

Burnage Academy for Boys, Burnage

Habitat Management and Monitoring

Plan

REV.A

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Client Burnage Academy for Boys
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1. Introduction

1.1 Project Brief

Rachel Hacking Ecology Limited (RHE) was commissioned by Burnage Academy for Boys (the Client) to produce a Habitat Management and Maintenance Plan (HMMP) to support a planning application for the installation of a cricket training facility at Burnage Academy for Boys, Burnage (the 'site'). The site is located at O.S. grid reference: SJ 86503 92421.

- 1.1.1 A Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment was undertaken in 2025 by Collington Winter¹. This document aims to address the management and monitoring requirements for the proposed habitats as laid out in the biodiversity net gain assessment for a for a 30-year period.

1.2 Site Context

- 1.2.1 The site is situated within an urban setting, predominantly surrounded by residential development on all sides, with Heaton Moor Golf Course located approximately 240m to the east (see Figure 1).



Figure 1. Map showing the location of the site

¹ Collington Winter (2025) Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment. January 2025

Description of Development

- 1.2.2 The development will result in the loss of the existing modified grassland (proposals are illustrated in Appendix 2).
- 1.2.3 The onsite landscaping mitigation includes the planting and maintenance of twelve native trees. Trees are to be planted more than 3m from the existing running track.

2. Ecological Trends and Constraints

- 2.1.1 The site does not support any protected species, the habitats on site are ubiquitous locally and nationally.

3. Management Aims, Objectives and Targets

- 3.1.1 The core management aims, objectives and targets on the development site and the off-site mitigation are:
 - 1. Create, manage and monitor the modified grassland – includes retained.
 - 2. Plant, manage and monitor the individual trees.

4. Management and Prescriptions

- 4.1.1 This document outlines the creation, management and monitoring of the proposed habitats to ensure these meet the target conditions set out in the Biodiversity Net Gain Plan.

Objective 1 – Create, Manage and Monitor the Modified Grassland

Management

- 4.1.2 The proposals include the retention of an area of modified grassland (poor condition).
- 4.1.3 The current mowing schedule of these area of grassland are to be continued, ensuring cuts every 2-3 weeks during growing season.



Monitoring

- 4.1.4 To maintain the target condition of poor, no specific condition assessment criteria need to be achieved, although the grassland should be monitored to assure that it still meets the habitat criteria as a grassland.
- 4.1.5 The modified grassland will be monitored by a suitably experienced ecologist or trained member of the management team, proficient in botanical identification. The monitoring should inform recommendations to management changes if there is evidence that the habitat type is going to change or has changed.

Objective 2 – Create, Manage and Monitor the Native Individual Trees

- 4.1.6 The trees will provide pollen and nectar source for invertebrates and nesting and foraging habitat for birds.

Creation

- 4.1.7 The planting can take place in suitable weather conditions and in spring or autumn. Trees will be planted in an appropriately sized pit filled with peat-free compost. Bark mulch will be applied to the tree planting areas. All newly planted specimens must be watered and weeded regularly. The trees will be protected using canes and biodegradable guards. The trees should be pruned and managed as required.

Management

- 4.1.8 Any dead or diseased specimens should be replaced as required.
- 4.1.9 The trees should be pruned and managed minimally. Maintenance to vegetation suitable for nesting bird should be done outside of the nesting bird season (generally March to August) to protect nesting birds. If works to the vegetation needs to occur during the nesting season, then a nesting bird survey will be required immediately prior to work commencing.

Monitoring

- 4.1.10 To achieve the target condition of moderate, set out in the Statutory Metric Calculation Tool document as part of the BNG Assessment, the following criteria must be achieved by the end of year 27.
- The tree is a native species.
 - There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.
 - More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.
- 4.1.11 The trees will be monitored by a suitably experienced ecologist or trained member of the management team, proficient in botanical identification. The monitoring will aim to record the species that have

established, note any species that have failed to establish and suggest further planting to ensure the final composition reflects the original mixture used.

5. Personnel

- 5.1.1 The habitat creation work must be undertaken by a landscaping team (appointed by the Client) with experience of creating the desired habitats.
- 5.1.2 The future management of the site after the completion of the construction of the site should be undertaken by a management team (appointed by the Client). Suitably experienced ecologists or competent and trained members of the management team must undertake the monitoring of the ecologically valuable habitats.

6. Monitoring

- 6.1.1 The created habitats on site will be subject to a monitoring scheme for 30 years. The purpose of the monitoring is to assess if these habitats have become established and have not declined in ecological value since the completion of the development, and to provide recommendations on changes to the management plan to increase the quality of these habitats if required.
- 6.1.2 The monitoring of the retained and newly created habitats will be undertaken at regular intervals in the 30-year period. Monitoring reports shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) no more than 2 months following monitoring visits during years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30.
- 6.1.3 Where monitoring shows a habitat is declining, it may be necessary to make changes to the work schedule, in terms of timings, to bring about beneficial change and halt decline.

7. Contingencies

- 7.1.1 The work will be managed and monitored using the on-site personnel with supervision from the ecologist.
- 7.1.2 If an active bird nest is found during the works, work will stop, and the ecologist will be contacted. A 4-metre buffer zone will be implemented around the active nest and no disturbance will take place to the nest. Once the nest is deemed inactive (i.e. once the chicks have fledged) then work can commence.
- 7.1.3 If any part of the landscaping fails or is inadvertently damaged, then the habitat will be re-created immediately, such as sowing more species rich grassland or replacing planted trees and scrub stands.
- 7.1.4 Pro-active measures should be put in place to prevent decline in the condition of any of the habitats on site. Any non-native invasive species found on the site should be eradicated as soon as possible using a suitable methodology. This could be the use of selective herbicides or digging up and either burying or removal from the site, depending on the species and extent of spread of the plant.

8. Work Schedule

- 8.1.1 The Work Schedule (see Appendix 1) sets out the annual requirements and restrictions of management. The work to create the habitats is expected to commence within spring 2025. The 30 years HMMP will apply from year 1 after completion.



Appendix 1. Work Schedule and Management Tasks

Habitat	Annual Management Tasks, Work Schedule – To be implemented for a minimum of 30 years														
	Task	Timing of Works Restrictions												Constraints	Details
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		
	Annual cutting vegetation suitable for nesting birds: - Trees													All Nesting Birds	Vegetation may be cut between March and September, but a nesting bird survey will be required immediately prior (within 24 hours) to the works commencing.
Modified Grassland	Year 0 - Creation of species-poor grassland and partial enhancement – scarification of the soil, sowing seeds and watering.													No specific species restrictions	Should any protected species be found during the management, then works should stop and an ecologist be contacted for advice.
	Year 1 – The grassland will be cut to 50mm, eight weeks after seedlings appear. This process will be repeated every two months through to September. All arisings to be removed and composted to prevent adding nutrients to the soil.													No specific species restrictions	Should any protected species be found during the management, then works should stop and an ecologist be contacted for advice.
	Year 2-5 Spring cut – Cut to a height of 7.5cm, no later than April. Autumn cut – Depending on soil fertility and growth, one or two cuts will be carried out between the end of August and late November. The cut material is to remain in place for a few days, to allow the dropping of seeds, before it is raked up and removed from site.													No specific species restrictions	Should any protected species be found during the management, then works should stop and an ecologist be contacted for advice. Leave uncut areas around the edges each cut. Monitoring for Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30.
Individual Trees	Preparing the soil and planting new specimens.													N/A	
	Once planted and backfilled, the trees will be well-watered, and all weeds removed around them. Newly planted trees will be fitted with stakes and mulched.													No specific species restrictions	Should any protected species be found during the management, then works should stop and an ecologist be contacted for advice. Monitoring for Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30



Appendix 2: Site Plan – Proposed Planting

