / Role		Hyde Housing Association	
Organisation		Hyde Housing Association	
Responsibility	Start Date	End Date	31/3/55
1/4/25			
Statement of Competency			

Review the Small Sites Metric (Statutory Biodiversity Metric) User Guide for Competency Requirements.

Provide above the predicted responsibility start and end dates for the landowner or management organisation. In circumstances where a planned change in responsibility will occur within the management period, include details here.

Hyde Housing Association has been managing various parcels of land for over 58 years. These habitats are associated with various housing schemes across a range of different urban and rural environments. The organisation recently launched its Community and Place Standard in March 2025 with good habitat management and biodiversity at the heart of this strategy. They have not experienced any issues with the local authorities in which they work regarding management. Hyde’s regional Estates Management teams for Kent will oversee the grounds maintenance for the public areas of the development post completion.



Site Context Plan SM-F02

Show the location of the site in context with relevant geographical information, such as National or Local planning policies, that have informed Site and landscape design. These may include (but are not limited to) the National and Local Character Areas, Local Nature Recovery Networks and Biodiversity Opportunity Areas. As a minimum, this plan should illustrate any information that has informed the decision on assigning strategic significance. See the Small Sites Metric (Statutory Biodiversity Metric) User Guide for more information. Magic map NCA is temporarily unavailable.

Identify Results

×

Identify Results generated on Fri Mar 14 2025

The following features have been found in your search area:

You selected the location: Centroid Grid Ref: TQ65177144

LAU1 - Districts and Unitary Authorities (England and Wales)

LAU114NMGravesham

LAU114CDUKJ4205

National Character Areas (England)

No Features found

Export to CSV

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Land Use

Description of Site Use - Baseline SM-B05

Hardstanding was present. A tree was present on the site, several trees were on the adjacent site, and several small trees were also present. A small area of ruderal vegetation was present, and it was being invaded by false oat. A small area of modified grassland was present.

Description of Site Use - Proposed SM-B06

The proposal is the erection of 6no. affordable residential dwellings, emergency access / pedestrian / cycle route with associated parking and landscaping. Several small trees will be planted and modified grassland outside the residential gardens.



Site Photos SM-F03

Please include two overview photographs of the site in its current form here. Include additional photographs in the appendix if needed. You can adjust the size of these to suit your management plan. Tick if additional photographs are provided in the Appendices ☐ Reference: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Site Proposals Plan SM-F04

As a minimum, show all the proposed habitats to be retained, created or enhanced. The map could be on an aerial photo, or a sketch map showing mapped habitat polygons. Include parcel references if possible. It is also helpful to include a north arrow and scale.



Key:

Gravesend - Proposed

- Site outline
- Sealed surface
- Vegetated garden

Google Earth

2. Management Plan Aims and Objectives

Overview of Proposed Habitat Aims and Objectives SM-B07

The aim is to create a net biodiversity gain on the proposed development area. The habitats will be maintained for 30 years.

The habitats on site are species-poor examples of this habitat type. The objective is to create a higher-value habitat derived from intentional sowing with an appropriate species mix. Once established, the grassland will be managed to retain the ecological value initially created. This includes mowing at certain times and removing the cuttings to prevent any increase in nutrients accumulating.

Trees can be ecologically desirable. Under the right conditions, trees can support rich biodiversity (including lichens, bryophytes, invertebrates, bats, and birds) by acting as a habitat and offering a place of protection. They can provide connectivity between established reservoirs of urban biodiversity and contribute towards maintaining viable urban populations within these sites. They are also important parts of wildlife corridors when joined with hedges, providing breaks for large birds and supplying food.

The objective is to plant native species which provide the greatest benefit for biodiversity and are the preferred option. However, tree and shrub planting in urban areas has long included non-native species. These species can still contribute positively, mainly by providing a seasonal food source for nectar feeders (and other invertebrates) and supporting vertebrates that feed on species hosted by non-native trees.

Retained and Enhanced Habitats Protection Measures SM-B08

N/a

Summary of Adaptive Management Approaches SM-B09

An adaptive management approach will be followed. A systematic approach to natural resource management involving 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.

Regular robust monitoring, and reporting to the responsible authority, will identify issues early on. Conscious decisions to implement effective actions will be reported to the responsible body. If the BNG objectives are affected by external factors, these decisions will be agreed on changes to the management prescriptions and targets with the responsible authority. Following the review, record any changes in this management plan and schedule.

Habitat Management Proposals

Habitat Baseline Description SM-B10

Hardstanding was present. A tree was present on the site, several trees were on the adjacent site, and several small trees were also present. A small area of ruderal vegetation was present, and it was being invaded by false oat. A small area of modified grassland was present.

Retained Habitats SM-B11

No habitats are retained.

Enhanced Habitats SM-B12

No habitats enhanced.

Created Habitats SM-B13

Modified grassland will be created, and small native trees will be planted.

3. Creation, Enhancement and Management

Creation, Enhancement and Management Targets and Prescriptions SM-T02

Complete the planned prescriptions for each area habitat, hedgerows and watercourse proposed on-site in the table below to confirm how created and enhanced habitats will be established and managed. Include details on how retained habitats will be managed. At a minimum, list each area habitat, hedgerow or watercourse entered into the Small Sites Metric (Statutory Biodiversity Metric) calculation tool in the ‘Habitat/Feature Type’ column in the table below (SM-T02) and provide specific creation or enhancement and management prescriptions. If preferred, provide multiple rows for the same habitat/feature type where different prescriptions are to be used in different parcels/features, hedgerows or watercourse. Refer to the SSM HMMPT [Habitat Guide](#) for additional guidance on target habitat types and conditions to guide your prescriptions. If appending any additional documents that contain prescriptions or work schedules, please tick here and provide a reference: ☐ Reference: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Habitat/Feature Type	Target Condition	Parcel/ Feature Ref	Habitat Creation or Enhancement and Management Prescriptions
Modified grassland	Moderate		- A minimum of 6 plant species per square metre achieved by, - sowing a diverse grassland seed mix that includes a range of native grasses and wildflowers, to create new or enhance existing grasslands - - choosing a mix with 100% native species choosing species that can tolerate a variety of soil conditions and mowing. Over sow with correct seed mix. - Less than 20% scrub and less than 20% bracken cover. Regular Management - No invasive non-native plant species as listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). Regular management
Small trees	Moderate		- Native tree species planted. - Protected from damage caused by human activities, such as inappropriate management or vandalism. - The tree can grow to at least 75% of its expected canopy area in relation to its age, height and species, because it is in an area where there is enough space to grow, and it is not pruned regularly.

Risk Register and Proposed Remedial Measures SM-T03

Complete the risk register by identifying likely risks that could impede the successful delivery of target habitats, hedgerows or watercourses. List all risks that could reasonably be anticipated. This should not be an exhaustive list as it will not be possible to anticipate all potential risks.

Risk Factor	Habitat/Hedgerow/Watercourse Type	Trigger for Action	Remedial Measure
Briefly describe the anticipated risk to delivery of the proposed habitat type and condition.	List the habitat(s), hedgerow or watercourse which could be affected by the risk identified.	Clearly and concisely describe the trigger which will indicate that remedial measures are required.	Describe the remedial measures required. This can be an adaptation to management prescription listed in table SM-T04 or can be specific action to address risk.
Establishment of grassland	Grassland	Number of species outside the predicted target.	Over sow with seeds.
Increase of negative species	Grassland	Species frequency increases.	Plan removal of species.
New disease	Trees	Monitor signs of disease on the trees.	Follow Forestry Commission protocol.
Climate change	Grassland and trees	Monitoring the success of the habitats against the predicted targets.	An adaptive management will be followed by monitoring the habitats.

4. Monitoring

Monitoring Strategy for Each Habitat, Hedgerow and Watercourse Present On-Site SM-T04

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

Habitat/Feature Type	Monitoring Methods	Monitoring Interval and Timing
Grassland	Common standard monitoring followed.	Annually from 1 to 5, then every 5 years. Rotate surveys to pick up different species.
Trees	Three will be assessed against the success targets.	Annually from 1 to 5, then every 5 years

Monitoring Reporting SM-B14

Organisation Responsible for Submitting the Monitoring Reports		Organisation Receiving and Responsible for Reviewing Reports	
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Project Year	Month Report to be Submitted	Month Management Plan to be reviewed	Comments
Y1-5	October	November	Report on results of initial grassland and trees planted.
Year 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30	October	November	Report on results on the management of progress towards the target condition and changes agreed.