

Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP)

Keep Hatch Primary School SEND Unit

1. Introduction

This HMMP has been prepared in support of Planning Permission 260424 and the statutory biodiversity gain condition.

Biodiversity Gain condition (as applied under Schedule 7A of the TCPA 1990:

Development may not begin unless:

- (a) a biodiversity gain plan has been submitted to the planning authority; and
- (b) the planning authority has approved the plan.

The biodiversity gain plan must include:

- (i) information about the steps taken or to be taken to minimise the adverse effect of the development on the biodiversity of the onsite habitat and any other habitat;
- (ii) the pre-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat;
- (iii) the post-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat;
- (iv) any registered off-site biodiversity gain allocated to the development; and
- (v) any biodiversity credits purchased for the development.

The approved biodiversity gain plan must be implemented.

The development delivers 11.33% Biodiversity Net Gain on-site through habitat retention and planting.

The application site is:

- Small (c. 0.23ha)
- Located within an existing school site
- Managed by the school's facilities team

Accordingly, this HMMP adopts a proportionate and low-intensity delivery and management approach.

2. Habitats to be Managed

Retained habitats

- Existing trees (moderate condition)
- Areas of hardstanding / bare ground (minimal ecological value)
- Small areas of amenity grassland (poor condition)

Created habitats

- 11 new urban trees (key BNG driver)
- Additional introduced shrub planting
- General soft landscaping

Tree planting provides the majority of biodiversity uplift.

3. Management Objectives

1. Ensure establishment and long-term survival of new planting
2. Maintain trees and shrub planting in moderate condition or better
3. Ensure habitats remain compatible with a functioning primary school environment
4. Deliver and maintain the calculated biodiversity net gain over 30 years

4. Management Prescriptions

Year Establishment Schedule (summary)

- Years 1–3: watering, establishment, replacement
- Years 4–5: light maintenance, inspection
- Beyond Year 5: ongoing management

4.1 Trees (existing and new)

- Watering during establishment (first 2–3 growing seasons)
- Replacement of failures in first 5 years
- Annual inspection for safety and health
- Formative pruning where required

Target minimum condition: moderate

4.2 Shrub planting

- Seasonal watering during establishment
- Mulching as required
- Replacement of failed planting (first 5 years)
- Light maintenance trimming (outside bird nesting season)

4.3 Grass / amenity areas

- Retained as managed amenity grassland
- No requirement for enhancement

5. Management Responsibility

The habitats will be:

- Managed by the school site maintenance team
- As part of routine grounds maintenance across the wider school

This ensures:

- Continuity with existing management regime
- No need for third-party management body
- Proportionate delivery for a minor school scheme

6. Monitoring

Given the scale of the development, monitoring will be proportionate:

- Annual visual inspection of:
 - Tree health and survival
 - Shrub establishment
- Where monitoring identifies failures (e.g. tree loss), replacement planting will be undertaken in the next planting season to ensure target habitat condition is maintained.

Formal ecological monitoring is not considered necessary due to:

- Low baseline ecological value
- Simple habitat types
- Predictable outcomes (tree establishment)

7. Duration and Securing Mechanism

- Plan applies for 30 years from completion
- It is secured through:
 - School operational management
 - Council ownership of site