

Leonardslee Estate, Lower Beeding

Biodiversity Net Gain Additional
Statement

Report for Leonardslee Gardens

Job Number	9105.1			
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Biodiversity Net Gain – Additional Statement

Temple was commissioned by Leonardslee Gardens in April 2025 to produce an Indicative Biodiversity Gain Plan (BGP) (Temple, 2025)¹ of a proposed development of the Former Generator Block, Clock Tower Cafe, Wedding Pavillion, Entrance Building, Main House Forecourt and Engine House at Leonardslee Lakes and Gardens, Brighton Road, Lower Beeding, RH13 6PP, henceforth referred to as ‘the Site’, to support a planning application.

Following the submission of the Biodiversity Net Gain Metric and Biodiversity Gain Plan report to the LPA, further information on how the proposed post development habitats will reach the condition specified within the metric was required.

Information on how the habitats post-development will be enhanced and created to reach the condition specified in the metric has been provided below. A Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) that specifies further details on the long-term management and roles and responsibilities will be provided post consent.

¹ Temple (2025) Leonardslee Estate, Lower Beeding Biodiversity Gain Plan (Outline) Report for Leonardslee Gardens. Unpublished Report. Temple. Ref: 9105.1

CREATION, ENHANCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT TARGETS AND PRESCRIPTIONS

Creation, Enhancement and Management Detailed Methods

Grassland (Medium, High and Very High Distinctiveness)

Action	Relevant Parcels	Target Criterion	Prescriptions	Timing
Enhance other neutral grassland from moderate to good condition	Entrance – 2 Entrance – 3	E - Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition 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. If any invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA5) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	Areas of bare ground should be sown with a mixture such as Emorsgate EM5 or similar in spring, with the areas temporarily fenced off while the grassland establishes. Signage should also be in place to discourage excessive disturbance from the public/ staff members	Planting Year 1 Spring Signage Ongoing

Grassland (Low Distinctiveness)

Action	Relevant Parcels	Target Criterion	Prescriptions	Timing
Enhance modified grassland to other neutral grassland in moderate condition.	Pavillion	A -There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m2 present, including at least 2. Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition. B - Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed. C - Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	The existing grassland will be oversown with a Biodiverse species mix such as EM3 Special General Purpose Meadow Mixture ² (or similar), following Emorsgate guidance in autumn which will achieve criterion F and aid in filling patches of bare ground for criterion C. Scarification will be used to prepare the ground by breaking up soil compaction and improve soil aeration and moisture retention. Following scarification, the EM3 mixture will be evenly sown, enhancing the grassland area. The seed mix used will be EM3 Special General Purpose Meadow Mixture, or a similar diverse meadow mix. Such mixtures typically contain more than 8 species, and will therefore supports the achievement of Condition A.	Grass Cutting: Years 1 – 2 One – three annual cuts. Additional cuts will help to supress weeds and help seedling establish. Years 2 – 30 One annual cut, alternating areas with an early (mid-July) to late (late August – early September) cuts.

² <https://wildseed.co.uk/product/mixtures/complete-mixtures/general-purpose-meadow-mixtures/special-general-purpose-meadow-mixture/>

		<p>D - Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.</p> <p>F - There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type. Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.</p>	<p>For the 30 years of management, a single annual cut of the other neutral grassland should be undertaken, alternating sections with an early (mid-July) to late (late August – early September) cuts to create a varied sward height meeting criterion B. The arisings should be removed following the cut.</p> <p>Low intensity mowing and removal of arisings to prevent nutrient encroachment. Control of undesirable weeds and invasive plant species.</p> <p>Signage should also be in place to discourage excessive disturbance from the public to target criteria D.</p>	
Create modified grassland in poor condition	Engine 2.3, Engine 2.5	<p>C - Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. may be present).</p> <p>F - Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.</p>	Cut or treat scrub and bracken annually to prevent encroachment, ensuring total cover remains below 20%.	<p>Scrub cutting</p> <p>Late autumn to winter (Nov–Feb) to avoid bird nesting season.</p>

Individual Trees

Action	Relevant Parcels	Target Criterion	Prescriptions	Timing
Creation of individual trees	Three trees in the village complex area	N/A	Three small, poor condition trees are to be planted within the village complex area of the Site. Species to include <i>Cornus kousa</i> (non-native).	<p>Tree Planting</p> <p>Year 1 (October to April)</p> <p>Planting is best done between October and April. Avoid planting in waterlogged (water sitting on the soil surface or pooled in the bottom of the hole) or frozen (too hard to get the spade in) soil.</p>

Urban

Action	Relevant Parcels	Target Criterion	Prescriptions	Timing
Creating Introduced Shrub	Clocktower 3.2, Generator 2.4, Village 1.1, Village 6.1	N/A – no condition assessment required	N/A	N/A

Woodland

Action	Relevant Parcels	Target Criterion	Prescriptions	Timing
Enhance the other woodland; mixed from poor to moderate condition.	Clocktower - 1	A - Age distribution of trees C - Invasive plant species D – Number of native tree species (5 or more optimal). E - Cover of native tree and shrub species F – Open space within woodland G – Woodland regeneration I - Vegetation and ground flora (recognisable NVC plant community present). L – Amount of deadwood (between 25% and 50% of all plots within parcel have deadwood present). M – Woodland Disturbance	New planting should focus on native species not already present, but which are suitable for the habitat. Planting should be staggered over at least 10 years and different size saplings used where possible. The removal of non-native Rhododendron and laurel through a programme of cutting and/or the use of appropriate herbicide to meet criterion C. A specialist should be used to advise on and implement the specific control method. Selective thinning of trees, focusing on any non-native species and/or those in poor condition, should be undertaken in years 1 – 5 to reduce density and create open areas for ground flora, helping meet criterion F, G and I. Any cut material should be used to create habitat piles to increase the amount of deadwood. Ringbarking on selected trees away from footpaths should be undertaken to create standing deadwood. Fallen deadwood should be left in situ to provide habitat for invertebrates and any tree clearance should be undertaken over winter. Areas of bare ground were present in the woodland – plant with native shrub species.	New Planting: Years 1 – 10 (spring). Cutting/Herbicide Years 1 – 5 (exact timings to be decided by specialist). Years 6 – 30 (as required). Thinning and Ringbarking: Years 1 – 5 Winter – outside of nesting bird season.

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