



Proposed Security Fence and Associated Facilities, Darton, Longfields

Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan

Prepared on behalf of

North Gawber Colliery Football Club

Final Report

29 January 2026

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Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan

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Provided no significant changes are made to the proposals or on the site subsequent to the report's issue; this report can be considered valid for 18 months from the date of issue, in line with CIEEM's Advice Note on The Lifespan of Ecological Reports and Surveys (2019).

As part of membership to our professional body (CIEEM) we are required to provide our biological results to applicable biological record centres. As such, it is our intention to supply biological data collected as part of this assessment to the relevant centre unless directly instructed in writing not to do so by the client.

Proposed Security Fence and Associated Facilities, Darton, Longfields

Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- Liz Ecology was commissioned by North Gawber Colliery Football Club to conduct a Biodiversity Enhancement Plan for Proposed Security Fence and Associated Facilities, Darton, Longfields. The measures outlined within this report will aim to enhance the site's value to wildlife, through the provision of new tree planting, over sowing the grassland, new roosting/nesting opportunities for bats, birds and hedgehogs within the proposed development.
- Measures outlined in this report include prescription for tree planting, over sowing the grassland with a flowering mix, installation of bat boxes, bird boxes and a hedgehog nest box and measures to safeguard nesting birds, a statutorily protected species. Specifications have also been provided for wildlife friendly lighting schemes to be implemented within the development.
- A landscape plan has been provided, detailing the location of proposed habitat creation, retention and enhancement. A schedule of management prescriptions have been provided, and actions given for habitat management should any habitats be identified as failing.

Proposed Security Fence and Associated Facilities, Darton, Longfields

Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site is located Proposed Security Fence and Associated Facilities (Grid Reference SE 30919 10262). Planning permission has been granted for security fences an associated facilities for football pitches (Planning reference 2025/0414).
- 1.2 As a condition of the planning permission pre-commencement Condition 5 states:
- 1.3 *“Prior to the commencement of development, a Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan (BEMP), shall be submitted to and improved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The BEMP shall be produced by a suitably qualified ecologist and shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:*
- *A recent landscape plan detailing the location of proposed habitat creation, retention and enhancement;*
 - *Management aims and prescriptions detailing the methods required to create, retain and/or enhance each habitat at the required quality for a period of five years;*
 - *A timetable of delivery for each habitat;*
 - *A schedule of actions to be undertaken in case signs of failing are identified. The schedules must include details of technique(s) to be used, equipment to be used, roles and relevant expertise of personnel and organisations involved and timing of actions including submission of monitoring report to the local planning authority;*
 - *Incorporation of faunal features for example bat and bird boxes on proposed buildings and trees, hedgehog access points within proposed fencing and herptile features etc. should also be detailed.*
- 1.4 *Reason: In the interests of Biodiversity and in accordance with Local Plan Policy BIO1: Biodiversity and Geodiversity and the adopted Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD.”*
- 1.5 This document provides a Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan which provides biodiversity enhancement measures and management prescriptions for the site, along with ongoing monitoring and remedial measures in accordance with condition requirements. This Enhancement Plan will help to fulfil the Local Planning Authority’s (LPA) obligations to enhance biodiversity and provide some ‘ecological gain’ under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

2. SCOPE OF THE ENHANCEMENT PLAN

2.1 The Biodiversity Enhancement Plan refers to the buildings and associated land at Proposed Security Fence and Associated Facilities, Darton, Longfields. The site is approximately 2.095ha and consists of modified grassland. Immediately adjacent to the site there is a strip of woodland, and the River Dearne. There is a footpath between the site and the River Dearne. A survey of the site was conducted in August 2025 by Liz Ecology Ltd and full results of this survey can be seen within the Biodiversity Net Gain Report.

2.2 The following report provides an enhancement plan for the site, with a work programme. Measures have been provided to ensure that where possible, features are self cleaning (for bats), or can be cleaned at specific times of year by the client (for birds and hedgehog). Proposals for habitat management are also included, as well as new tree planting.

2.3 On site habitats

2.4 The following were recorded on site, and are described below:

- Modified grassland.

Modified Grassland

2.5 Much of the site consists of modified grassland. The grassland is managed with a short sward length. Species include perennial rye grass, ribwort plantain, white clover, dandelion, red fescue and creeping thistle. %

2.6 The grassland is a short sward length across the whole area, with physical damage more than 5%, bare ground approximately 30%, scrub and bracken less than 20% and an absence of invasive, non-native species. There were approximately 3-4 species per m².

2.7 This has a distinctiveness of low, and condition assessment is not required.

2.8

3. EVALUATION AND OBJECTIVES

Enhancement Objectives

3.1 The primary aim of the biodiversity enhancements are to ensure the retained and newly created habitats deliver the desired ecological enhancements for the benefit of local biodiversity, while making a positive contribution to local and national conservation priorities. This will be achieved by the following:

- Establishing and subsequent management of new trees and habitats to promote vigour and structure integrity, therefore providing places of shelter, movement corridors and foraging resources for wildlife;
- Establishing, and the subsequent management of areas of longer sward grassland, oversown with a wildflower mix to promote floristic diversity and opportunities for wildlife; and
- Provision and maintenance of specific features for protected species which may be present on site, to provide places of shelter/nesting/roosting for wildlife in the long term.

Habitat creation and enhancement

3.2 The following habitats will be created/enhanced as part of the proposed development.

- Enhance 0.3ha of modified grassland, poor condition to moderate condition. This will be achieved by oversowing with a seed mix e.g. Emorsgate EM1 General Purpose Meadow Mixture, to increase number of species within the grassland. Areas of the grassland will be left to grow to a longer sward height, creating ecological niches within the grassland.
- 10 small moderate condition trees will be planted around the edges of the site. These will be native species, and will be managed to create ecological niches.

4. ENHANCEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

Overview

Bats

- 4.1 Install four Isabella Bat Box on a tree in area surrounding the proposed courts. The bat boxes should be erected at a minimum height of 3.5 metres. Examples of the Isabella Bat Box are provided in Appendix II. Locations for the bat box is shown in Figure 2.
- 4.2 The design of the Isabella Bat Box is to be self-cleaning, so no maintenance is required.
- 4.3 Lighting to be installed as part of the works will be in line with Guidance Note O8/23 Bats and Artificial Lighting at night. The following will be required/must be considered:
- LED lighting will be used, and light levels will be kept as low as possible. Metal halide, fluorescent sources will not be used.
 - Lighting will be directed to where it is required and away from the boundaries.
 - Only luminaires with no light output above 90 degrees and/or an upward light ratio of 0% and with good optical control will be used, luminaires will always be mounted on the horizontal, i.e. no upward tilt.
 - Any external security lighting will be set on motion-sensors and short (1min) timers.
 - Internal lighting within the new rooms will be recessed where installed in proximity to windows to reduce glare and light spill.
 - Light sources will emit minimal ultra-violet light, peak higher than 550nm and be of a warm white spectrum (ideally <2700 Kelvin).
 - Glazing treatments (low transmission glazing treatments) can be considered.
 - The use of bollard or low-level downward directional luminaires is strongly discouraged.

Birds

- 4.4 Four small bird nest boxes (Vivara Pro, front opening or similar) will be installed on trees in the area surrounding the proposed courts. Examples of the small bird nest box are provided in Appendix II.

Hedgehog

- 4.5 Where possible, and where the proposed holes will not impact the security of the fencing, gaps of 30cm by 30cm will be left in all new fences to ensure hedgehog can commute across the site.

Amphibians and Reptiles

- 4.6 Any deadwood which is required to be removed around the site for any reason will be retained within the adjacent boundary and stacked to form a hibernacula which will offer habitat for amphibians and reptiles.

Habitat Enhancements and Management

- 4.7 The development will provide a range of habitats to enhance the landscape setting and increase biodiversity for future generations. In order for the biodiversity and landscape benefits to be realised an appropriate management strategy will be implemented. Management for habitats are detailed below.

Retained trees

- 4.8 Trees at the site boundaries will be retained and subject to management on an 'as required' basis, and will aim to maintain their existing height. This may include pruning of species to enhance habitat structure, or reduce shading and removal of major deadwood and broken branches for public safety. All tree surgery works are to be undertaken by an approved contractor in accordance with BS3998:2010 and with the permission of the Local Authority.
- 4.9 In order to protect nesting birds, and avoid a potential offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), no heavy pruning or felling of trees should be undertaken in the nesting bird season (March to September inclusive). If this is not possible any potential nesting habitat to be removed will first be checked by a competent ecologist in order to determine the location of any active nests. Any active nests identified would then need to be cordoned off (minimum 5m buffer) and protected until the end of the nesting season or until the birds have fledged.

New tree planting

- 4.10 New native tree planting is incorporated through the scheme, with ten new small trees being planted as part of the works. These trees will be selected from species including rowan, crab apple, wild cherry, bird cherry and field maple.
- 4.11 New planting growth will be monitored regularly through the growing season. The soil around the plants will be checked for soil capping or compaction, and remedial action taken as required. Any dead, dying or diseased trees will be removed and replaced with similar species (from the list above). Stakes, guards and ties will be repaired, replaced or re-instated if necessary.
- 4.12 Weed control measures will continue until the establishment of the plants has been successful. Weeds will be cleared by hand or by targeted application of herbicide by a suitably qualified contractor. Litter and debris will be removed from planted areas. Areas of mulch will be replenished to the original depth and hand-weeded as necessary, at least one a year. Following periods of heavy wind, frost or other disturbances plants will be check and firmly re-bedded in the ground if necessary.
- 4.13 New trees will be subject to management on an 'as required' basis, and may include pruning to enhance habitat structure and progressively raise the canopy to provide clearance for vehicles and pedestrians. If any trees appear to be failing then advice will be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.
- 4.14 All landscaping works should be undertaken in accordance with appropriate British Standards and should be undertaken by appropriately trained persons.
- 4.15 In consideration of nesting birds no substantial works to woody vegetation, other than trimming of minor growth, with take place during the nesting bird season (March to September inclusive).

Grassland

- 4.16 The area of modified grassland to be enhanced will be sown with Naturescape's N14 Flowering Lawn Mixture. The mix includes 12 native wildflower species and 6 species of grass. Management will be designed to ensure there is floristic diversity, and allow wildflower to set seed in certain areas, and for amenity grassland in others.
- 4.17 **First year management:** The seed mixture will be sown, however there may be a flush of annual weeds during the first growing season. This annual weed growth is easily controlled by topping or mowing.
- 4.18 Newly sown areas will be mown regularly throughout the first year of establishment to a height of 40-60mm, removing cuttings if dense. This will control annual weeds and help maintain balance between faster growing grasses and slower developing wildflowers.
- 4.19 **Ongoing management:** Once established the areas which are to be managed as amenity grassland will be mown to a minimum height of 5cm. Areas which are due to be left to grow longer will be left uncut from spring through to late July/August to give the sown species an opportunity to flower. After flowering in July or August the sward will be cut back to 5cm. Arisings will be left in situ for 5-7 days, then removed from site to allow them to shed seed. A spring cut will remove the first flush of grass and allow more wildflowers to grow.
- 4.20 Weed control: The management practices detailed above should suppress perennial weeds such as docks and thistles in the long term, however, if weeds become a problem within the grassland these should be controlled by pulling. Indiscriminate herbicide spraying shall not be undertaken.
- 4.21 If the grassland is not establishing/species count has not increased following the first five years of management remedial advice will be sought from an ecologist to provide suggestions of habitat enhancement measures which will establish.

5. REFERENCES

Bat Conservation Trust and Institution of Lighting Professionals (2018) *Guidance Note 08/18 Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK. Bats and the built environment series.*

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021) *National Planning Policy Framework.*

Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) Website

Appendix 1

Bat and Bird Box Examples

Photo 1: Integrated swift box – Ibstock Swift Eco



Photo 2: Vivara Pro Seville 32mm WoodStone Nest Box



Photo 3: Vivara Pro front opening



Appendix 2

Habitat management plan

