

30-year Biodiversity Net Gain Statement & Habitat Management & Monitoring Plan (HMMP)

Heath Place
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852 - 4

15.12.2025

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1. Introduction

1.1 About

This Biodiversity Net Gain Statement & Landscape Management & Monitoring Plan (HMMP) sets out the management and maintenance responsibilities for all soft landscape areas for a minimum period of 30 years. The management and maintenance responsibilities are to be carried out in accordance with the details in this document. This HMMP, as per government guidance is to be read in conjunction with all associated plans which are listed out in section 7 and has followed the guidelines set out in CIEEM's Guidelines on Ecological Report Writing (CIEEM, 2021).

The Landscape Service is a team of landscape consultants providing landscape & garden design, landscape planning, consultancy, and project management on private residential, public, and commercial developments. Based in The New Forest we cover the South of England and work for both private sector clients and directly for local planning authorities. Our qualifications cover horticulture, landscape construction, landscape & garden design, and landscape architecture, with a combined 50 years of experience. We have delivered approximately 150 projects completing the BNG metric, habitat plans, and landscape management plans.

We are a competent person as specified in BS 8683 - Process for designing and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain. Specification. BS 8683 is aimed at any class or scale of built environment development or land/estate management, users will be:

- Design and pre-construction professionals
- Sub-contractors and clients
- Procurement and contract specialists
- Project managers
- Project ecologists
- Local authority planners
- Quality managers
- EIA coordinators, environment and sustainability managers, landscape architects (BSI Knowledge, 2021)

1.2 Accompanying Plans & Documents

The completed plans and documents for this project below are to be read and reviewed in conjunction with this document;

- 852 – 1 – Landscape Plan – Heath Place, Bognor Regis
- 852 – 2 – Biodiversity Habitats Plan – Heath Place, Bognor Regis
- 852 – 3 – BNG Metric – Heath Place, Bognor Regis
- 852 – 5 – Condition Assessments – Heath Place, Bognor Regis

2. BNG Statement

2.1 Context & Methodology

This 30-year biodiversity net gain statement & landscape management plan is based on the government's guidance and The Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan Template (HMMPT) provided by DEFRA. It has been designed to complement Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation tool.

The Statutory Biodiversity Metric (GOV.UK, 2024) was conducted as a tool to determine a baseline and proposed biodiversity value for the site, this included both a percentage habitat net gain/loss and the overall change in habitat units' post-development.

Baseline and post-development habitat plans have been completed in association with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric (GOV.UK, 2024) and in accordance with The Statutory Biodiversity Metric: User Guide (GOV.UK, 2024).

Detailed information has been imputed into each cell within the metric for the baseline habitats as well as the proposed with exact area sizes in hectares using our computer aided design software. The Statutory Biodiversity Metric includes conditions, significance of the baseline or proposed habitat and reference to the specific habitat where required.

The construction adjacent to any existing neighboring trees to the site will ensure that the root zones that intersect the development are protected. Tree protection fencing will be needed on site, to protect the valuable neighboring tree. Ensure that excavation around the root zones is completed by hand. The installation of a cellular confinement system must occur at the end of the project.

2.2 Project Information

Project type – Residential

Total Site Area – 0.09 Ha

Total Proposed Units – 9

On-site baseline habitat units – 0.12 Habitat, 0.04 Hedgerow

On-site post-intervention habitat units – 0.04 Habitat, 0.05 Hedgerow

On-site net change habitat units – -0.08 Habitat, 0.02 Hedgerow

Total net % change – -67.83% Habitat, 48.89 Hedgerow

2.3 The Existing Site

The site is situated within Bognor Regis consisting of approximately 0.09 hectares (ha). The site consists of Modified Grassland & sealed surfaces. The site is situated within an urban setting surrounded by residential housing and gardens. The site is limited for wildlife and in a sub-optimal location for biodiversity.



Figure 1: Hedgerow throughout the front of the site



Figure 3: Existing modified grassland



Figure 2: Existing pavement and hardstanding

2.4 Biodiversity Net Gain Hierarchy

The Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) hierarchy outlines a series of steps that should be followed throughout the design process and developments in order of priority, especially when planning and implementing biodiversity throughout the development. Following the hierarchy is important when dealing with habitats of medium, high or very high distinctiveness within the statutory metric.

2.4.1 - Avoid Adverse Effects – Avoid Adverse Effects – The existing site has little ecological value. To allow the new flats, we will be required to lose existing hedgerow & modified grassland that is in a poor condition. This is unavoidable for the proposed footprint of the buildings.

2.4.2 - Mitigate Unavoidable Effects – Additional habitats & hedgerow introduced to reduce loss on site and mitigate for the loss of grassland and hedgerow. Native species introduced to improve metric score

2.4.3 - Enhance On-Site Habitats – Existing modified grassland is of a poor quality and no other areas have provision for improvement

2.4.4 - Create New On-Site Habitats – New habitats have been created to improve the quality of ecological value of the site

2.4.5 - Secure Off-Site Biodiversity Units – 0.09 A1 Habitat Units required to offset loss on site

2.4.6 - Purchase Biodiversity Credits – N/A

3. Habitat Management & Monitoring Plan (HMMP)

3.1 Management Objectives

The management and maintenance responsibilities will run for a minimum of 30 years, commencing on the date of practical completion. At the end of the 30-year establishment period it is recommended that the management operations in this document are reviewed. This will allow for sustainable long-term management of the landscape.

All soft landscaping should be carried out in the planting season October to March.

- Maintain soft landscape areas as specified in this document
- Replace any trees or plants that die within a period of 30 years from the date of practical completion
- Ensure early establishment and healthy growth of all newly planted shrubs, trees and herbaceous planting
- Ensure long term health of all plant stock
- Ensure horticultural practices are followed
- Maximise the ecological benefit where appropriate
- Ensure health & safety practices followed
- Ensure risk assessments are undertaken prior to undertaking maintenance operations

3.2 Management Responsibilities

At the end of every 5 years, the landowner needs to report to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) on the health and existing condition of all habitats, including hedgerows and trees. If any need replacing, they should be done during the appropriate time of year.

Management of the existing / enhanced / created habitats post construction are to be the responsibility of third-party landscape management company. This 30-year HMMP begins once the development is completed. Landowners / Developers must maintain the existing and created habitats for at least the length of the 30 years.

The Local Planning Authority (LPA) or responsible body is the Dorset County Council and is responsible for reviewing this HMMP for a minimum length of 30 years.

3.3 Retention of Habitats

Grassland – Modified Grassland – Poor Condition

A minimum of 6 plant species per square metre achieved by,

- Sowing a diverse grassland seed mix that includes a range of native grasses and wildflowers, to create new or enhance existing grasslands
- Choosing a mix with 100% native species
- Choosing species that can tolerate a variety of soil conditions and mowing.
- Less than 20% scrub and less than 20% bracken cover.
- Free from invasive non-native plant species as listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)

3.4 Creation of Habitats

Grassland – Modified Grassland – Good Condition

A minimum of 6 plant species per square metre achieved by,

- Sowing a diverse grassland seed mix that includes a range of native grasses and wildflowers, to create new or enhance existing grasslands
- Choosing a mix with 100% native species
- Choosing species that can tolerate a variety of soil conditions and mowing.
- Less than 20% scrub and less than 20% bracken cover.
- Free from invasive non-native plant species as listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)

Urban – Introduced Shrub – Condition Assessment N/A

- There are no Specific requirements for this habitat type. Use your professional judgement to select appropriate species for planting

3.5 Landscape Management and Enhancements of Habitats

3.5.1 Shrub Planting Maintenance

NEW SHRUBS													
Operation	Frequency	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Remove weeds around base	As required												
Apply slow release fertiliser	Years 1-3												
Pruning to remove dead, damaged or diseased growth	As required												
Prune to maintain habit, form and promote healthy growth	Annually												
Watering during establishment period	Year 1												
Mulch around base to 75mm	Annually												
Replace any shrubs that die in the next planting season	Years 1-5												
Maintain shrubs in visibility splays to below 600mm	As required												

3.5.2 Hedgerow Maintenance

NEW HEDGEROWS													
Operation	Frequency	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Remove weeds around base of hedgerow	As required												
Apply slow release fertiliser	Years 1-3												
Pruning to remove dead, damaged or diseased growth	As required												
Prune to maintain habit, form and promote healthy growth	Annually												
Watering during establishment period	Year 1												
Mulch around base to 75mm	Annually												
Check and adjust stakes / canes and ties	Years 1-3												
Remove stakes / canes and ties	Year 4												
Replace any shrubs that die in the next planting season	Years 1-30												
Maintain hedges in visibility splays to below 600mm	As required												

3.5.3 Herbaceous Planting Maintenance

NEW HERBACEOUS PLANTING		Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Operation	Frequency												
Remove weeds around base	As required												
Apply slow release fertiliser	Years 1-3												
Pruning to remove dead, damaged or diseased growth	As required												
Deadhead plants after flowering	As required												
Cut back flowering spikes	Annually												
Watering during establishment period	Year 1												
Mulch around base to 75mm	Annually												
Replace any plants that die in the next planting season	Years 1-30												
Maintain plants in visibility splays to below 600mm	As required												

3.5.4 Amenity Lawn Maintenance

AMENITY LAWN		Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Operation	Frequency												
Watering during establishment period	Year 1												
Fertilise lawn	Annually												
Remove any unwanted weeds	As required												
Dethatch lawn	Annually												
Re-seed any bare or sparse areas	As required												
Aerate soil to alleviate soil compaction	Annually												
Mow lawn at a height of 25-40mm	Annually												

3.6 Risk Register and Proposed Remedial Measures

Risk Register and Proposed Remedial Measures			
Risk Factor	Habitat/Hedgerow/Watercourse Type	Trigger for Action	Remedial Measure
Drought	Vegetated Gardens, Hedgerows, Trees	Long periods of dry and hot weather with very minimal rainfall	Ensure sufficient watering is taking place during this period, especially newly planted trees within the first 6 months. Replace any species if necessary

4. References

British Standards Institution (BSI) (2021). BS8683:2021 Process for designing and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain – Specification.

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2023). The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Gov.UK (2024) Statutory biodiversity metric calculation. Accessed from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides>

Gov.UK (2024) Statutory biodiversity metric: User Guide. Accessed from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides>

CIEEM (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management) (2017). Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing (second edition). Accessed from <https://cieem.net/resource/guidelines-for-ecological-report-writing/>