

Ecological Consultants Environmental and Rural Chartered Surveyors

# Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP)

# Planning Consent 4/25/2090/0F1

# PROPOSED ERECTION OF STEEL FRAME AGRICULTURAL TYPE SHED FOR STORAGE OF IMPLEMENTS AND EQUIPMENT AS EXTENSION OF EXISTING SHEDS. RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL FOR RETENTIONOF OPEN SIDED SHED TO THE REAR

# HALLSENNA, GOSFORTH, CA19 1YB



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### ACCURACY OF REPORT

This report has been compiled based on the methodology as detailed and the professional experience of the surveyor. Whilst the report reflects the situation found as accurately as possible, all of the protected species this survey covers are wild and can move freely from site to site. Their presence or absence detailed in this report does not entirely preclude the possibility of a different past, current or future use of the site surveyed.

We would ask all clients acting upon the contents of this report to show due diligence when undertaking work on their site and/or in their interaction with protected species. If protected species are found during a work programme, and continuing the work programme could result in their disturbance, injury or death, either directly or indirectly an offence may be committed. If in doubt, stop work and seek further professional advice.

#### Quality and Environmental Assurance

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# 1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

The Habitat Management and Management Plan (HMMP) prepared by Envirotech NW Ltd outlines the ecological enhancement and long-term management of land associated with the **erection of steel frame agricultural type shed for storage of implements and equipment as extension of existing sheds and the retrospective approval for retention of open sided shed to the rear**. The plan spans **30 years** and aims to promote biodiversity and improve ecological value through targeted habitat creation and management.

Key proposals include:

- New Tree Planting: Ten broad-leaved trees will be planted with a target condition score of at least Moderate, using native species such as Rowan, Wild Cherry and Field Maple. Regular inspections, pruning, and replacement will be carried out within the first five years.
- Monitoring and Reporting: All habitats will be monitored in year 2, 5, 7, 10, 20 and 30, with formal reports submitted to the Local Planning Authority in year 2, 5, 7, 10, 20 and 30 to ensure compliance and assess ecological success.
- Long-Term Management: The site owner will be responsible for habitat management, with technical support from Envirotech NW Ltd as needed.

The plan aims to enhance the site's biodiversity, ensuring that new and retained habitats contribute positively to the local environment while supporting protected species.

# 2. INTRODUCTION

The following Habitat Management and Management Plan (HMMP) has been prepared by Envirotech and details the habitat creation proposals and the subsequent future management of areas of green infrastructure associated with the "erection of steel frame agricultural type shed for storage of implements and equipment as extension of existing sheds and the retrospective approval for retention of open sided shed to the rear" at "Hallsenna, Gosforth, CA19 1YB".

This management plan covers thirty years management and provides information on the management of retained and newly-created habitats in order to ensure their establishment and safeguard their long-term biodiversity value.

The management plan and objectives should be reviewed after 3 years and adjusted if required but indicative management requirements are specified for a full 30 years.

The plan should be read in conjunction with the landscape plans and ecology surveys to provide additional context of the site.

# 3. FACTORS INFLUENCING MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

## Habitat Creation

Habitat creation will comprise native species appropriate to the local area and/or be of benefit to wildlife.

New tree planting will reinforce and enhance existing planted areas to the site boundary.

Modified grassland will be lost and recreated.

Developed land/sealed surface habitat is created and this has no condition score or management requirement.

## **Existing and Retained Habitats**

Existing habitats comprise modified grassland in poor condition, introduced shrub and developed land/sealed surface. All shrubbery is to be retained and no specific management is required.

# Enhanced Habitats

No habitats onsite are to be enhanced.

# 4. OBJECTIVES AND HABITAT CREATION, ENHANCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

The following section provides the prescriptions and management objectives of the proposed and retained habitats. The management plan and objectives should be reviewed after 3 years and adjusted if required. The management plan will run for 30 years.

Some habitats have a default condition score. They need therefore only be created and then retained as the required general habitat type and do not need to be subject to detailed management. This habitat is "developed land sealed surface".

#### Modified Grassland

The majority of the site's modified grassland will be lost and recreated again. Comprising mown amenity areas of vegetation. Resultingly, we do not consider the need for a management plan for this habitat type given its targeted condition score is POOR- it only needs to be created in the appropriate areas (see Figure 2).

#### New Tree Planting

At least ten Broad-leaved trees will be planted around the site. Condition score to be at least MODERATE.

#### Management Objective: create and maintain rural trees

1) The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).

2) The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).

3) There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity).

4) And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.

5) Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.

6) More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.

Planting will be undertaken between the months of November and March, preferably prior to January. Trees to be planted and staked with tree guards.

Annual inspection will be undertaken and stakes and ties adjusted as necessary. Any tree identified as diseased, dead or diseased within the first 5 years will be replaced on a like-for-like basis. During the inspection pruning will be undertaken as required to remove any dead or diseased wood and promote healthy growth and natural shape. The base of each tree should be

kept clear of vegetation through the targeted application of an approved herbicide until the canopy closes (expected 3 - 5 years). Management will continue for 30 years.

Trees to be selected from the following lists. Provision of medium-sized broadleaf trees will likely be more appropriate.

#### Large Broadleaf Trees

- 1. English Oak (Quercus robur)
- 2. Sessile Oak (Quercus petraea)
- 3. Sweet Chestnut (Castanea sativa) Naturalised but widely planted
- 4. Small-leaved Lime (Tilia cordata)
- 5. Large-leaved Lime (Tilia platyphyllos)
- 6. Common Alder (Alnus glutinosa)

#### Medium-Sized Broadleaf Trees

- 8. Silver Birch (Betula pendula)
- 9. Downy Birch (Betula pubescens)
- 10. Field Maple (Acer campestre)
- 11. Rowan (Mountain Ash) (Sorbus aucuparia)
- 12. Wild Cherry (Prunus avium)
- 13. Bird Cherry (Prunus padus)
- 14. Aspen (Populus tremula)



Figure 1- At least 10 standard broadleaf trees to be planted along the south-east edge of the site

#### 5. Monitoring

In order to ensure that the habitats created and retained within the site reach and maintain their maximum value to nature conservation, all habitats should be monitored every three years to check establishment. Results of this monitoring, together with ongoing checks during routine works should be used to inform changes to annual work prescriptions, with the management plan reviewed towards the end of the five-year rolling plan and work programme period. The prescriptions provided here are for overall guidance and should be flexible depending on success of management. Prescriptions should be altered if required.

Reports will be submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) in years 2, 5, 7, 10, 20, and 30, detailing the condition and progress of all created and retained habitats. These reports will include the results of ecological monitoring, confirmation of whether habitats meet target conditions, any management adjustments made, and evidence of any remedial actions undertaken. This ensures transparency and accountability throughout the 30-year management period.

Habitat/	Operations/ Works	Year	Anticipated Timing of Visits/ Operations (months)						Oper	s)	Frequency, notes				
Feature		J	F	м	Α	м	J	J	Α	s	ο	Ν	D		
Modified Grassland	Sow grassland	1													Sow April/early May or late August/September at rate as per seed providers guidelines, firm with roller.
	Review condition & re-seed as required	1-2													Re-seed within next appropriate seeding period.
	Review & treat areas of ruderal/weed species	2-3													Spot treatment with non-residual herbicide, undertake early summer prior to flowering.
	Cut grassland	2 - 30													Cut once in late summer September. Leave arisings in place for 48hrs then remove
New tree planting	Irrigation	1													Water during drier weather at the base of the tree.
	Vegetation clearance	1-5													Targeted application of a non-residual herbicide at the base of the tree.
	Inspection of stakes and ties	1-2													Quarterly inspection of stakes and ties, inspection to take place after severe storms also. Replace where damaged.
	Review	1+													Stakes and ties adjusted accordingly to growth. Replace any dead trees.
	Cutting	1-5													Prune dead or diseased material
	Check tree condition	5- 30													Check condition of trees prune as required
General maintenance	Litter picking	1-30													During each maintenance visit to site

Reporting	Report to LPA	2, 5, 7, 10, 20 and 30													Report to LPA on conditions of habitats
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 Table 1- Programme of works



## 6. Remediation and Reinstatement Methodology

In the event that any habitat or ecological feature specified within the Habitat Management and Management Plan (HMMP) fails to meet the required condition(s) at any time during the 30-year management period, the following remediation and reinstatement methodology will be implemented to ensure the habitat is restored to the target ecological value.

#### A. Trigger for Remediation

A failure to maintain the required condition will be identified through:

- Routine three yearly monitoring inspections.
- Reports submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) in years 2, 5, 7, 10, 20 and 30.
- Observations from site management personnel.
- Any unforeseen external factors that cause deterioration of habitat condition.

#### **B. Notification Process**

Upon identifying a failure or significant decline in habitat quality, the following steps will be undertaken:

- The Local Planning Authority (LPA) will be notified in writing within 10 working days of identifying the issue.
- A summary report will be submitted detailing the nature of the failure, affected habitat(s), and any immediate risks to biodiversity.

#### C. Remediation Action Plan

A written **Remediation Action Plan** will be prepared and submitted to the LPA for approval. The plan will include:

- Description of the affected habitat(s).
- Baseline condition and target condition score.
- Cause of failure or degradation.
- Detailed remedial measures.
- Implementation schedule (within **3 months** of LPA approval).
- Monitoring programme to assess the effectiveness of remediation.

#### D. Remedial Measures

Remedial measures will be tailored to the specific habitat type as follows:

#### Grassland

- Adjustment of irrigation schedules during dry periods.
- Removal of invasive vegetation.
- Application of non-residual herbicide to control competing vegetation.

#### New Tree Planting

- Replacement of dead or diseased trees with like-for-like native species.
- Soil improvement (e.g., mulching, fertiliser application).
- Adjustment of irrigation schedules during dry periods.
- Removal of invasive vegetation around tree bases.
- Application of non-residual herbicide to control competing vegetation.
- Re-staking and re-tying where necessary.

#### E. Reinstatement Period

Following the completion of remedial works, a **12-month reinstatement period** will be applied during which:

- Monthly inspections will be undertaken.
- Any failed planting will be replaced.
- Ongoing remedial measures will be applied as necessary.

#### F. Reporting and Approval

A **Remediation Completion Report** will be submitted to the LPA upon completion of remedial works. This report will include:

- Photographic evidence of reinstated habitats.
- Results of monitoring surveys.
- Confirmation that target condition(s) have been met.
- Details of any ongoing management requirements.

#### G. Ongoing Monitoring

Following reinstatement, the habitat will continue to be monitored every three years as part of the HMMP, with additional inspections carried out during the first **12 months** post-reinstatement to confirm successful recovery.

This methodology ensures that all habitats are managed and maintained to their specified ecological value, contributing to the long-term biodiversity objectives of the HMMP.

#### 7. MANAGEMENT CONTROL

In order to ensure that the habitats created and retained within the site reach and maintain their maximum value to nature conservation, all habitats will be managed by the existing site owner who will be responsible for management of the landscaped area. Technical support will be provided by Envirotech NW Ltd as required.