

Landscape and Ecological Management Plan For Llanfair Farm, Marshfield, Newport

Commissioned by: Mr C Hinksman

Author: Ashley Butler MSc

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Section 1: Executive Summary

This Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) has been prepared by NewWays Ecology Ltd on behalf of Reading Agricultural Consultants in relation to the site at Llanfair Farm, Marshfield, in Newport (NGR: ST264824) hereafter referred to as the 'site'.

The purpose of this LEMP is to provide details to ensure the protection and favourable management of retained and created habitats to maximise their benefit to wildlife and to provide continued opportunities for biodiversity. This is a requirement for discharging Condition 12 of the approved planning permission for the site (planning reference: 23/1058) as detailed below.

Planning Condition 12 of the decision notice states:

12. Biodiversity

Prior to commencement of any development, an ecological enhancement and habitat management plan shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This plan shall accord with the recommendations of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal hereby approved. The enhancement measures shall be fully implemented prior to beneficial occupation of the dwelling and managed in accordance with the approved details.

This LEMP has therefore been produced to meet the requirements of Condition 12 and provides management objectives and maintenance schedules covering a 5 year period.

These measures build upon the information set out in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal produced by NewWays Ecology Ltd for the approved application.

This LEMP is set out as follows and has been prepared in accordance with British Standard for Biodiversity: BS 42020:2013:

- Section 2 details the site description and evaluation of ecological features to be managed within the LEMP;
- Section 3 describes the ecological and landscape management aims and objectives;
- Section 4 details the management prescriptions that will be undertaken; and
- Section 5 sets out the management and maintenance schedule.

Section 2: Context and Summary of Features

This section of the LEMP summarises the existing ecological features within the site, which were recorded during the ecological survey work undertaken and detailed in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal produced by NewWays Ecology Ltd.

The site is a flat, open plot of grassland that forms part of the grazing at Llanfair Farm, Marshfield. It is bounded by hedgerow to the south and post and rail with sheep net fencing to the west. To the

north and east it is open to the wider field with the field access track forming the northern boundary.
- the site is considered to be of low ecological importance.

On the southern boundary there is a length of native species rich hedgerow dominated by hazel with hawthorn, holly, blackthorn and elder. The hedgerow qualifies as a habitat of principle and therefore is considered to be of site level ecological importance.

No evidence of any protected / priority fauna was identified on site.

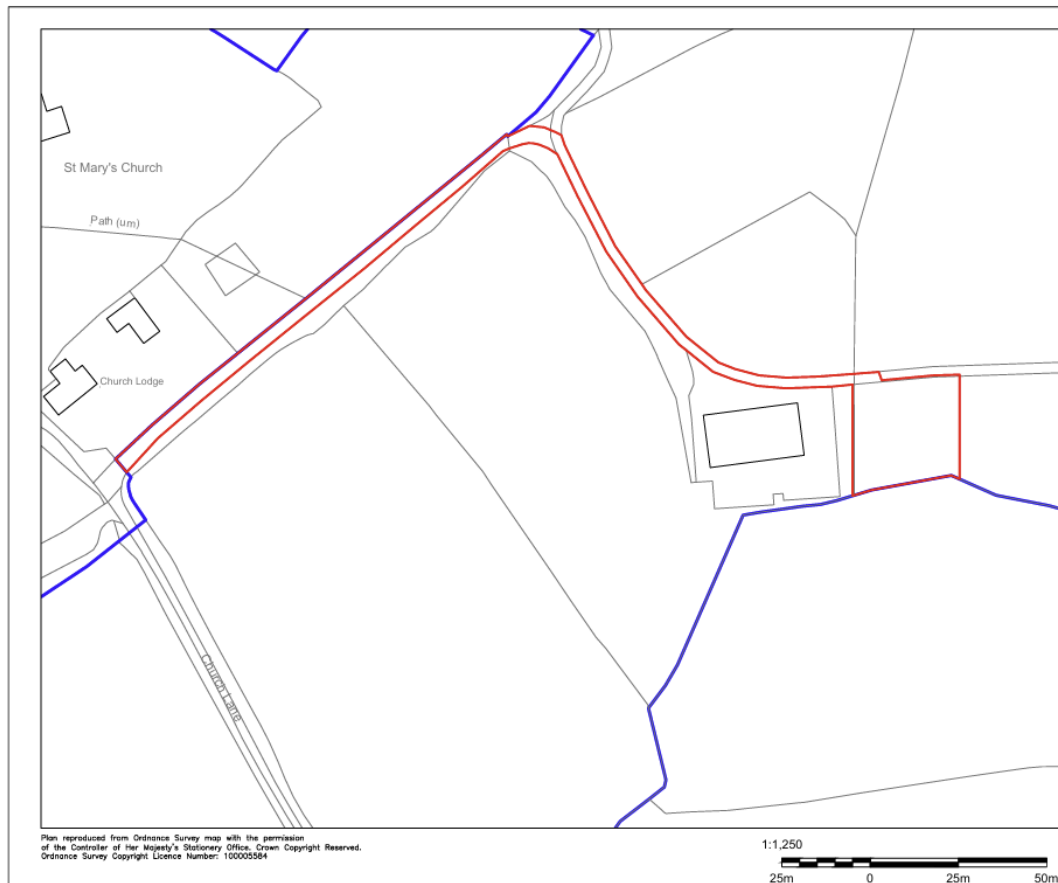


Figure 1: Existing site plan

Section 3: Ecological and Landscape Management Objectives

Ecological and Landscape Trends and Management Constraints

Ongoing habitat management and maintenance on the site cannot be undertaken if it would compromise the survival or success of the fauna that could be present post-development, as this could result in an offence under protective legislation pertaining to wildlife, notably the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Such constraints would therefore apply to nesting birds and bats.

All British birds are legally protected from disturbance while actively nesting (generally acknowledged to occur between March and August inclusive). As such, any impacts to habitats that could be in use by breeding birds, such as hedgerows and trees, will be timed to avoid the bird nesting season or preceded by checks for nesting birds by a trained ecologist (Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)) immediately prior to any removal. Should any nesting birds be recorded during works, no work will take place in that location until the young have left the nest as verified by the ecologist / ECOW.

Ecology objectives

The management measures detailed within this LEMP build upon those outlined within the Ecological Assessment.

Specific prescriptions which will be used to meet the ecology and landscape objectives within the site are detailed below and include the following:

1. To maintain and protect the retained habitats of ecological importance and the fauna that may use them;
2. To ensure that newly created habitats are maintained in order that they establish successfully and provide biodiversity benefits in the long term;
3. To monitor the efficacy of the LEMP and add or amend management prescriptions as required

It is the clients responsibility to ensure the LEMP is instigated and the management prescriptions are adhered to. If the site is passed into control of a management company it is the clients responsibility to ensure all legal and funding mechanisms to ensure efficacy of the LEMP are secured and the LEMP is made available to the management company. It is the clients responsibility to make new owners/occupiers of the new properties aware of the LEMP and management prescriptions.

Should an Ecological Clerk of Works be required NewWays Ecology Ltd can provide this service.

Section 4: Management Prescriptions

Objective 1: To maintain and protect the retained habitats of ecological importance and the fauna that may use them.

The proposals for the site are shown on the Proposed Site Plan. Habitats to be lost include areas of semi-improved grassland of limited ecological importance. The southern hedgerow will be retained and incorporated into the proposals.

The native species hedgerow along the southern boundary is considered to be the most important ecological feature on site.

Existing hedgerow management will be implemented to maximise biodiversity including rotational trimming during appropriate times.

Objective 2: To ensure that newly created habitats are maintained in order that they establish successfully and provide biodiversity benefits in the long term

New hedgerow planting

80m of native hedgerow will be planted, as internal and external boundary lines, which will also increase connectivity across the site. Species will be entirely native and locally sourced and will contribute to providing additional resources to a range of fauna including birds, bats and invertebrates.

In order to enhance the existing sections of hedgerows on site the new hedgerows will be made up of the following species mix:

- Field Maple 10%
- Hazel 10%
- Hawthorn 45%
- Alder buckthorn 15%
- Blackthorn 5%
- Dogwood 10%
- Dog rose 5%

The new hedges will be managed to a height of at least 1.2m, where safety allows, and with a dense structure with no horizontal gaps in the canopy and no gaps of more than 0.5m from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. This would be achieved through the provision of appropriate management with cutting occurring on rotation of two or more years, with only one side of the hedgerow cut at a time. This rotational cutting, in line with the hedgelink management guide, will allow the development of dense vegetation and would also allow plants to produce flowers and berries and thereby providing further food sources for birds, invertebrates and a range of other wildlife.

No invasive species, including Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*, Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*, giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum* or montbretia *Crocsmia x crocosmiiflora* will be allowed to grow within the hedge and cover of undesirable species including nettles *Urtica sp.*, cleavers *Galium aparine*, docks *Rumex sp.* will be managed to be below 20%. This would be achieved by hand removal or the targeted application of selective herbicide treatments and with the removal of invasive species undertaken by a specialist contractor as required.

The new hedge planting will be maintained and guaranteed for ten-year period to include watering, weeding, pest and disease control, with plant condition to be assessed annually at the end of each growing season. Any trees that die, become seriously damaged or diseased will be removed and replaced in the next planting season with other trees/plants of a similar size and species as originally specified.

Introduced habitat features

Post development one crevice style bat box will be installed – A Beaumaris Midi WoodStone Bat Box is advised – on the west facing aspect of the new dwelling.

Two bird boxes will be installed around the site. One eaves nesting box suitable for swallows or house martins will be installed- WoodStone double nesting cups are advised –on the east face of the new house. One sparrow terrace will be installed- Schwegler 1SP Sparrow Terrace or Vivara Pro WoodStone House Sparrow Nest Box are advised. – on the west side of house.

One hedgehog houses with integrated predator tunnels will be installed along the south boundary of the site.

Bat boxes are to be checked annually in October and any repairs or modifications undertaken. There are no legal issues associated with the installation of bat boxes. However, once occupied, it is illegal to disturb any bat when it is roosting, or to kill, injure or handle a bat without a licence under the Habitats Regulations 2010 (as amended). If a sick or injured bat is found, the local Wildlife Trust or bat group must be contacted for further advice. If maintenance of the bat boxes is required a licensed bat worker or local bat group must be consulted.

Hedgehog houses and bird boxes should be inspected annually for any damage and be replaced as required.

Objective 3: To monitor the efficacy of the LEMP and add or amend management prescriptions as required

The implemented biodiversity and landscape prescriptions of the LEMP will be monitored in order to ensure that opportunities for biodiversity are maximised and maintained post-development and that the proposed biodiversity gains can be secured for the long term.

All new planting within the site will be monitored for an initial 5 year period following completion of the development. Where any plants that die, become seriously damaged or diseased that would compromise the functionality of the new habitats at the site, these will be removed and replaced in the next planting season with other trees or plants of a similar size and species as those originally planted.

Section 5: Work Schedule

The prescribed management actions, including implementation timetable, management responsibilities and maintenance schedules are set out in table form over the page. This LEMP will run for an initial 5 year period and will be subject to continual review. The prescriptions detailed are flexible and can be amended as appropriate. On completion of the LEMP, the prescriptions undertaken will be fully reviewed and the LEMP will then be updated and continued as required.

Ecology Management Prescriptions

Prescription	Rationale for habitat creation/management	Management tasks	Timing	Responsibility
Planting of native hedgerows (Objective 2)	To increase connectivity and provide additional resources to fauna including birds, bats and invertebrates	Plant in double staggered row – 600mm between rows and at 450mm centres at 5 plants per linear meter. Post and wire fence to be placed along the centre of the new hedgerow to assist establishment	Year 1	Client
Management of native hedgerows (Objective 2).	To enhance structure and increase opportunities for wildlife	Once established new hedgerows will maintain height of vegetation >1.2m, minimising any gaps, with no horizontal gaps in the canopy and no gaps of more than 0.5m from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. This would be achieved through the provision of appropriate management with cutting occurring on rotation of two or more years, with only one side of the hedgerow cut at a time. No invasive species will be allowed to grow within the hedge and cover of undesirable species including nettles, cleavers, docks will be managed to be below 20%. This would be achieved by hand removal or the targeted application of weed killer if required	Annually (as required) - November to February to avoid bird breeding season, if necessary, within this period management can proceed following checks by an ecologist to confirm the absence of nesting birds. The provision of later cutting would retain food source for birds over winter so should be used where practical.	Client – advised as necessary by Ecologist.

Installation and management of habitat features (Objective 2)	Additional habitat feature for protected species on site	Bat and bird boxes to be installed on the new properties and hedgehog houses to be installed along the northeast boundary with hedgehog highways in fence lines. Features will be inspected annually for signs of damage	Year 1 then annually	Client advised as necessary by Ecologist
Monitor new planting (Objective 3)	To ensure the success of the new planting and associated ecological benefits.	All new planting within the site will be monitored following completion of the development and any trees or plants that die, become seriously damaged or diseased will be removed and replaced in the next planting season with other trees or plants of a similar size and species as those originally planted	Year 1 - At monthly intervals Thereafter - annually late spring or winter.	Client – advised as necessary by Ecologist
Monitoring of LEMP Prescriptions (Objective 3)	To monitor the efficacy of the LEMP and to ensure the habitats are being managed	Monitoring of the LEMP prescriptions to be undertaken to identify whether the management objectives are being achieved and whether management needs to continue.	Years 2 and 5 (to be reviewed following Year 5)	Client Ecologist

Section 6: Conclusions

Planting will be regularly monitored by the client. Should the need for replacement planting be identified this will be undertaken on a like for like basis in line with the Landscape proposals. If invasive species are found within ponds corrective action will be taken dependent on species found.

Monitoring of the overall effectiveness of the above prescriptions in achieving the management objectives, will be undertaken after five years. This will take the form of a site audit by a suitably qualified ecologist to check that the measures have been undertaken and note if there are any issues on site.

Annex 1 - Plans for site

