

## **Brent Goose Mitigation Scheme**

**Summer Lane, Pagham**

**Parish Council Update – February 2026**

### **1. Introduction**

This note provides an update to the Parish Council on the ongoing management and successful delivery of the Brent Goose Mitigation Scheme (BGMS) at land south of Summer Lane, Pagham.

Following the implementation of the scheme, and the subsequent implementation of planning permissions P/140/16/OUT and P/153/21/RES, Northgate Properties and the landowner has continued to work closely with Arun District Council (ADC) to ensure the mitigation land is managed effectively and in accordance with the approved Brent Goose Mitigation Plan (BGMP).

A joint site visit was undertaken in early 2026 to review the scheme's performance and ongoing management arrangements.

### **2. Recent Site Visit and Review**

The site visit was attended by:

- Arun District Council Planning Officers – Jessica Riches and Hannah Kersley
- ADC's Post-Approval Implementation and Monitoring Officer – Richard Brown
- ADC's in-house Ecologist – Jonathan Best
- Northgate Properties – Olly Shaw and Joe Godfrey

The inspection was led by ADC and involved a detailed walkover of the mitigation land.

#### **Overall conclusion:**

The scheme is functioning as intended, with the mitigation land established and providing an appropriate and valuable foraging resource for Brent Geese.

All parties agreed to continue close collaboration to ensure the land is well managed over the long term.

### **3. Delivery of the Mitigation Scheme**

All works required by the approved BGMP have been completed by the landowner and were in place for the most recent winter season.

Key elements successfully delivered include:

- Creation of the designated habitat enhancement and foraging areas
- Construction of scrapes and wetland features
- Clearance and enhancement of existing drainage ditches
- Improvements to open sightlines, favoured by foraging Brent Geese
- Permanent cessation of bird-scaring activities across the mitigation land
- Establishment of a diverse range of foraging crops and cover

- Fencing along Public Right of Way 101 to reduce dog intrusion into key areas
- Installation of marker posts defining the foraging area and 100m buffer zone
- Additional hedgerow planting to strengthen landscape structure and biodiversity

These measures collectively ensure the site functions as a high-quality and reliable mitigation resource.

#### **4. Ongoing Management Matters**

During the site visit, ADC identified several routine management points, all of which are already understood obligations within the BGMP and are being addressed:

##### **Hedgerows and vegetation along PROW 101**

- Regular maintenance of weeds and hedgerows will continue.
- Replacement of any failed planting is programmed and will be carried out as required.
- Additional hedgerow stems will be planted to further strengthen the boundary.

##### **Marker posts**

- ADC requested confirmation that all boundary and buffer markers were correctly installed.
- This has since been checked, and all marker posts are present and correctly positioned.

##### **Crop management**

- In spring 2025, a broccoli crop was drilled across the foraging fields but failed to yield due to growing conditions.
- As required by the BGMP, a rye grass and clover cover crop was successfully established in autumn 2025.
- This cover crop performed well and provided an effective foraging resource throughout the winter.
- Some late-season broccoli growth occurred, and future management will focus on carefully controlling crop composition to maximise value to Brent Geese.

#### **5. Monitoring and Reporting**

The approved BGMP requires an end-of-season monitoring report to be submitted to ADC each year.

In addition, it has now been agreed with ADC that:

- An early-season update note will also be provided going forward.
- This will outline management works completed in advance of each winter season and help address any queries at an early stage.

This enhanced reporting approach reflects a proactive and transparent management regime.

## 6. Summary and Outlook

The Brent Goose Mitigation Scheme at Summer Lane has been fully implemented and is operating as intended.

Northgate Properties and the landowner remain committed to:

- Ongoing stewardship of the mitigation land
- Regular engagement with Arun District Council
- Continued monitoring and adaptive management where necessary

We look forward to working constructively with the local authority and stakeholders in the years ahead to ensure the long-term success of this important mitigation site.