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Landscape and Ecological Management Plan prepared for: Acorn Building Services (Luton) Limited

For the Site of: Agricultural Buildings Old Manor Farm, Raveley Road, Great Raveley, Cambs PE28 2QX

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Landscape and Ecological Management Plan

Agricultural Buildings Old Manor Farm, Raveley Road, Great Raveley, Cambs PE28 2QX

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background to the Scheme

Planning permission has been granted for the replacement of the agricultural barns with 5 dwellings.

1.2 Site Context

The site is located at Grid Reference TL 25555 81021 (Figure 1). An Ecological Impact Assessment was conducted by Green Environmental Consultants (2021) which found the site to comprise of a large hard paved farmyard with an assortment of agricultural buildings and irregularly occurring ruderal weeds in between paving junctions and around structures.

To the south and north lie arable farmland with tall cow parsley dominated tall herb sward to the east. To the west lies a domestic garden with an arable field beyond. The red line (Figure 1) indicates the proposed development area.

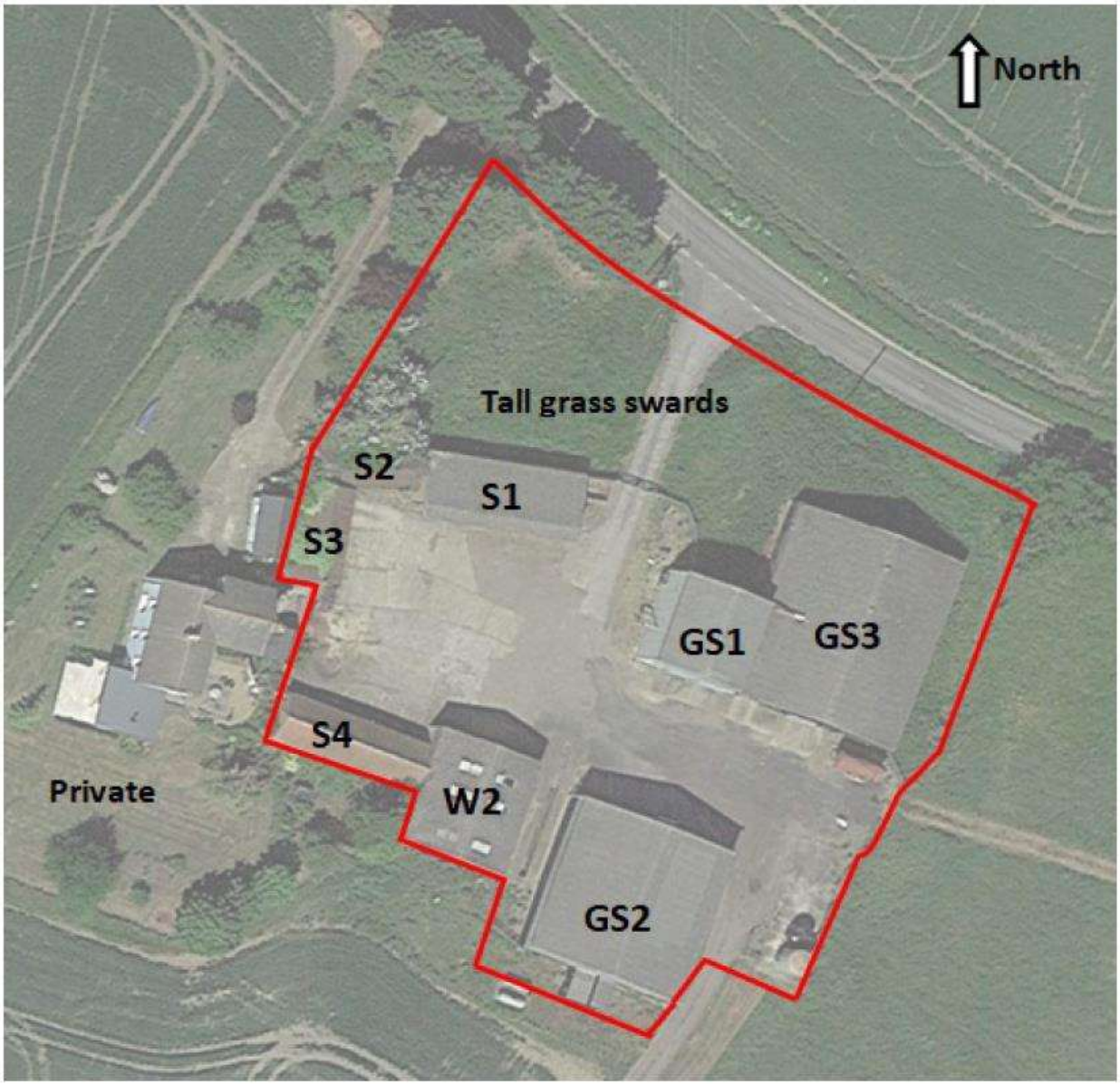


Figure 1: Site context (Green Environmental Consultants, 2021)

1.3 Purpose of this Management Plan

As stated in the introduction, this management plan has been produced for the purpose of promoting landscape and biodiversity net gains as a result of the proposed development.

1.3.1 Planning condition details

Condition 6

Prior to development above slab level taking place a scheme for hard and soft landscaping, including a programme of implementation, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local planning Authority. The approved works shall be completed in accordance with the implementation programme. Hard landscaping shall include details of all boundary treatments, hard surfaces and demarcation of parking spaces. Soft landscaping shall include planting plans, written specifications (including cultivation and other operations associated with plant and grass establishment), schedules of plants noting species, plant sizes, proposed numbers and densities where appropriate, and full details of landscape maintenance regimes after the completion of works. Any trees or plants which are planted in connection with the development hereby approved which within a period of five years from planting, die, are removed or become seriously damaged or diseased, shall be replaced in the next planting season with others of the same size and species as those originally approved.

Reason. In the interest of the visual amenity and the character of the area and in the interests of the biodiversity of the site in accordance with Policies LP11, LP12 and LP30 of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036.

2.0 Aims and Objectives of the Management Plan

2.1 Scope of the Management Plan

2.1.1 Management Period

The management period of this plan is five years, after which it will be checked and renewed for up to 30 years.

2.1.2 Management Responsibilities

The implementation of this management plan will be the responsibility of the landowner. Any transference of responsibility of this plan should be undertaken with the appropriate appointment of a competent organisation capable of delivering the detailed measures within this document.

The organisation of implementing this plan will be undertaken by a management company with the necessary certificates of competence to implement landscape management operation on site. The management organisation will ensure that site management complies with best practice standards and all relevant health and safety procedures, protection of the environment, avoidance of pollution and protection of protected species and habitats.

2.1.3 Document Review

In order to ensure that the plan continues to remain appropriate, applicable and effective, a review will be undertaken by both the landowner, and the controlling authority, to ensure that all information contained within the document remains relevant. This review will be undertaken once every 5 years. Should it be determined that the conservation aims of the management plan are not being met, remedial action will then be identified, agreed and implemented so that the development still delivers the fully functioning biodiversity objectives of the originally approved scheme.

2.1.4 Controlling Authority

The controlling authority are Huntingdonshire District Council, who should be consulted on any matters relating to the existing trees and the approved proposals for the scheme.

Pathfinder House
St Mary's Street
Huntingdon
PE29 3TN

2.1.5 Health and Safety

The site will be managed to comply with all relevant health and safety legislation, approved codes of practice (ACOP's) and Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance. As the managing organisation will be the main company involved in onsite works, the managing organisation will fulfil the landowner's role and the work managers role. This places an obligation on the managing company to ensure that any contractor understands and fulfils their health and safety role and any work undertaken on the site will follow the guidelines of the HSE.

2.1.6 Biodiversity

Please refer to the Biodiversity Improvement Plan (Green Environmental Consultants, 2022).

2.1.7 Landscape

With respect to geographical coverage, the management plan covers the red line boundary shown in Figure 1.
With regards to the focus of the management prescriptions, the scope is defined by the proposed habitat that forms part of the proposals.
For hard landscaping details please refer to the proposed site plan: Drawing No. 1128 – PL-02 Rev H (Graham Handley Architects, Oct 2021).
The landscape receptors are therefore as follows:

- Amenity grassland
- Scattered trees
- Native Hedging
- Introduced Shrub

2.2 Aims and Objectives

The overarching aim of this Management Plan is:

To set out management and enhancement prescriptions to promote the landscape and ecological biodiversity value of the site.

2.2.2 Landscape

In respect of landscape, the supporting aims reflect those outlined above. With particular reference to:

1. The planting of amenity grassland areas;
2. The planting of scattered trees;
3. The planting of new native hedgerow; and
4. The management of areas of ornamental planting

In addition, the following aims guide the basis for specific management operations;

5. Conserve and enhance the ecological and landscape value of the site through safeguarding and enhancing the ecological and physical integrity of the site.

6. Creation of species habitats for UK wildlife which include UK protected species, through providing appropriate planting and management of habitat friendly maintenance methods and applications which do not cause harm or injury to flora or fauna.

7. To provide a safe and secure site which establishes and maintains health and safety procedures for management and maintenance of the site complying with all statutory legislation and best practice.

8. Maintains a flexible management approach which responds to the changing needs of the landscape and ecology of the site.

3.0 Information Gathering

3.1 Information Sources

Sources of information considered in the production of this management plan are set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1 - Desk study sources of information.

Source	Date	Information obtained
Ecological Impact Assessment (Green Environmental Consultants)	August 2021	Current habitat types, quality, and structure. Other information relevant to the presence of protected and notable species.
Biodiversity Improvement Plan (Green Environmental Consultants)	April 2022	Information regarding the proposed installation of habitat boxes and other measures to enhance the biodiversity on site.
Google Earth	December 2024	Contextual information for the site and surroundings
National and Local Landscape Character Assessments	December 2024	Contextual information for the site and surroundings

3.2 Results

3.2.1 Site Baseline – Biodiversity

The site consists of a large hard paved farmyard with an assortment of agricultural buildings and irregularly occurring ruderal weeds in between paving junctions and around structures.

3.2.1 Site Baseline - Landscape

The site falls within National Character Area 88 – Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands.

The National Character Area profile describes the Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands as:

‘The Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands National Character Area (NCA) is a broad, gently undulating, lowland plateau dissected by shallow river valleys that gradually widen as they approach The Fens NCA in the east. Within it, but distinct from it, is the Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge, a contrasting narrow and elevated outcrop of Greensand, with its associated habitats on acidic soils such as grassland, heathland and woodland. Views of the Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands NCA and its large-scale arable farmland can be seen in most directions, from the elevated ground of the Yardley Whittlewood Ridge, Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge, East Anglian Chalk and Chilterns NCAs.’

4.0 Management Prescriptions

4.1 Landscape and Biodiversity

The management prescriptions are summarised in Table 2 below. These are fully described in the text below.

Table 2. Summary of management prescriptions, receptors and aims of the management plan

Management Prescription Reference	Relevant Receptors	Relevant Aims
A	Grassland	1
B	Hedgerow	3
C	Trees & Ornamental Planting	2 & 4

A - Creation of amenity grassland

The area of land to the front of the site, adjacent to the roadside and access point will consist of amenity grassland/ roadside verge.

This will be planted with a species-rich grassland mix that can tolerate regular mowing, such as EL1 Flowering Lawn Mixture (Emorsgate Seeds)

Below provides the recommended habitat management for this seed mix.

Ground Preparation

To prepare a seed bed first remove weeds using repeated cultivation. Then plough or dig to bury the surface vegetation, harrow or rake to produce a medium tilth, and roll or tread to produce a level firm surface.

Sowing

Seed is best sown in the autumn or spring but can be sown at other times of the year if there is sufficient warmth and moisture. The seed must be surface sown and can be applied by machine or broadcast by hand. To get an even distribution and avoid

running out, divide the seed into two or more parts and sow in overlapping sections. Do not incorporate or cover the seed, but firm in with a roll, or by treading, to give good soil/seed contact.

First Year Management

The wildflower and grass species in this mix are perennial; they will be slow to germinate and grow and will not usually flower in their first growing season. There will often be a flush of annual weeds from the soil in the first growing season. This annual weed growth is easily controlled by repeated mowing.

Mow newly sown flowering lawns regularly (every 7 -10 days during growing season) throughout the first year of establishment. Cut to a height of 40-60mm, removing cuttings if dense. This will gradually develop a good sward structure, help maintain balance between faster growing grasses and slower developing wildflowers, and control annual weeds. Dig out any residual perennial weeds such as docks.

Management Once Established

Mow regularly as a lawn but not too short (25-40mm). To permit flowering, mowing can be relaxed from late June. Cut again when the sward gets untidy (after 4-8 weeks). Mowing may be suspended earlier in the year to allow cowslips to flower. Heavy quantities of cuttings should be collected and removed from the site.

B - The planting of new native hedgerow

New lengths of hedgerow are proposed around the residential garden boundaries, to be planted with a diversity of native hedgerow species.

Suitable hedgerow species include:

- Hawthorn (Crateagus monogyna)
- Hazel (Corylus avellana)
- Wild Privet (Ligustrum vulgare)
- Field Maple (Acer campestre)
- Blackthorn (Prunus spinosa)
- Guelder Rose (Viburnum opulus)
- Wayfaring Tree (Viburnum lantana)
- Dog Rose (Rosa canina)
- Spindle (Euonymus europaea)
- Holly (Ilex aquifolium)

Where possible, no cutting will take place during peak bird nesting season, which runs from March to September. Where possible, shrubs and hedgerows will not be cut back annually, as flower buds often form on second-year growth. Trimming hedges on a two-year or three-year rotation, targeting different sections each year, will make sure there are always flowers for pollinators in spring and berries for birds in autumn. Hedges cut every three years can produce two and a half times as many blossoms as those cut annually. Rotational cutting can also save time and money that would be invested in annual cutting.

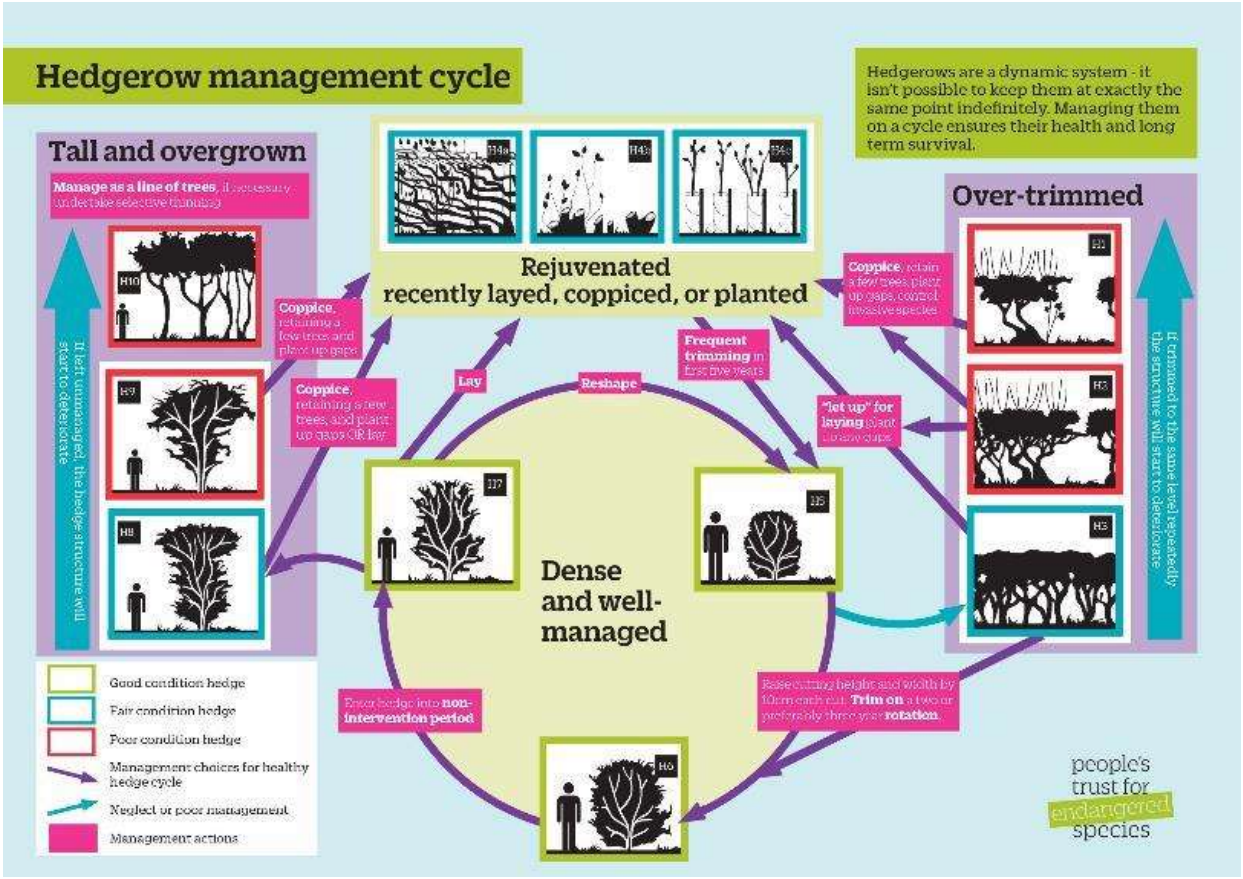


Figure 2: Hedgerow management cycle (https://hedgerowsurvey.ptes.org/).

C - The planting of new trees and ornamental planting

New individual trees will be planted across the site, including within the area of grassland to the front of the site where non-native trees will be replaced with native species.

The site will also feature areas of ornamental planting (located adjacent to the access road and car parking areas). These will be planted with a range of plant species that are beneficial for invertebrates, including a mix of native and garden plants that are known to provide insects with a food source, thus providing a food web for larger animals.

The below provides recommended species for planting, taken from the planting schedules. (*Plants marked * are native or wildlife-friendly)

Flowers for Borders -

- *Aubretia (spring to early summer) *Aubretia sp.*
- *Candytuft (summer to autumn) *Iberis sp.*
- *Cherry pie (summer to autumn) *Heliotropium arborescens*
- Corncockle *Agrostemma githago*
- Cornflower *Centaurea cyanus*
- Corn marigold *Glebionis segetum*
- Corn poppy *Papaver rhoeas*
- *Echinacea *Echinaceasp.*
- English Bluebell (spring) *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*
- *Evening primrose (summer to autumn) *Oenothera biennis*
- *Honesty (spring) *Lunaria annua*
- *Ice plant 'Pink lady' (early autumn) *Delosperma sutherlandii*
- Knapweed (summer to autumn) *Centaurea sp.*
- Mallow (summer to autumn) *Malva sp.*
- *Mexican aster (summer to autumn) *Cosmos bipinnatus*
- *Michaelmas daisy (summer to autumn) *Aster amellus*
- *Night-scented stock (summer) *Matthiola longipetala*
- Ox-eye daisy (summer) *Leucanthemum vulgare*

- *Phacelia (summer to autumn) *Phacelia tanacetifolia*
- *Poached egg plant (summer) *Limnanthes douglasii*
- Primrose (spring) *Primula vulgaris*
- Red campion (spring) *Silene dioica*
- *Red valerian (summer to autumn) *Centranthus ruber*
- Scabious (summer) *Scabiosa sp.*
- St John's wort (spring) *Hypericum perforatum*
- *Sweet William (summer) *Dianthus barbatus*
- *Tobacco plant *Nicotiana sp.*
- *Verbena (summer to autumn) *Verbena officinalis*
- *Wallflowers (spring to early summer) *Erysimum sp.*
- Wood forget-me-not (spring) *Myosotis sylvatica*
- Yarrow (early summer) *Achillea millefolium*

Plants marked * are hybrids or exotics that may be useful in the gardens

Herbs -

- Hyssop (summer to early autumn) *Hyssopus officinalis*
- Lavender *Lavandula sp.*
- Lemon balm *Melissa officinalis*
- Marjoram (summer) *Origanum majorana*
- Rosemary (spring) *Salvia rosmarinus*
- Sweet Cicely (spring to early summer) *Myrrhis odorata*
- Thyme (summer) *Thymus sp.*
- Angelica (summer to early autumn) *Angelica sp.*
- Bergamot (summer to early autumn) *Citrus bergamia*
- Borage (spring to early autumn) *Borago officinalis*
- Coriander (summer) *Coriandrum sativum*
- English marigolds (summer to early autumn) *Calendula officinalis*
- Fennel *Foeniculum vulgare*
- Feverfew (summer to autumn) *Tanacetum parthenium*

Trees, shrubs & climbers -

- Bramble (climber) *Rubus fruticosa agg.*
- Common alder (suitable for coppicing) *Alnus glutinosa*
- Dog rose (climber) *Rosa canina*
- Elder (small) *Sambuca nigra*
- English oak (large gardens only) *Quercus robur*
- Gorse (shrub) *Ulex europeaus*
- Guelder rose (shrub) *Viburnum opulus*
- Hawthorn (suitable for coppicing) *Crataegus monogyna*
- Hazel (suitable for coppicing) *Corylus avellana*
- Honeysuckle (native honeysuckle) *Lonicera periclymenum*
- Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*
- Ivy (climber) *Hedera helix*
- *Jasmine (night-scented) *Jasminum sp.*
- Pussy willow (suitable for coppicing) *Salix sp.*
- Rowan *Sorbus fruticosa*
- Silver birch *Betula pendula*

All plants that are native or wildlife-friendly above should be sourced from a stockist of native and local origin plants. Wild Seed can provide details of local, native-sourced plants and seeds.
Further advice, if required, should be sought from a landscape architect regarding planting location and implementation.

Most urban planting is heavily managed reducing their value to wildlife. Where possible no cutting should take place during peak bird nesting season, which runs from March to September. Where possible, shrubs should not be cut back annually, as flower buds often form on second-year growth. Pruning should ideally be undertaken on a two-year or three-year rotation, targeting different sections each year, to ensure there are

always flowers for pollinators in spring and berries for birds in autumn. Rotational cutting can also save time and money that would be invested in annual cutting.

5.0 Implementation

5.1 Schedule and Management Responsibilities

5.1.1 Landscape and Biodiversity

The schedule for activities is as set out in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Schedule and responsible parties for biodiversity management prescriptions

Management Prescription reference	Contributing activities (as described in Section 4.1)	Timings	Responsible parties
A	Sow new grassland seed mix	Autumn or spring	Landscape contractor.
	Mow grassland - first year	Regularly (every 7-10 days during growing season)	Owner or landscape contractor.
	Mow grassland - subsequent years	Mow regularly to between 25-40mm. Relax mowing regime from late June for 4-8 weeks.	Owner or landscape contractor.
B	Plant new hedgerow	Between October to the end of March	Landscape contractor.
	Manage hedgerow	Avoid breeding bird season (March - September). Trim sections on a 2-3 year rotation.	Owner or landscape contractor.
	Replace failures	As needed	Owner or landscape contractor.
C	Plant new trees	Between October to the end of March	Landscape contractor.
	Plant new ornamental shrub beds	Planting times are species dependent. Refer to planting calendars for species chosen.	Landscape contractor.
	Manage shrub beds	Avoid breeding bird season (March - September). Prune shrubs on a 2-3 year rotation.	Owner or landscape contractor.

	Replace failures	As needed	Owner or landscape contractor.

6.0 References

Gardener's World (2020), https://www.gardenersworld.com/ Accessed at time of the report

Google Earth, (2024), Image from site location

Green Environmental Consultants (2021), Ecological Impact Assessment

Green Environmental Consultants (2022), Biodiversity Improvement Plan

National and Local Landscape Character Assessments – NCA88 – Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands.

The Great British Hedgerow Survey (2019), People's Trust for Endangered Species, online https://hedgerowsurvey.ptes.org/ Accessed at time of the report

Wild Seed (2024) https://wildseed.co.uk/ Accessed at time of the report

Appendix I Proposed Plans



Proposed site plan: Drawing No. 1128 – PL-02 Rev H (Graham Handley Architects, Oct 2021).