



**Landscape and Ecological  
Management Plan (LEMP)**

**Land to the rear of 14 Kinsbourne  
Way, Thornhill**

For

**Sherfield Homes Ltd**

**Report Ref.: NC025/006**

**March 2025**

| Date of Issue | Author:                           | Report Ref: |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 14/03/2025    | Grace Cousins MSc BSc Hons MCIEEM | NC025/06    |

## Contents

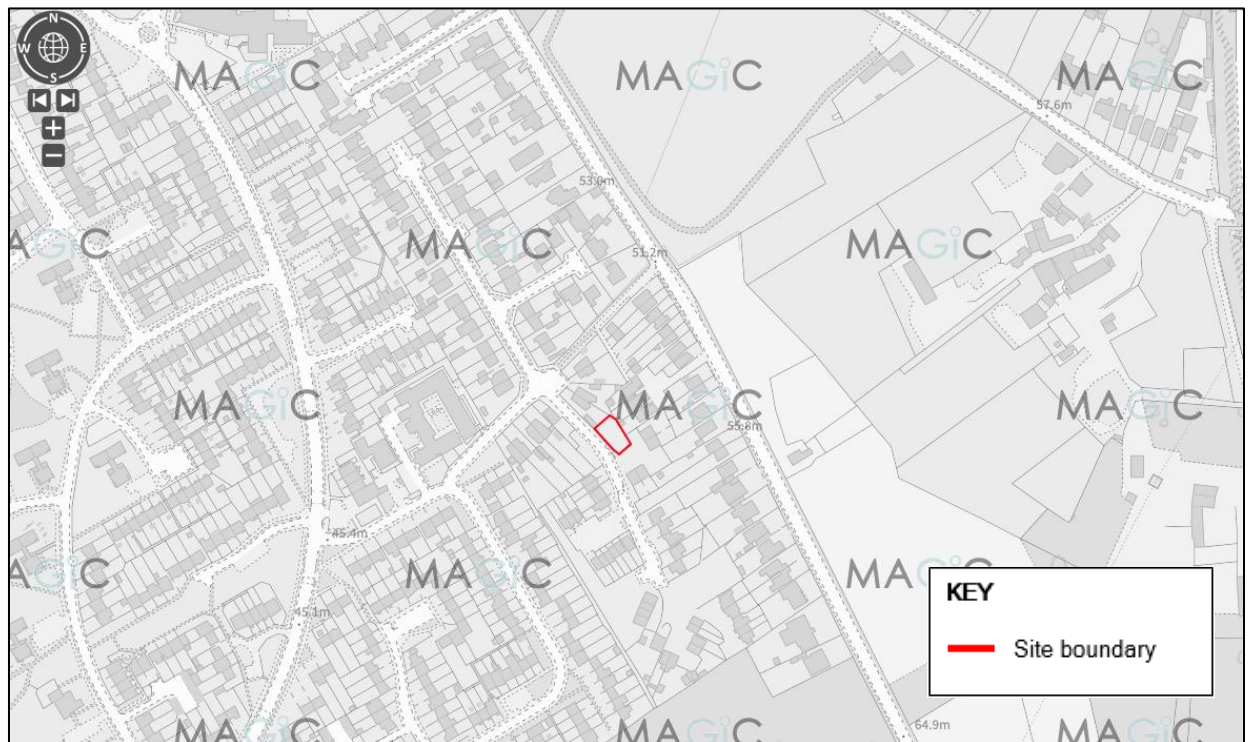
|                                                                 |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Introduction .....                                           | 3         |
| 1.1 Development Background .....                                | 3         |
| 1.2 Ecology Background .....                                    | 4         |
| 1.3 The Brief and Objectives .....                              | 4         |
| 1.4 Planning Condition 8: .....                                 | 4         |
| 1.5 Planning condition 9: .....                                 | 5         |
| 2. Planning Policy and Legislation .....                        | 6         |
| 3. Landscape and Ecological Management Plan .....               | 11        |
| 3.1 Protection of retained habitat .....                        | 11        |
| 3.2 Removal of existing habitat .....                           | 11        |
| 3.3 Proposed new habitat types .....                            | 11        |
| 3.4 Biodiversity Net Gain Summary .....                         | 15        |
| 4. Enhancements for Protected Species .....                     | 17        |
| 4.1 Hedgehogs .....                                             | 17        |
| 4.2 Birds .....                                                 | 17        |
| 4.3 Reptiles .....                                              | 17        |
| 4.4 Bats .....                                                  | 17        |
| 4.5 Hedgehog .....                                              | 17        |
| 4.6 Invertebrates .....                                         | 18        |
| 5. Summary of Enhancements and Monitoring .....                 | 19        |
| 5.1 Enhancements .....                                          | 19        |
| 5.2 Monitoring .....                                            | 19        |
| 5.3 BNG Summary .....                                           | 19        |
| 6. References .....                                             | 20        |
| Appendix 1: LEMP Plan .....                                     | 21        |
| Appendix 2: Proposed species to Plant .....                     | 22        |
| Appendix 3: Target Assessment criteria .....                    | 24        |
| Appendix 4: Maintenance Activity Schedule .....                 | 26        |
| <br>                                                            |           |
| <b>Figure 1: Site Location .....</b>                            | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Figure 2: Landscape and Ecological Management Plan .....</b> | <b>21</b> |

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Development Background

- 1.1.1 Nature's Cousins were commissioned in October 2024 to complete a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) on land to the rear of 14 Kinsbourne Way, Thornhill, Southampton, SO196HB. Proposals included the construction of a single 3-bed residential dwelling within the former garden footprint.
- 1.1.2 The project includes sectioning off an area of land to the rear of 14 Kinsbourne Way which is currently an abandoned rear garden which has completely become encroached by bramble scrub.
- 1.1.3 The proposals are hereafter referred to collectively as “the proposed works”. The site location is shown on Figure 1 below.

**Figure 1: Site Location**



---

## 1.2 Ecology Background

- 1.2.1** An ecological desk study, identified some nearby designated sites and priority habitats, as well as protected species records which could potentially be impacted by the proposals. None of the nearby sites were thought to be impacted by the proposed works due to the small-scale nature of the works and no significant change of land use (PEA report, Natures Cousins, 2024).
- 1.2.2** Within the PEA survey, the habitats identified included a small patch of modified grassland with a tree border, but largely comprised of bramble scrub and a dilapidated shed in poor condition. There was one notably large plum tree (*Prunus domestica*), and two goat willow trees (*Salix caprea*). There is a small wooden shed completely encroached by bramble. A large yew tree (*Taxus baccata*) overhangs the site on the northern boundary. A dense line of mature Lawsons cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) will be removed for access on the northern and eastern perimeter.
- 1.2.3** The PEA identified that the site in its current state at the time of survey (October, 2024) was suitable for reptiles, common amphibians, hedgehog and nesting birds. Recommendations were made to provide ecological enhancements for these target species and sensitive clearance regime detailed within the Precautionary Method of Works (PMoW) document (Nature's Cousins, 2025).
- 1.2.4** The site has since been granted planning permission; F/24/98426 with various accompanying planning conditions, the site was proposed to be cleared of vegetation in February 2025 under the PMoW report. This report relates to Planning Condition 8; detailed below. In order to discharge this planning condition, a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) is required. This is required in order to protect the existing biodiversity and enhance the site for wildlife post development.

## 1.3 The Brief and Objectives

- 1.3.1** Nature's Cousins was commissioned on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 to produce a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) as per Planning Condition 8; detailed below:

## 1.4 Planning Condition 8:

- 1.4.1** *"Prior to the commencement of development, a Biodiversity/Landscape Environmental Management Plan (LEMP) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Development shall proceed in full accordance with the approved LEMP, and all measures shall be retained thereafter.*
- 1.4.2** *Reason: To ensure the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and secure biodiversity net gain. The objective of the appraisal was to identify constraints and opportunities related to ecology and biodiversity with respect to development of the site.*
- 1.4.3** In addition to Planning Condition 8, Planning Condition 9 also relates to the creation of a Biodiversity Net Gain Plan; detailed below:

## 1.5 Planning condition 9:

**1.5.1** *“Prior to first occupation of the dwelling, a Biodiversity Gain Plan shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Reason: To ensure the development delivers biodiversity net gain”.*

**1.5.2** Off-site mitigation will be secured prior to first occupation of the new dwelling, and this report will be updated to include the BNG mitigation requirements, but the off-site mitigation will need to include **0.0992 habitat units and 0.319 hedgerow units in order to achieve the minimum 10% net gain**. Offsite mitigation has not yet been secured (March, 2025) so this will require an update once the credits have been purchased and off-site grassland and hedgerow enhancement secured.

## 2. Planning Policy and Legislation

**2.1.1** National legislation and planning policy relating to ecology and biodiversity, relevant to the proposed works, is summarised below. Local policies relevant to the project are also described below.

**2.1.2** This report refers to “ecological features” which include:

- Statutory designated sites for nature conservation;
- Non-statutory designated sites for nature conservation;
- Priority habitats for nature conservation, including ancient woodland;
- Protected species;
- Species of conservation concern; and
- Invasive non-native species.

### *Designated Sites*

**2.1.3** Designated sites for nature conservation are protected under UK legislation. Sites can be classified according to their levels of conservation importance. Sites may be considered of international, national or local conservation importance. Internationally important sites receive the highest level of protection.

**2.1.4** Paragraph 180 of the National Planning Policy Framework, 2023 (NPPF) states that: “Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan)”. In this guidance, which sets out the government’s planning policies for England and how they should be applied, “sites of biodiversity” are taken to include designated sites for conservation.

**2.1.5** Paragraph 187 of the NPPF states that “The following should be given the same protection as habitats sites<sup>1</sup>:

- a) potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;
- b) listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and
- c) sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.”

**2.1.6** Statutory designated sites of national importance include Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) which are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1984 (WCA), Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act) and Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act). National Nature Reserves (NNRs) are a selection of the very best parts of England’s SSSIs, protected under the WCA and CRoW Act.

---

<sup>1</sup> Any site which would be included within the definition at regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 for the purpose of those regulations, including candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and any relevant Marine Sites.

- 2.1.7** Natural England's Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) for SSSIs (Natural England, 2021) is a GIS tool developed by Natural England to make a rapid initial assessment of the potential risks to SSSIs posed by development proposals. They define zones around each SSSI which reflect the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified and indicate the types of development proposal which could potentially have adverse impacts. The IRZs also cover the interest features and sensitivities of European sites, which are underpinned by the SSSI designation and "Compensation Sites", which have been secured as compensation for impacts on European and Ramsar sites.
- 2.1.8** Development proposals situated within IRZs may require consultation between the Local Planning Authority and Natural England to discuss the potential impacts of a proposal upon the designated site.
- 2.1.9** Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are statutory designated sites of local importance that receive protection under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. Local Planning Authorities are required to consult Natural England about all new proposals. An LNR can be given protection against damaging operations. It also has protection against development on and around it. This protection is usually given via the Local Plan<sup>2</sup> (produced by the planning authority), and often supplemented by local bylaws. Unlike national designations, the level and type of protection afforded an LNR is decided locally and varies from site to site.
- 2.1.10** Non-statutory designated sites, such as Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI), Sites of Interest to Nature Conservation (SINC) and Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) are of local importance. These sites are not protected under legislation. However, local authorities take account of local sites when formulating local plans and when considering planning applications.

#### *Priority Habitats*

- 2.1.11** In this report priority habitats for nature conservation include:
- Habitats of Principal Importance listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act;
  - Habitats listed under Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs); and
  - Ancient woodland.
- 2.1.12** Habitats of Principal Importance are listed under the NERC Act. Under Section 41 of the NERC Act, the Secretary of State must, as respects England, publish a list of the types of habitat which in the Secretary of State's opinion are of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity.
- 2.1.13** Section 40 of the Act places a duty on all public bodies, including planning authorities, to have regard for biodiversity in exercising their functions. Planning authorities should have particular regard to the Habitats of Principal Importance (priority habitats) listed under Section 41 of the Act which should be treated as a material consideration in the planning process.
- 2.1.14** Paragraph 185 of the NPPF states that to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should "promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats,

---

<sup>2</sup> A plan for the future development of a local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community. In law this is described as the development plan documents adopted under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. A local plan can consist of either strategic or non-strategic policies, or a combination of the two.

ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.” The NPPF defines “priority habitats and species” as “Species and Habitats of Principal Importance included in the England Biodiversity List published by the Secretary of State under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006”.

**2.1.15** Some habitats are described as ‘irreplaceable habitat’. The NPPF describes these as habitats which would be technically very difficult (or take a very significant time) to restore, recreate or replace once destroyed, taking into account their age, uniqueness, species diversity or rarity. They include ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees, blanket bog, limestone pavement, sand dunes, salt marsh and lowland fen.

**2.1.16** Ancient woodland is any area that’s been wooded continuously since at least 1600AD<sup>3</sup>. Ancient woodland, as well as ancient and veteran trees, are regarded as an irreplaceable habitat<sup>4</sup>. Paragraph 186(c) of the NPPF states that “When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles: c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists ...”

### *Protected Species*

**2.1.17** Rare and declining plant and animal species in the UK are generally protected under national legislation. Such protection and species can be found in Appendix 2.

**2.1.18** Species protected under the Habitat Regulations<sup>5</sup> receive the highest level of protection in the UK. These species are considered to be of international importance because they are rare or declining in Europe as well as in the UK. These species are not only protected from killing and injury, but their breeding sites and resting places are also protected. These species include:

- Great-crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*),
- All bat species;
- Hazel dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) and otter (*Lutra lutra*);

**2.1.19** For the species listed above, the Habitats Regulations makes it an offence to:

- Deliberately kill, injure, disturb or capture them;
- Deliberately take or destroy their eggs;
- Damage or destroy their breeding sites and resting places<sup>6</sup>; and
- Possess, control or transport them (alive or dead).

**2.1.20** The WCA also offers protections. In addition to the species listed above, which also receive some protection under the WCA (Section 9 (1)), protection under this legislation is given to prevent intentional (or reckless in Scotland) killing and injury<sup>7</sup> of:

<sup>3</sup> Ancient woodland includes ‘ancient semi-natural woodland’ (ASNW) and plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS).

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-ancient-trees-and-veteran-trees-advice-for-making-planning-decisions>

<sup>5</sup> These species are often referred to as European Protected Species (EPS) because the requirement to protect them under national legislation originally derives from the fact that these species are listed under the European Habitats Directive

<sup>6</sup> This applies even if the species is not present at the time when the damage or destruction occurs.

<sup>7</sup> The WCA also protects many species from activities related to their sale, including: Selling, offering for sale, possessing or transporting for the purpose of the sale or publishing advertisements to buy or sell a protected species (WCA Section 9 (5)).

- Common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*), slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*), adder (*Vipera berus*) and grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*);
- All wild birds; and
- Water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*).

**2.1.21** The WCA also provides additional protection for some species also protected under the Habitats Regulations. These species include great-crested newt, sand lizard, smooth snake, bats, dormouse, otter, large blue butterfly, Fisher's estuarine moths, and little ramshorn whirlpool snails, whereby it is also an offence under the WCA to intentionally or recklessly:

- Disturb while they occupy a structure or place used for shelter or protection; and
- Obstruct access to a place of shelter or protection.

#### *Species of Conservation Concern*

**2.1.22** Other rare or declining species may not receive strict legal protection but may be recognised on published lists as species of conservation concern that should be protected as a matter of best practice.

**2.1.23** Under Section 41 of the NERC Act, the Secretary of State must, publish a list of the living organisms which in the Secretary of State's opinion are species of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity. Planning authorities are required to have particular regard to these species and treat them as a material consideration in the planning process. Consideration of species of conservation concern during development projects is a requirement of the NERC Act which states that any "public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard ... to the purpose of conserving biodiversity" and "conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat."

**2.1.24** Further information can be found in Appendix 2.

#### *Invasive Non-Native Plant Species*

**2.1.25** Invasive non-native plants are those listed as species of special concern because they cause severe problems for native UK plants and the environment.

**2.1.26** The relevant legislation on invasive plant species is:

- Schedule 9 of the WCA; and
- Schedule 2 of the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019, which gives effect to EU regulations on the prevention and management of the spread of invasive alien species.

**2.1.27** Both make it an offence to "plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild" any plant species listed.

#### *Local Planning Policy*

**2.1.28** The NPPF is enacted locally through local borough plans, In Eastleigh Borough a new Local Plan for Biodiversity is currently being drafted. In the meantime, the previously adopted

**Biodiversity Action Plan (2012- 2022)** still remains relevant, and the BAP includes eight species of bats which are national priority species in Eastleigh borough.

**2.1.29 Eastleigh Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document** states: “ **Planning Policy Statement 1:** *‘Delivering Sustainable Development’ requires development plan policies to take account of environmental issues including the conservation and enhancement of wildlife species and habitats and the promotion of biodiversity (para. 20). The PPS1 supplement on climate change identifies the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity as a key objective (para. 9), indicating that in selecting sites for development, account should be taken of effects on biodiversity, and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement through the provision of open space and other green infrastructure (para. 24).*

**2.1.30 Eastleigh Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document:**

***Priority Habitats and Species***

*“Where there is potential for a development to cause harm to priority habitats or species the applicant must submit adequate biodiversity surveys, impact assessment and mitigation proposals to enable the Council to determine a planning application. Further guidance on this is provided in Chapter 4.*

*Where development is proposed, the Council will consider applying planning conditions or legal obligations to secure the protection, conservation and enhancement of priority habitats or species to minimise any harmful impacts arising from the development.*

*Where damage cannot be avoided the Council will require compensatory measures to be provided as part of the development.*

*The Council will welcome proposals which will help conserve habitats and species of principal biodiversity importance listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and the UK and Eastleigh Biodiversity Action Plans”.*

### 3. Landscape and Ecological Management Plan

#### 3.1 Protection of retained habitat

- 3.1.1** Under the Tree Method Statement report (James Fuller arboriculture, 2024) and the Precautionary Method of Works (PMoW; Nature's Cousins, 2024 document, it was identified that the following trees on site would be retained; two goat willows and a Norway Maple, but the vast majority of the vegetation on site (introduced scrub, bramble scrub and grassland is to be removed). The remaining trees along the boundary are to be retained and will require protective measures during all phases of development. Such measures will be detailed within a CEMP and include temporary fencing of tree Root Protection Areas (RPA) James Fuller arboriculture report; Tree report reference JFA0352.). No material storage is permitted within the RPAs of retained trees unless confirmed to be acceptable by the consulting arboriculturist. For more information, consult the arb report and CEMP document on details of tree protective measures.

#### 3.2 Removal of existing habitat

- 3.2.1** It is understood the existing landowner will be clearing the site in advance of construction phase (proposed clearance in February, 2025). The PMoW recommended that the habitat be cleared outside of the nesting bird season (March to August inclusive), (Natures Cousins, 2024); or alternatively pre-clearance nesting bird checks would be required if any vegetation above 500mm is to be cleared during nesting bird season. The PMoW and CEMP documents cover these protective measures so will not be addressed any further here.

#### 3.3 Proposed new habitat types

- 3.3.1** The following UKHab habitat types will be present post-construction; their requirements are detailed below :
- u1b5 – Buildings
  - g3 – Neutral Grassland, Species rich lawns
  - U 203 - Urban trees
  - H2a native hedgerow
- 3.3.2** These proposed habitats are described below and their distribution is shown in the LEMP figure within Appendix 1.

### U 1b5 Buildings

- 3.3.3** The new building on site could be enhanced for wildlife by the installation of a bird box; one style which would likely be appropriate for the residential setting would be a sparrow terrace nesting box, suitable for communal nesters, such as house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). No additional street lighting is proposed as a result of the development, therefore there is no additional requirement for a sensitive lighting strategy with regards to local commuting and foraging bats.

### Urban trees

- 3.3.4** There is some capacity for planting nineteen urban trees on the site. These have been recommended based on the previous species assemblage; including a plum tree (*Prunus domestica*) and a goat willow tree (*Salix caprea*). Other species to plant include wild cherry (*Prunus avium*); these are all fruiting species which will provide suitable fruits and berries to support a range of different wildlife species and support the local bird assemblage and encourage invertebrates and hedgehogs.
- 3.3.5** Nineteen small' sized trees will be planted within the site, species composition is provided in **Error! Reference source not found..** The size has been assessed using the diameter at breast height (DBH), as set out in the user guide (DEFRA, 2023).
- 3.3.6** All new tree planting to be planned and implemented in accordance with BS8545:2014 "Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - recommendations".

### Tree Management

- 3.3.7** To achieve poor condition within 10 years, the trees must:
- Have little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity);
  - No regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height; and
  - Be immediately adjacent to other vegetation, with the canopy over sailing vegetation.

**Table 1: Initial and ongoing management for Individual urban trees**

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Years 0 -5</b> | <p>Watering in periods of drought for Years 1 - 3 until satisfactory establishment.</p> <p>Trees are to be inspected by a qualified arboriculturist every 6 months for the first two years after planting to ensure that trees are healthy, not diseased, damaged, or dead.</p> <p>Inspections should be carried out to identify any dead limbs or other parts of a tree that may cause harm to the tree or member of the public. Arboriculturist to advise remedial actions.</p> <p>Inspections after the first 2 years can be reduced to yearly if the trees are establishing well.</p> |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                | <p>Remedial pruning to be conducted between January and March based on findings of inspections. Emergency pruning to be conducted immediately when a critical fault is noticed.</p> <p><u>Any failed trees during the first 5 years after planting will be replaced and maintained for a subsequent 5 years.</u> To be undertaken in optimum tree planting in early spring or late autumn</p> <p>Trees are to be fertilised in the first two years of establishment using a liquid based organic fertiliser as per the manufacturer's recommendations.</p> <p>Weed removal to occur fortnightly from spring to autumn and then monthly during the winter months.</p> <p>Herbicides and weed strimmers are not to be used to control weeds in plant beds. Other material such as litter, debris and other harmful material is to be removed.</p> |
| <b>Year 5+</b> | <p><u>Any failed trees during the first 5 years after planting will be replaced and maintained as above for a subsequent 5 years.</u></p> <p>Subject to the outcome of the CMC regular monitoring during years 1-5, the frequency of maintenance and monitoring will then be reduced to once every two years.</p> <p>As required, further reinstatement or remedial action may be undertaken and / or changes made to the maintenance schedule in light of this monitoring.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

### *H2a Native Hedgerow*

- 3.3.9** The previous Lawsons Cypress trees formed a dense perimeter around the site. These are to be cleared in advance of construction all along the eastern and southern boundary. However, it is recommended this border is replaced by native hedgerow species planting. Whips will be planted five trees per meter, and will be protected by biodegradable type spiral guards. Any dead or diseased specimens will be replaced on an annual basis. Sherfield Homes Ltd will be responsible for the management and maintenance (including survival) of the native hedgerow, and promoting the young trees growth. Proposed hedgerow includes seven different species (Appendix 2).

### *Hedgerow management*

- 3.3.10** Management of hedgerow- detailed in Table 2 below:

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Years 0<br/>-5</b> | <p>Bark mulch hedgerows to help retain moisture.</p> <p>Watering in periods of drought for Years 1 - 3 until satisfactory establishment.</p> <p>Trees are to be inspected annually after planting to ensure that trees are healthy, not diseased, damaged, or dead.</p> <p>Inspections after the first 2 years can be reduced to yearly if the young trees are establishing well.</p> <p><u>Any failed trees during the first 5 years after planting will be replaced and maintained for a subsequent 5 years.</u> To be undertaken in optimum tree planting in early spring or late autumn</p> <p>Weed removal to occur fortnightly from spring to autumn and then monthly during the winter months.</p> <p>Herbicides and weed trimmers are not to be used to control weeds in plant beds. Other material such as litter, debris and other harmful material is to be removed.</p> |
| <b>Year 5+</b>        | <p><u>Any failed trees during the first 5 years after planting will be replaced and maintained as above for a subsequent 5 years.</u></p> <p>Regular monitoring during years 1-5, the frequency of maintenance and monitoring will then be reduced to once every two years.</p> <p>As required, further reinstatement or remedial action may be undertaken and / or changes made to the maintenance schedule in light of this monitoring.</p> <p>Remove spiral guards once trees outgrown them to avoid restricting growth.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

#### *Species Rich Lawn*

- 3.3.11** The existing patch of G4 (Modified grassland) lawn is to be removed to allow for construction phase of the new dwelling. However, the new dwelling will require a small garden area which will comprise of a species rich lawn. This can be seeded using suitable seed such Emorsgate EL1. Which would include species listed in Appendix 3.

#### *Ground Preparation*

- 3.3.12** Endeavour to select ground that is not highly fertile and does not have a problem with perennial weeds. Good preparation is essential to success so aim to control weeds and produce a good quality seed bed before sowing.
- 3.3.13** 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.

#### *Seed sowing*

- 3.3.14** 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 (Emorsgate, 2025).

#### *First Year Management*

- 3.3.15** The wild flower 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.
- 3.3.16** 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 wild flowers, and control annual weeds. Dig out any residual perennial weeds such as docks.

#### *Management Once Established*

- 3.3.17** 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 site.

### **3.4 Biodiversity Net Gain Summary**

- 3.4.1** Despite the above site enhancements which are recommended and conditioned under this LEMP report, as the site remains a residential dwelling and garden with parking, there is no guarantee that the habitats proposed within this LEMP will stay in situ for a period of 30 years. Based on the current proposed plans (March, 2025) and the space available on site, it is

unlikely that the 10% net gain can be achieved on site, as the habitat areas will be garden and parking for the new dwelling.

**3.4.2** It is unlikely that habitat retention will be conditioned within the new home owners house purchase therefore off-site mitigation has been proposed in addition to the on site planting.

**3.4.3** **The on-site baseline biodiversity unit value is currently 0.0902 habitat units, therefore 0.0992 off-site habitat units will be required in order to achieve the minimum 10% net gain and 0.319 hedgerow units. These are to be secured via Wild Capital and report updated to reflect these off-site enhancements, once agreed.**

## 4. Enhancements for Protected Species

### 4.1 Hedgehogs

- 4.1.1 In order to further enhance the site for hedgehogs, it is recommended that hedgehog access holes (of approximately 13cm) are installed on all the perimeter fences (N/E/W/S elevations); these can be buried into the new garden fences to allow free movement of hedgehogs across the site. They will benefit from the re-instated grassland habitat and the native hedgerow will provide enhanced foraging opportunities than the previous non-native cypress hedge.

### 4.2 Birds

- 4.2.1 The loss of short term nesting opportunities will be compensated for by the installation of a sparrow terrace nest box onto the new residential property, once constructed. The proposed location (southern elevation) is shown on Figure 2, Appendix 1; LEMP drawing. The species rich lawn and native hedgerow boundary planting will also provide additional foraging and eventually nesting opportunities for common garden birds.

### 4.3 Reptiles

- 4.3.1 A small hibernacula pile is also recommended to support slow worm, to be incorporated into the landscape plans, to encourage slow worm by providing hibernating opportunities. The new gardens and hedgerows and native tree planting will further encourage species such as slow worm to use the site, post establishment of the new habitat types.

### 4.4 Bats

- 4.4.1 Six different bat species records were found within the 1km study area, these included records for common *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, the rare barbastelle bat (*Barbastella barbastellus*). There were no suitable trees with potential to support roosting bats, however it is likely the site is used for foraging and commuting bats. So long as no additional lighting is proposed, then there will be no predicted impacts on bats. In order to offset for the loss of previous habitat once the site has been cleared, it is recommended that flowering species be incorporated into the native hedgerow border that will attract moths and other night-flying invertebrates. These include species listed in Appendix 4, example include honeysuckle and ox-eye daisy.

### 4.5 Hedgehog

- 4.5.1 There were 19 records of hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) returned within the desk study within a 1km radius, with some records close by. Although hedgehog is not a protected species it is a species of conservation concern, suitable habitat for hedgehog was recorded on the site which may be suitable nesting and foraging sites for hedgehog. In order to manage the site for hedgehogs, within the new perimeter fencing, a small hole (13cm by 13cm) should be installed

within the boundary fences to allow free roaming access for hedgehogs to neighbouring properties on both sides.

#### 4.6 Invertebrates

- 4.6.1 Bee bricks could be installed within the new property to enhance the site for bees, and encourage other crevice dwelling invertebrates. Along with the proposed native hedgerow and species rich lawns within the garden will provide some opportunities for invertebrates post-development.

## 5. Summary of Enhancements and Monitoring

### 5.1 Enhancements

- 5.1.1** A summary of the proposed enhancements include a native hedgerow planted along the eastern and southern borders, the hedgerow will include native flowering species and nectar rich species which will in turn encourage birds and invertebrates. A sparrow terrace has been proposed to be planted on the new residential dwelling. Three hedgehog access holes will be created within the perimeter fencing of the site. A species rich lawn seed mix will be sown within the new garden of the new property, this will also encourage invertebrates and birds and support other wildlife such as hedgehogs.

### 5.2 Monitoring

- 5.2.1** This LEMP covers the first five years of establishment, however, continued maintenance is required to the trees for a further 25 years in order to achieve the LEMP and Biodiversity Net Gain aims, and the time required for urban trees to reach their target condition.
- 5.2.2** An annual monitoring visit should be conducted by Sherfield Homes (or suitable agent) during growing season in order to assess whether the targeted condition is being met and plants are thriving. Ecologist to provide recommendations for remedial action where this is not the case.
- 5.2.3** Sherfield Homes will be responsible to adhere to the prescriptions within this document and landscaping on site to ensure the maintenance and preservation of the habitats and enhancement features long-term after completion of the development, as per Planning Condition 8.

### 5.3 BNG Summary

- 5.3.1** In order to achieve the 10% net gain score, it is recommended that the existing boundary fence is replaced and planted with native hedgerow species and the gardens of proposed new property are seeded with a species rich grassland seed mix of local provenance to the area. Additional urban trees are also recommended to be planted such as English oak and hazel trees which will benefit local wildlife. Off-site credits in the form of neutral grassland and native hedgerow can be purchased through "Wild Capital" in order to conform with the 10% biodiversity net gain. This report will be updated once the off-site credits are secured, and this will relate to Planning Condition 9.

## 6. References

- 6.1.1 Butcher, B., Carey, P., Edmonds, R., Norton, L. and Treweek, J. (2023) UK Habitat Classification – Habitat Definitions V2.0 at <https://ukhab.org/>.
- 6.1.2 CIEEM (2017) Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. 2nd Edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester, England.
- 6.1.3 Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (2023) National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). London.
- 6.1.4 Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs. (DEFRA(2023)). The Statutory Biodiversity Metric: Auditing and accounting for biodiversity – Metric Calculation Tool. Natural England
- 6.1.5 Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs. (DEFRA(2023a)). The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (draft). Natural England.
- 6.1.6 Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs. (DEFRA (2023b)) The Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment. Natural England
- 6.1.7 Eastleigh Local plan: <https://www.eastleigh.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy-and-implementation/local-plan> (Accessed March 2025).
- 6.1.8 Emorsgate seed: Species rich lawn mix – EL1 <https://wildseed.co.uk/product/mixtures/complete-mixtures/special-habitat-mixtures/flowering-lawn-mixture/> (Accessed March, 2025).
- 6.1.9 Stace, C. (2019) New Flora of the British Isles (fourth edition). C&M Floristics, Middlewood Green, Suffolk.
- 6.1.10 The Wildlife Trusts - [Wild About Gardens - Stars of the Night guide](#) (Accessed March 2025).

Appendix 1: LEMP Plan

Figure 2: Landscape and Ecological Management Plan



## Appendix 2: Proposed species to Plant

**Table 1: Native hedgerow to plant (5 whips per meter).**

| Common Name  | Scientific Name              |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| Hazel        | <i>Corylus avellana</i>      |
| Honeysuckle  | <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> |
| English Oak  | <i>Quercus robur</i>         |
| Hawthorn     | <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>    |
| Blackthorn   | <i>Prunus spinosa</i>        |
| Guelder rose | <i>Viburnum opulus</i>       |
| Clematis     | <i>Clematis vitalba</i>      |

**Table 2: Urban trees to plant on site, including a combination of:**

| Common Name     | Scientific Name         | Size to plant |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Ornamental plum | <i>Prunus sp.</i>       | Small         |
| Wild cherry     | <i>Prunus avium</i>     | Small         |
| Goat willow     | <i>Salix caprea</i>     | Small         |
| English Oak     | <i>Quercus robur.</i>   | Small         |
| Hazel           | <i>Corylus avellana</i> | Small         |

**Table 3: Species rich lawn mix to include Emorsgate EL1 Seed or similar type mix with 20% flowers and 80% grasses including the following herb and grass species:**

**Suggested Sowing Rates**

40kg/ha                  16kg/acre                  4g/m<sup>2</sup>

**Description**

Mixture EL1 contains slow growing grasses with a selection of wild flowers that respond well to regular short mowing (Emorsgate, 2025).

| Common Name       | Scientific Name             | % composition in seed mix |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Yarrow            | <i>Achillea millefolium</i> | 1%                        |
| Kidney Vetch      | <i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> | 1%                        |
| Betony            | <i>Betonica officinalis</i> | 0.4%                      |
| Common Knapweed   | <i>Centurea nigra</i>       | 1.50%                     |
| Hedge Bedstraw    | <i>Galium album</i>         | 0.4%                      |
| Lady's Bedstraw   | <i>Galium verum</i>         | 1.50%                     |
| Field Scabious    | <i>Knautia arvensis</i>     | 0.4%                      |
| Rough Hawkbit     | <i>Leontodon hispidus</i>   | 0.5%                      |
| Oxeye Daisy       | <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> | 1%                        |
| Black Medick      | <i>Medicago lupulina</i>    | 1%                        |
| Ribwort Plantain  | <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>  | 0.4%                      |
| Hoary plantain    | <i>Plantago media</i>       | 2%                        |
| Cowslip           | <i>Primula veris</i>        | 2%                        |
| Meadow Buttercup  | <i>Ranunculus acris</i>     | 0.4%                      |
| Selfheal          | <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>    | 0.4%                      |
| Bulbous Buttercup | <i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>  | 1.6%                      |
| White clover      | <i>Trifolium repens</i>     | 4%                        |
| <b>Grasses</b>    |                             |                           |
| Common Bent       | <i>Agrostis capillaris</i>  | 8%                        |
| Crested Dogstail  | <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>  | 28%                       |

|                             |                          |     |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Red Fescue                  | <i>Festuca rubra</i>     | 24% |
| Smaller Cat's-tail          | <i>Phleum bertolonii</i> | 4%  |
| Smooth-stalked Meadow-grass | <i>Poa pratensis</i>     | 16% |

## Appendix 3: Target Assessment criteria

**Table 4. Summary of Condition Assessment Criteria for “Other” neutral grassland**

| Criteria Number | Condition Assessment Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Targeting |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1               | The grassland is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type. Indicator species listed by UKHab for the specific grassland habitat type are consistently present.<br><b>Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.</b> | Yes       |
| 2               | The 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | N/A       |
| 3               | The cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Yes       |
| 4               | The cover of bracken less than 20% and the cover of scrub (including bramble) is less than 5%.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Yes       |

| Criteria Number | Condition Assessment Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Targeting |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 5               | <p>The combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition<sup>1</sup> and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area.</p> <p>If any invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.</p> | N/A       |
| 6               | <p>There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m<sup>2</sup> present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 1 or listed on Schedule 9 of WCA cannot contribute towards this count).</p> <p><b>Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.</b></p>                                                                                                                | N/A       |

- Footnote 1 - Species indicative of sub-optimal condition for this habitat type include: Creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), curled dock (*Rumex crispus*), broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), greater plantain (*Plantago major*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*).

## Appendix 4: Maintenance Activity Schedule

**Table 5: Suitable months for completion of key maintenance activities for habitats on site**

|                                            | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| <b>General</b>                             |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| INNS, weed, pest, and disease control      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Watering                                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Replacement planting                       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Fertiliser and Mulching (trees and shrubs) |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| <b>Grassland</b>                           |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Inspection                                 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Cutting                                    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| <b>Trees</b>                               |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Inspection                                 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Tree pruning                               |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Tree replacement                           |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |