

Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP)

Keekle Inn Organic Garden

1. Site Description

The Keekle Inn Organic Garden is a small-scale multifunctional development comprising:

- 250 m² orchard (grass with fruit trees)
- 228 m² organic vegetable growing area
- 132 m² raised vegetable beds
- 200 m² self-draining permeable access drive

The scheme replaces 810 m² of existing modified grassland and delivers a mixed productive and biodiversity-enhancing landscape.

2. Objectives

The objectives of this HMMP are to:

- Deliver and maintain Biodiversity Net Gain in accordance with planning policy
 - Establish long-term stable habitats through low-intensity organic management
 - Enhance structural diversity and ecological function across the site
 - Maintain soil health and water permeability
 - Support pollinators, invertebrates, birds, and soil biodiversity
 - Secure habitat condition for a minimum 30-year period
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3. Habitat Management Prescriptions

3.1 Orchard (250 m²)

Habitat type: Orchard (low intensity grassland with fruit trees)

Management:

- Grass cut 1–2 times per year (late summer/autumn preferred)

- Arisings removed to reduce nutrient enrichment
 - No fertilisers, herbicides or pesticides
 - Retain fallen fruit where safe to support invertebrates
 - Maintain fruit trees through light pruning on a rotational cycle
 - Introduce or maintain native wildflower sward beneath trees where feasible
 - Retain deadwood and standing habitat where safe
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3.2 Organic Vegetable Growing Area (228 m²)

Habitat type: Allotments, community gardens and urban farms

Management:

- Organic cultivation only (no synthetic inputs)
 - Annual crop rotation across all beds
 - Maintain minimum 10–20% uncultivated margins where practicable
 - Encourage flowering crops to support pollinators
 - Avoid soil compaction and over-tillage
 - Use mulching and composting to maintain soil structure and fertility
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3.3 Raised Vegetable Beds (132 m²)

Habitat type: Allotments, community gardens and urban farms

Management:

- Peat-free organic compost only
 - Intensive cropping permitted but with continuous soil protection
 - Inclusion of pollinator-friendly herbs and flowering vegetables
 - Successional planting to maintain year-round ground cover
 - Composting of organic waste on site to support nutrient cycling
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3.4 Self-Draining Access Drive (200 m²)

Habitat type: Permeable developed land

Management:

- Maintain permeable structure (no sealing or asphalt surfacing)
- Weed control via mechanical or manual methods only
- No herbicide use permitted
- Maintain vegetated edges to enhance ecological connectivity

- Ensure drainage function is not compromised
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4. Biodiversity Enhancement Measures

Across the site:

- Installation of bird boxes and invertebrate habitats where appropriate
 - Retention of log piles / deadwood in discreet locations
 - Creation of small undisturbed refuge zones
 - Use of native planting within orchard and margins
 - Seasonal flowering continuity for pollinators (March–October)
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5. Monitoring Plan

5.1 Frequency

- Annual site inspection
 - Formal review every 5 years
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5.2 Monitoring Indicators

- Vegetation condition (diversity, structure, coverage)
 - Orchard grassland condition and flower presence
 - Soil condition (compaction, organic matter, erosion)
 - Presence of pollinators and invertebrates
 - Functionality of permeable surface drainage
 - Evidence of invasive species
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5.3 Reporting

An annual monitoring note will be produced confirming:

- Habitat condition status
 - Compliance with management prescriptions
 - Any remedial actions required
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6. Adaptive Management

If monitoring shows decline in habitat condition, corrective measures may include:

- Adjusting mowing frequency in orchard areas
 - Increasing wildflower establishment
 - Enhancing soil organic content through compost application
 - Increasing unmanaged refuge zones
 - Improving drainage/permeability maintenance
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7. Duration

This HMMP will be implemented for a minimum of **30 years**, or the duration required by planning condition or legal agreement relating to Biodiversity Net Gain.

8. Conclusion

The Keekle Inn Organic Garden will deliver a mixed-use productive landscape that enhances biodiversity value through low-intensity organic management, structural habitat diversity, and long-term ecological stewardship.