

Comments from our ecologist below:

*“I’ve now marked up a plan showing the areas we’ve referred to in our PEA that could be considered as part of a detailed strategy / LEMP (i.e. bare ground, tall ruderal / regenerating grassland). I’ve attached a series of photographs to provide Marnie with visual context regarding current habitat condition (from our habitat surveys 2025), these photographs are also included on the plan. In terms of their existing value, much of the area that could form part of the proposed 0.06 ha has been disturbed in the past or is subject to ongoing anthropogenic disturbance. The entirely bare ground areas (north of the substation) would likely be colonised by competitive ruderals and coarse grasses by the time any construction is to take place for the substation. The tall ruderal and the southern regenerating grassland areas have more value than bare ground areas (naturally) as species such as teasel, burdock and other tall forbs are present, but the areas could benefit from the control of competitive ruderals and undesirable species. The finer detail on what would be implemented (plug plants, local seed, green hay), for how long and to what extent (particular areas of interest and management style etc) would be discussed and agreed with NCC post-consent as part of the work towards discharging conditions.*

*In a nutshell (and expanding on our measures in the PEA), the outline approach would be to:*

- Supplement areas that are currently regenerating, with the aim of controlling undesirable species (coarse grasses and competitive ruderals etc) that are likely to colonise between now and when measures would be implemented*
- Manage undesirable species within existing tall ruderal habitats that were recorded during the habitat survey (e.g. Canadian fleabane, bindweed, creeping thistle etc) to encourage tall forbs with higher value to colonise.”*