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Ecological Surveys • Habitat Management • Arboricultural Surveys • Vegetation Clearance

Biodiversity Monitoring Plan (BMP)

The Cart Barn, Pidley

[Grid Reference: TL 33082 78174]

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On behalf of: David Hopkins

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001	Biodiversity Monitoring Plan	Elizabeth Trayhurn BSc (Hons) MSc	Jodie Boocock BA (Hons) MSc MCIEEM	Jodie Boocock BA (Hons) MSc MCIEEM	05/02/2025

Factor	Detail
Location	The Cart Barn, Fen Road, Pidley, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 3D. NGR: TL 33082 78174
Date	Biodiversity Monitoring Plan: 05/02/2025
Personnel Qualifications	Elizabeth Trayhurn BSc (Hons) MSc has seven years of industry experience and holds a Level 1 Class Licence in Bats [Licence Number: 2021-53542-CLS-CLS] and is an accredited agent for use of an endoscope under the Level 2 Bat Licence of Steve Parnwell [Licence Number: 2015-14029-CLS-CLS]. Elizabeth also holds a Level 1 Class Licence in Great Crested Newts [Licence Number: 021-53543-CLS-CLS]. Elizabeth has undertaken two years of bespoke in-house botanical training under the guidance of a BSBI county botanical recorder Elizabeth has also attended many other training courses, including UK Habitat Classification and Biodiversity Net Gain. She has vast experience in undertaking impact assessments and biodiversity net gain assessments. .

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1.0 Introduction

1.1. Purpose of Report

Greenwillows Associates Ltd. has been commissioned to provide a Biodiversity Monitoring Plan (BMP), to comply with Condition 7 of the planning permission pertaining to the proposed extension of an existing field shelter (also referred to as 'The Cart Barn') situated in a paddock used for grazing at grid reference: TL 33082 78174. The development location is referred to as 'the site', anything beyond the site boundary, but within the same land ownership is referred to as the 'wider site', for the purposes of this report.

1.2. Development Proposals and Previous Reports

Planning permission was granted by Huntingdonshire District Council on 20th December 2024 for the proposed erection of agricultural barn as an extension to existing barn (Planning Application Reference Number: 24/00425/FUL).

Previous reports submitted pertaining to the site include:

- Greenwillows Associates (2024). Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA). The Cart Barn, Pidley.
- Greenwillows Associates (2024). Biodiversity Gain Statement (BGS). The Cart Barn, Pidley.

This report should be read in conjunction with the findings of the above and the recommendations set out in the above still stand.

1.3. Planning Condition 7

"No development shall commence until a Biodiversity Monitoring Plan to ensure that there is a minimum 10% net gain in biodiversity within a 30-year period as a result of the development has been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Biodiversity Management Plan shall include 30-year objectives, management responsibilities, maintenance schedules and a methodology to ensure the submission of monitoring reports.

Monitoring reports shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority during years 1, 5, 10, 20 and 30 from commencement of the development, unless otherwise stated in the Biodiversity Management Plan, demonstrating how the Plan is progressing towards achieving its objectives, evidence of arrangements and any rectifying measures needed."

1.4. Policy 30 of Section 8.9 of the HDC Local Plan states that:

"A proposal will ensure no net loss in biodiversity and provide a net gain where possible, through the planned retention, enhancement and creation of habitats and wildlife features, appropriate to the scale, type and location of development. Large scale development proposals should provide an audit of losses and gains in biodiversity produced according to a recognised methodology. In seeking to provide net gains for biodiversity reference should be had to the Natural Cambridgeshire publication 'Developing with Nature Toolkit' and the

proposal should prioritise measures that:

d. complement or enhance existing features of biodiversity value within the design and layout of development;

e. provide new biodiversity features within the development;

f. help reverse the decline of species;

g. assist in achieving local targets for priority habitats and species including those set out in Habitat Action Plans;

h. improve public access to nature;

i. ensure the effective management of biodiversity or geological features;

j. contribute to the provision of multi-functional green infrastructure to enhance ecological networks and the Green Infrastructure Priority Areas

k. contribute towards the achievement of good ecological status in water bodies (or not compromise achievement of good ecological potential) in accordance with the Anglian River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) and accompanying catchment action plans; or

l. will help species adapt to climate change."

1.5. Purpose of the Report and Scope

The purpose of the BMP is to ensure that the requirements of Planning Condition 7 are satisfied.

The BMP sets out how the nature conservation value will be safeguarded and how habitats will be enhanced and maintained. It covers the following:

- Objectives and Methodologies;
- Management Responsibilities;
- Maintenance Schedules, and;
- Preparation and Delivery of Monitoring Reports.

2.0 Objectives and Methodologies

2.1 Overview of Objectives

The objectives of the BMP are as follows:

- To provide details on the habitat enhancement required to achieve the mandatory 10% biodiversity net gain;
- Encourage populations of invertebrates via the provision of a nectar resource which will in turn benefit other species including bats and birds; and
- To allow the LPA to discharge its duties under Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 and to accord with Policy 30, Section 8.9 of the Huntingdonshire District Council Local Plan (2019).

These objectives will be met by completing the enhancement measures detailed below in Section Three.

2.2 Methodologies

The existing ecological interest of the site was assessed by a desktop study, including a review of data provided by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre. An extended Phase 1 survey was undertaken in May 2024 by Elizabeth Trayhurn. Habitats were identified in relation to the UK Habitat V2.1 classifications and habitat condition assessments were undertaken as required. Details of the survey results are provided within the Ecological Impact Assessment (Greenwillows Associates, September 2024) which accompanies the approved planning application.

A Biodiversity Statement Report was also submitted in September 2024 in tandem with the Ecological Impact Assessment Report. Due to the size of the site the Small Sites Metric (SSM) (The Statutory Biodiversity Metric) Calculation Tool (Defra, 2024) was utilised for the completion of the Biodiversity Statement Report.

The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool (February 2024) has been used for the calculation of the biodiversity value of the site pre- and post-development. Habitat condition was assessed using the accompanying Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessments (February 2024) spreadsheet. The SSM could not be used for the purposes of this report as it does not account for offsite habitat enhancement. The completed metric has been submitted in conjunction with this report.

The site survey was undertaken within the optimum season for botanical survey and the survey is considered to have been unconstrained.

3.0 Baseline Conditions (Pre-Development)

3.1 Site Context

The site is situated in the small village of Pidley in Huntingdonshire and is largely surrounded by arable land, with residential dwellings present to the north.

The site comprises an existing field shelter and a small strip of a paddock used for grazing (modified grassland). The wider site comprises the grazing paddock with mature tree lines and scrub forming the boundaries of the paddock. The site and wider site are illustrated on a plan in Appendix One.

3.2 Baseline Habitat

The site boundary comprises a very small strip (38.5m^2) of modified grassland (g4), currently in 'moderate' condition. The remaining area of the site comprises the existing field shelter (developed land; sealed surface, u1b).

The paddock is largely dominated by palatable grasses, species recorded within the paddock are detailed in Table One below.

Table One: Modified Grassland Paddock (g4) Species List

Common Name	Scientific Name
Bristly oxtongue	*Helminthotheca echioides*
Broad-leaved plantain	*Plantago major*
Common Nettle	*Urtica dioica*
Cock's-foot	*Dactylis glomerata*
Creeping thistle	*Cirsium arvense*
Cut-leaved cranesbill	*Geranium dissectum*
Daisy	*Bellis perennis*
Perennial ryegrass	*Lolium perenne*
Meadow Grass	*Poa annua*
Meadow Buttercup	*Ranunculus acris*
Red clover	*Trifolium pratense*
White clover	*Trifolium repens*
Yorkshire fog	*Holcus lanatus*

The baseline habitat units for the site total: **0.02 BU.**

4.0 Post-Development Habitat Creation

A small area of the wider site measuring 81m^2 has been identified as suitable to achieve net gain through enhancement. The offsite parcel currently comprises modified grassland in 'moderate' condition due it its low species diversity. The enhancement parcel is illustrated on a plan in Appendix One.

The enhancement process for the area identified would involve the overseeding of the existing sward with an appropriate mix of wildflower species, to be followed, upon establishment, by an annual mowing and/or light grazing regime. Further details are set out below in Section Five.

Through enhancement from the existing state of modified grassland in 'moderate' condition to other neutral grassland in 'moderate' condition, a total net % change of **10.50%** will be achieved which satisfies the requirement for the mandatory 10% biodiversity net gain post-development.

5.0 Habitat Enhancement Process

5.1 Habitat Enhancement Process

In spring (March to May) or autumn (September/October), the offsite area selected for enhancement will be closely mown and then scarified to create approximately 50% bare ground. Any perennial weeds present (i.e. nettles, docks and thistles) will be dug out by hand.

Following this, the area will then be over sown with the EM5F wild flower seed mixture for loamy soils provided by Emorsgate Seeds at a sowing rate of $1g^{m-2}$ by surface broadcasting, in suitable weather conditions. The enhancement area will be divided into quarters and each quarter will be sown individually to give an even distribution of the seed.

After sowing, the area will be firmed by treading or lightly rolling (Cambridge roller or similar). The currently supplied Emorsgate mixture comprises the herb species listed below in Table Two, although relative proportions and, potentially, some of the species may be varied depending upon availability.

If cattle are using the pasture, the enhancement area will need to be fenced to allow the seeds to germinate/plants establish.

Table Two: EM5F Wild Flower Seed Mixture

%	Latin name	Common name
3.5	Achillea millefolium	Yarrow
8.5	Betonica officinalis - (Stachys officinalis)	Betony
11.5	Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed
1	Galium album - (Galium mollugo)	Hedge Bedstraw
11.5	Galium verum	Lady's Bedstraw
8.5	Geranium pratense	Meadow Crane's-bill
6	Knautia arvensis	Field Scabious
3	Leontodon hispidus	Rough Hawkbit
11.5	Leucanthemum vulgare	Oxeye Daisy - (Moon Daisy)
3	Lotus corniculatus	Birdsfoot Trefoil
3	Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain
6	Poterium sanguisorba - (Sanguisorba minor)	Salad Burnet
2	Primula veris	Cowslip
11.5	Prunella vulgaris	Selfheal
1	Rhinanthus minor	Yellow Rattle
1	Rumex acetosa	Common Sorrel
1.5	Silaum silaus	Pepper Saxifrage
6	Vicia cracca	Tufted Vetch
100		

If sowing is undertaken in the spring, the seedbed will be watered as necessary to ensure good establishment. However, if possible, sowing should be undertaken during the autumn.

Given the free-draining nature of the soils, it is anticipated that this mixture will establish well. Depending on timing of sowing and the extent of growth, the seeded area may be topped in early spring, to reduce any growth of annual 'weed' species which may appear. However, care will be taken not to cut developing or flowering yellow rattle, as this species is also an annual. The presence of this hemi-parasitic species within the sward will reduce the amount of grass growth, thereby assisting in the development of an herb-rich sward.

The enhancement process is illustrated in Appendix Two.

7.0 Ongoing Management Process and Responsibilities

7.1 Ongoing Management Process

During the first year of establishment, control of injurious weeds and any other undesirable species will be undertaken as required, through hand-pulling or spot treatment with an approved herbicide.

The established grassland will be cut annually in late summer (July or August), cutting to approximately 5cm, with cuttings removed.

If there is significant growth later in the year, a further cut to 5cm should be undertaken in late autumn or early spring (no later than mid-March), and again with arisings removed. Light grazing may be introduced as an alternative to cutting, following establishment of the enhancement parcel.

The management process is illustrated in Appendix Two.

7.2 Management and Monitoring Responsibilities

All works will be undertaken by or under the supervision of the landowner. Monitoring will be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced professional ecologist.

The enhanced area will be inspected by an experienced ecologist in years 1 and 5 to assess the grassland and its condition. It is recommended that in years 10, 20 and 30 the landowner provides photographs of approximately $1m^2$ areas of the enhancement area for assessment by an ecologist.

Monitoring reports will be produced by an experienced ecologist in years 1, 5, 10, 20 and 30 and will detail the establishment of the grassland parcel, species present and overall condition. It will be the responsibility of the landowner to submit the monitoring reports in the years stated to Huntingdonshire District Council.

Details of any rectifying measures required will also be included within the monitoring reports and it will be the responsibility of the landowner to implement these. Rectifying measures will be finalised following the assessments of the enhancement area but will likely include the following:

- Watering in periods of drought (especially in years 1 and 2);
- Weed control, and;
- Varying grazing regime.

8.0 Conclusions

A small offsite area of modified grassland in 'moderate' condition has been identified as suitable to achieve net gain through enhancement.

The enhancement process for the area identified would involve the overseeding of the existing sward with an appropriate mix of wildflower species, to be followed, upon establishment, by a mowing and/or light grazing regime. The enhancement process will be supervised by an experienced ecologist.

Enhancement of the offsite parcel achieves a total net % change of **10.50%.** As such, the proposals comply with local planning policy and Condition 7 of the planning approval.

The enhancement area will be inspected in years 1 and 5 by an ecologist. Photographs of the area will then be subject to assessment in years 10, 20 and 30. Monitoring reports will be produced each year following inspection and rectifying measures (if required) will be made.

9.0 Appendices

Appendix One: Site, Wider Site and Enhancement Area

Appendix Two: Habitat Enhancement and Management Matrix

Appendix One: Site, Wider Site and Enhancement Area



Internal Reference: J871

Appendix Two: Habitat Enhancement and Management Matrix

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
Neutral Grassland											
Mow, scarify area then overseed with EM5F wildflower seed mixture. Tread or lightly roll area then fence off (if cattle grazing field).			■	■	■				■	■	
Main cut to 5cm height, arisings to be removed.							■	■			
Supplementary cuts (as required) with arisings removed.			■							■	■
Control perennial weeds by pulling/spot herbicide application as necessary.				■	■	■	■	■			