



Niftylift Ltd.

Mason Way, Platts Common

Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan (BEMP)

Feb 2023

FPCR Environment and Design Ltd

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan (BEMP) has been prepared by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd on behalf of Niftylift Ltd, in relation to a Site situated to the north of the town of Hoyland, in the Metropolitan Borough of Barnsley at central OS grid reference SE 36802 01521. The Site is an area of unmanaged grassland and scrub, immediately to the North and West of the existing Niftylift property.
- 1.2 The application site gained planning approval for the formation of a new hard standing area to extend the existing external yard associated with Niftylift's existing operation. Associated ground clearance and making good is also required. These works are proposed to the immediate north of the existing yard and will connect to the existing external yard to increase the capacity of the applicant's existing operation.
- 1.3 The prescriptions within this BEMP are based on the Biodiversity Net Gain Calculations set out in the submitted and approved Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA)¹. Within the submitted BIA, the baseline habitats within the Site and offsite areas were identified, mapped using the UKHab Classification system during a survey at the Site in February 2022 (Figure 1). Condition Assessments were undertaken, based on condition criteria as set out in the Defra 3.0 technical supplement. A Biodiversity Net Gain assessment was then completed for the Site, using the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric 3.0. Post-development, habitat enhancements were identified within an area of adjacent offsite land (Figure 2).
- 1.4 The results of the assessment showed that the current baseline value of the Site is 2.54 habitat units, the entirety of which would be lost to development. The offsite compensation area baseline consists of 4.68 habitat units, with habitat enhancement measures proposed in these areas delivering a total of 2.81 units, which represents a 10.5% gain for proposals.
- 1.5 This BEMP provides the details of the overall management mechanisms and responsibilities, habitat creation methods, targeted management objectives and prescriptions, monitoring over a 30-year period for the enhancement of:
 - 0.0503ha of modified grassland to other neutral grassland in moderate condition;
 - 0.1549ha of other neutral grassland, from poor to good condition; &
 - 0.4188ha of mixed scrub from moderate to good condition.

Responsible Persons

- 1.6 The owner of the application site has the ultimate responsibility for the habitat delivery and management throughout the management period. The owner of the application site will appoint an appropriately experienced contractor and will inform the Council of who this responsibility has been passed to.

¹ FPCR (2022) Biodiversity Impact Assessment - Mason Way Platts Common REV B 160522 (2021/1430)

2.0 HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Habitat enhancement for the off-site scheme will be in accordance with details set out by FPCR in the Biodiversity Impact Assessment². The areas proposed for enhancement are shown on Figures 1 and 2, denoted by the blue line boundary. Figure 3 shows the areas proposed to be lost, retained and enhanced.
- 2.2 A summary of habitat creation and enhancement is provided in Table 1 below for polygon references refer to Figure 1.
- 2.3 Table 2 overleaf shows the primary objectives for each habitat enhancement proposed, together with the targeted secondary objectives related to condition.

Table 1: Habitat Enhancement

Habitat Type	Target Distinctiveness	Target Condition	Polygon ref	Time to Target Condition
Modified Grassland to Other Neutral Grassland	Medium	Poor to Moderate	5	10 years
Other Neutral Grassland	Medium	Poor to Good	1	15 years
Mixed Scrub	Medium	Moderate to Good	6 & 7	3 years

² FPCR (2022) Biodiversity Impact Assessment - Mason Way Platts Common REV B 160522 (2021/1430)

Habitat Creation and Management Objectives

Table 2: Off-site Habitat Objectives

FEATURE	PRIMARY OBJECTIVE	TARGETED SECONDARY OBJECTIVES
1. Existing Modified Grassland proposed for enhancement to Neutral Grassland Polygon ref - 5	To enhance existing grassland so it meets the definition of 'Grassland – Other Neutral Grassland' within the Defra Guidance (Defra, 2019) with a condition change of 'Poor to Moderate', as determined by survey in accordance with the Defra UK Habitats guidance and data analysis methodologies.	The following criteria in bold are targeted with allowance for minor variance. Habitat enhancement and management are targeting Moderate condition (moderate condition grassland should meet 3 or 4 of the below criteria): 1 The appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type (see UKHab definition). Wildflowers, sedges and indicator species for the specific grassland habitat type are very clearly and easily visible throughout the sward. 2 Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20 per cent is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed. 3 Cover of bare ground between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens. 4 Cover of bracken less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble) less than 5%. 5 There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981). Combined cover of undesirable species and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area.
2. Enhancement of Other Neutral Grassland Polygon ref - 1	To enhance existing Other Neutral Grassland with a condition change of 'Poor to Good', as determined by survey in accordance with the Defra UK Habitats guidance and data analysis methodologies.	The following criteria in bold are targeted with allowance for minor variance. Habitat enhancement and management are targeting Good condition: 1 The appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type (see UKHab definition). Wildflowers, sedges and indicator species for the specific grassland habitat type are very clearly and easily visible throughout the sward. 2 Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20 per cent is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.

FEATURE	PRIMARY OBJECTIVE	TARGETED SECONDARY OBJECTIVES
		3 Cover of bare ground between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens. 4 Cover of bracken less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble) less than 5%. 5 There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981). Combined cover of undesirable species and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area.
3. Enhancement of Mixed Scrub Polygon ref – 6 & 7	To enhance existing Mixed Scrub with a condition change of 'Moderate to Good', as determined by survey in accordance with the Defra UK Habitats guidance and data analysis methodologies.	The following criteria in bold are targeted with allowance for minor variance. Habitat enhancement and management are targeting Good condition (Good condition should meet all 5 criteria): 1 Habitat is representative of UKHab description (where in its natural range). There are at least three woody species, with no one species comprising more than 75% of the cover (except common juniper, sea buckthorn or box, which can be up to 100% cover). 2 There is a good age range – all of the following are present: seedlings, young shrubs and mature shrubs. 3 There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981) and undesirable species make up less than 5% of ground cover. 4 The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and/or herbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat(s). 5 There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.

3.0

HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

Table 2: Management Action Plan

MANAGEMENT TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES	POSSIBLE MONITORING TRIGGERS AND CORRECTIVE MEASURES
Enhancement - Offsite	
1. Modified Grassland to Other Neutral Grassland in moderate condition	
a) <u>Grassland Enhancement year one management</u> i) Dig out or spot treat undesirable weeds as necessary and mow hard between July and September with arisings removed. ii) after a September/October cut, rake or harrow the grassland to expose >50% bare earth. iii) Broadcast a 100% wildflower mix suitable for sowing into existing grassland. The wildflower mix should include yellow rattle (such as Boston Seeds 'Traditional Wildflower Seed BS1P 100%' (or similar)) at rate of 4g/m². iv) Where yellow rattle has established well from an autumn sowing cut and remove any early lush growth in spring to a height of 70-100mm (high enough to miss young yellow rattle plants) (after establishment only). v) Following first flowering, mow grass hard in late August or early September, to less than 50mm, removing arisings to reduce soil nutrients. vi) Mow re-growth once during November/December, to less than 50mm, removing arising. b) <u>On going management</u> i) Avoid use of herbicides along path and fence lines. ii) Following establishment mow during July (with late June- August acceptable) to around 50mm, removing arisings after they have dried (around 48 hours after cutting) to reduce soil nutrients (year 2 onwards). iii) If grass growth is vigorous mow re-growth in following year during March – early April (to around 50mm) to remove excess growth and take away arisings (year 2 onwards). iv) No more than 2 cuts per year (after first year) as per above timings. v) Dig out or spot treat pernicious weeds as necessary.	a) <u>Low cover of wild flowers and indicator species</u> Where monitoring shows cover of wildflowers and indicator species are less than 30% by year 5: i) Year 6, immediately after a September/October cut, rake or harrow the grassland to expose >50% bare earth. ii) Broadcast Boston Seeds 'Traditional Wildflower Seed BS1P 100%' (Or similar) at rate of 4g/m². This is a 100% wildflower mix suitable for sowing into existing grass. b) <u>High cover of undesirable species</u> If monitoring shows undesirable species cover is greater than 5%: i) selectively pull undesirable species.

MANAGEMENT TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES	POSSIBLE MONITORING TRIGGERS AND CORRECTIVE MEASURES
2. Other Neutral Grassland – Enhancement Poor to Good a) Grassland Enhancement year one management i) Dig out or spot treat undesirable weeds as necessary and mow hard between July and September with arisings removed. ii) Fell existing scattered scrub to achieve <5% scrub cover, undertaken in September / October. Timber and arisings removed from site or stacked within scrub areas as deadwood habitat. iii) After a September/October cut, rake or harrow the grassland to expose >50% bare earth. iv) Broadcast a 100% wildflower mix suitable for sowing into existing grassland. The wildflower mix should include yellow rattle (such as Boston Seeds 'Traditional Wildflower Seed BS1P 100%' (or similar) at rate of 4g/m². v) Where yellow rattle has established well from an autumn sowing cut and remove any early lush growth in spring to a height of 70-100mm (high enough to miss young yellow rattle plants) (after establishment only). vi) Follow first flowering, mow grass hard in late August or early September, to less than 50mm, removing arisings to reduce soil nutrients (year 1 onwards). vii) Dig out or spot treat pernicious weeds as necessary (year 1 onwards). b) Management. i) Following establishment mow after flowering in July (with late June- August acceptable) to around 50mm, removing arisings after they have dried (1-7 days) to reduce soil nutrients. Leave 15% of grassland unmown every year on rotation. Once every four years cut the grassland in September to allow late flowering species to set seed.	a) <u>Low cover of wildflowers and indicator species</u> Where monitoring shows cover of wildflowers and indicator species are less than 30% by year 5: i) Year 6, immediately after a September/October cut, rake or harrow the grassland to expose >50% bare earth. ii) Broadcast Boston Seeds 'Traditional Wildflower Seed BS1P 100%' (Or similar) at rate of 4g/m². This is a 100% wildflower mix suitable for sowing into existing grass. b) <u>Vigorous grass growth limiting flowering plant diversity</u> If grass growth is vigorous by end Year 2 (grass 'collapsing' due to lushness prior to cutting) or palatable/productive grasses are identified as dominating the sward (over 50%): i) undertake a second yearly cut of the re-growth in late autumn and again in spring if needed (to around 50mm) to remove excess growth and take away arisings. ii) If further monitoring from years 3-4 show continued vigorous grass growth introduce yellow rattle seed: 1) after the Aug/Sept cut chain harrow the grassland three times in immediate succession and in a different direction each time. 2) Broadcast yellow rattle seed at a rate of 2.5kg/ha, then roll immediately with a flat roller. 3) If there is sufficient grass growth following sowing, take another cut before the end of year removing arisings. c) <u>High cover of undesirable species</u> If monitoring shows undesirable species cover is greater than 5%: i) selectively pull undesirable species.

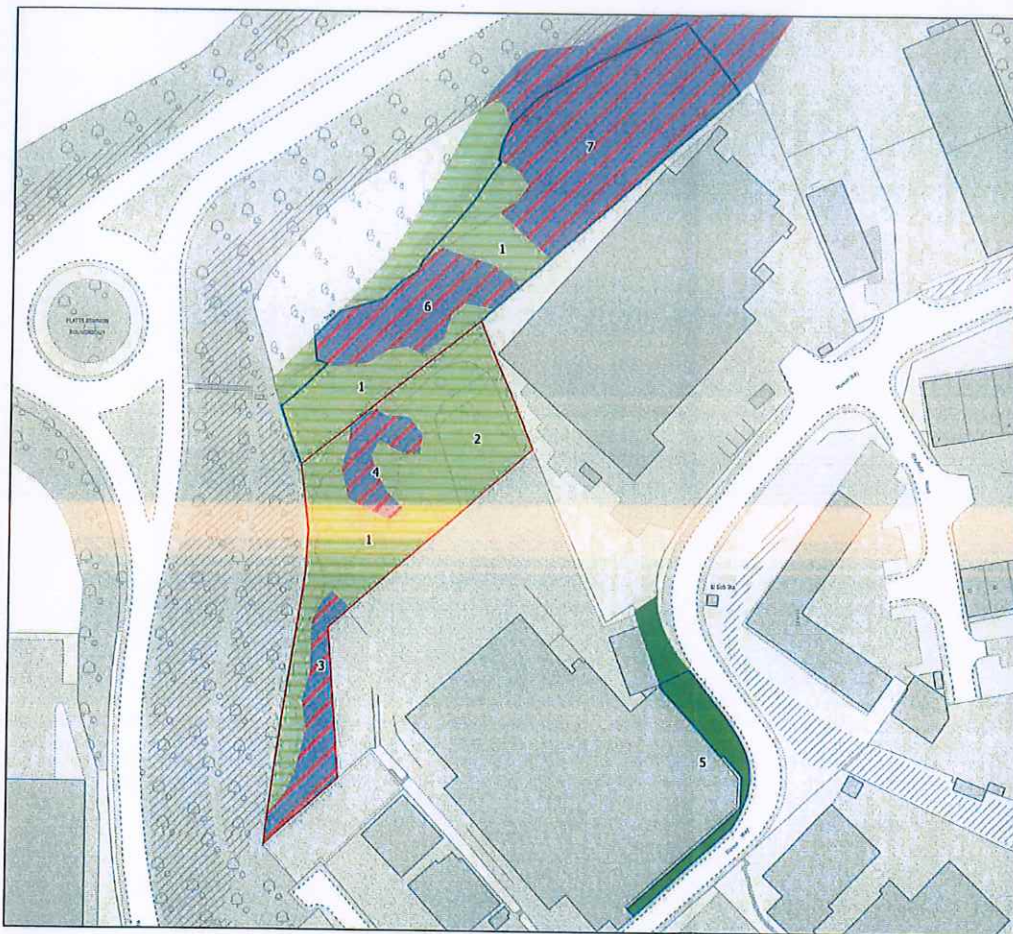
MANAGEMENT TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES		POSSIBLE MONITORING TRIGGERS AND CORRECTIVE MEASURES
		d). physical damage from recreational access greater than 5% of total area. If monitoring shows physical damage of greater than 5% of total area: i) Determine locations of informal access points and explore options to reduce public access into the area. Either through installation of fencing to stop access, additional planting to disrupt desire lines, or through signage to discourage access and educate public about habitat enhancements. ii) Re-seed any severely damaged areas as per a)
3. Mixed Scrub - Enhancement.		
a) Scrub Enhancement year one management i) Selective thinning of some dense stands of bramble. ii) Localised planting of native scrub species (see recommended mix below) in open areas in small irregular shaped groups of 3, 5 or 7, with clusters of the same species planted together and designed to create a naturalistic pattern. Planting protected from rabbits with spiral guards, as conditions on site require. Holly should have larger diameter mesh guards. iii) Initial planting to target 15-20% open space.		a) Increase shrub species diversity Where monitoring shows a minimum of three shrub species are not present throughout each discrete stand or single species comprise over 75% of cover: i) Selective clearance of scrub edge to reduce dominance of species such as blackthorn, hawthorn and bramble. ii) Selective thinning of some dense stands to allow light to reach the ground and promote regeneration of seedlings and saplings. iii) Planting of additional shrub species as necessary. b) Control of any pernicious weeds / non-native invasive species i) Where periodic monitoring records presence undertake mechanical removal/use herbicide as appropriate and remove all cut material from site. ii) Seek advice from specialist contractor, as necessary.

Common name	Latin name	Comments
Common dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	15% whip
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	25% whip
Grey willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>	10% whip
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	15% whip
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	5% 3 cl
Crab apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	10% whip
Bird cherry	<i>Prunus padus</i>	10% whip

MANAGEMENT TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES			POSSIBLE MONITORING TRIGGERS AND CORRECTIVE MEASURES
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	10% whip	
b) <u>Ongoing management</u> 15-20% open space should be targeted within the habitat. i) Yearly mowing / strimming of glades and clearings in July (with late June- August acceptable) to around 50mm, removing arisings after they have dried (1-7 days) to reduce soil nutrients. Once every four years cut the grassland in September to allow late flowering species to set seed. ii) Control of any pernicious weeds / non-native invasive species, as required, through mechanical removal/ herbicide as appropriate and remove all cut material from site. Seek advice from specialist contractor, as necessary. iii) Trimming of dense scrub edges and bramble stands, to maintain a sinuous edge with a graded margin down to field layer (tapering edge from canopy height to 20cm). Trimming to take place as required (roughly 1/5 every 5-6 years). Trimming to take place outside of bird nesting season (March to August/early September) during winter months. iv) Selective clearing / coppicing of scrub (roughly 1/5 every 5-6 years) down to ground to reduce dominance of species such as blackthorn and hawthorn and promote regeneration of young shrubs/herb edge. Use coppicing regime to promote a mobile and mixed-age scrub edge along rides, in clearings and parcel margins. v) Brash arisings from coppicing should not be left lying in loose heaps. Brash may be: built into tight piles or dead hedges through the scrub, used to surround cut stools to protect them from deer browse (c. 1m radius), or chipped and spread thinly through the scrub areas. vi) Spiral guards will be removed after establishment.			

4.0 MONITORING

- 4.1 In order to appropriately monitor the success of the proposed habitat enhancement of the Site will be assessed against the habitat objectives set out in Table 2, and the proposed UKHab habitat definition at the time of this report.
- 4.2 Monitoring will cover the blue line boundary identified within Figures 1 and 2, upon securing the habitat interventions under agreement to deliver specific targets to a set timescale.
- 4.3 The monitoring of the project will be carried out in years 2, 5, 10, 20 and 30.
- 4.4 The monitoring will be completed by an appropriately qualified and experienced ecologist (A suitably qualified person is a person who is sufficiently qualified to confidently identify the features required in the monitoring criteria), with results submitted to the monitoring authority in accordance with the legal agreement used to secure the scheme.
- 4.5 Monitoring visits will be undertaken at an appropriate time of year (May to August inclusive) and will involve a detailed UKHab survey of the site and condition assessment as specified within Defra 3.0 technical supplement. For each community, as a minimum, the following information will be collected:
 - A comprehensive species list along with a measure of abundance using DAFOR;
 - For the grassland habitats representative quadrat should be taken (to a maximum of 5);
 - Representative photos of each habitat and feature;
 - Condition assessment tables should be completed with detailed notes on each criteria and potential constraints and opportunities; &
 - A detailed description of the habitat, noting abiotic factors such as structure, slope, aspect, management and recreational use, and how this may be influencing the community.
- 4.6 Results of this monitoring will be used to inform changes to this management plan. The detailed management prescriptions set out in the management plan will be altered if required following monitoring and in agreement with the management contractor, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) and any other stakeholders.
- 4.7 A report will be produced to identify compliance with the binding objectives and recommendations which will be sent to the BMBC and the landowner following each monitoring period. When a recommendation is made to the landowner ensure objectives compliance, the following monitoring survey will assess if that recommendation was followed, and the objective met.
- 4.8 Where objectives are not being adequately met, appropriate action will be put in place (such as, the corrective measures detailed in table 2 for each habitat) to amend management prescriptions, with any refinements incorporated into the updated management plan and annual work programme.
- 4.9 Modifications made to the management plan as part of adaptive management should be added to the relevant habitat management table and included in this document. The changes must be circulated to the land manager and monitoring authority.



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Key

- Red Line Boundary
- Offsite Compensation Area Boundary
- Habitats Baseline**
 - Mixed scrub
 - Modified grassland
 - Other neutral grassland

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Red Niftylift
Mason Way, Platts Common
fpcr
Habitat Baseline Plan

1:1125
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Figure 1



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Key

- Red Line Boundary
- Offsite Compensation Area Boundary
- Habitats Proposed**
- Developed land; sealed surface
- Mixed scrub
- Modified grassland
- Other neutral grassland

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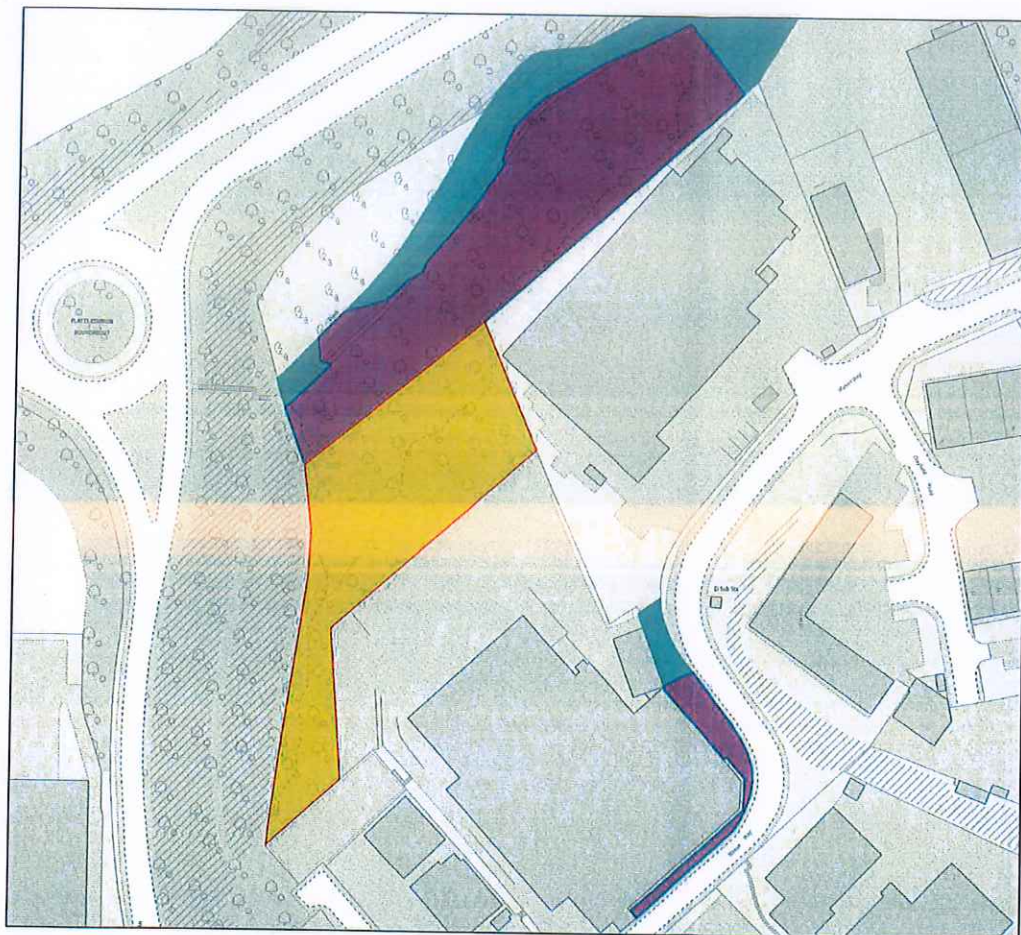
Niftyfit
Mason Way, Platts Common

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Proposed Habitats

Scale 1:1000

Figure 2



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Key

- Red Line Boundary
- Offsite Compensation Area Boundary
- Habitats Retention**
 - Enhanced
 - Retained
 - Lost

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Niftylift

at

Mason Way, Platts Common

Retention Plan

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Scale

10m

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Figure 3