



Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)

This Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) is drafted specifically for the Land at Charrington Way, Broadbridge Heath, utilising the data and recommendations provided in the Crossman Ecology Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment.

Site: Charrington Way Recreation Area, Broadbridge Heath
Client: Broadbridge Parish Council
Document ref: CW10BLEMP
Revision: Initial issue 27.03.2026

1. Objectives

The primary purpose of this LEMP is to ensure that the site reaches and maintains the "target condition" required by the Defra Statutory Metric. Key goals include:

- Successful establishment of Other Neutral Grassland (Wildflower Meadow).
- The health and retention of 27 existing trees.
- The successful growth of 27 new trees to provide canopy cover and habitat connectivity.

2. Management of Retained Habitats (Existing Trees)

The site contains 27 established trees, including Pedunculate Oak, Field Maple, and Hornbeam. Protection: All retained trees must be protected from physical damage and soil compaction during any construction phases.

Condition Monitoring: Trees currently in "Moderate" or "Good" condition must be monitored to ensure they do not degrade due to human impact or lack of ecological niches.

The Parish Council has a recurring tree survey which is completed as a minimum every 5 years, last completed 2025 and due no later than Spring 2030. Damage discovered outside of the tree survey will be reported to the Parish Council tree surgeon for investigation.

3. Creation and Management of Wildflower Grassland

A new area of wildflower grassland (0.02 ha) will be created to replace low-value modified grassland.

Establishment Phase (Year 1):

Ground Preparation: Removal of nutrient-rich topsoil will be required before sowing a native, species-rich wildflower mix.

Initial Cutting: During the first year, the grassland shall be cut every 6-8 weeks to a height of 50-75mm to control competitive grass species.

Long-term Management (Years 2-30):

Cut and collect Regime: A cut and collect shall be performed once annually in late summer after flowering has ended and seeds have dispersed (usually October).

Nutrient Control: All arisings (cuttings) must be removed from the site to lower soil fertility and encourage wildflower diversity.

Autumn Cut: A second optional cut may be performed in early spring if regrowth is significant.

4. New Tree Planting and Aftercare

A total of 27 new trees will be planted to achieve the 10% Biodiversity Net Gain. The trees must be planted in accordance with BS8545:2014.

Planting Specification:

Species: 7 x Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), 6 x Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*), and 7 x English Oak (*Quercus Robur*), 7 x Hornbeam fastigiata (*Carpinus Betulus*) if these species are not available the landscape contractor may replace with a like for like native species of tree (*Betula pubescens*, *Malus sylvestris*, *Prunus padus*)

Timing: All planting must occur during the dormant season between November and March.

Methodology: Trees will be pit-planted with adequate support (stakes and ties) and protection and where possible will be of 'standard' (8-10cm girth) size. The trees will be planted with a tree pit irrigation system.

Aftercare Schedule:

Watering: Regular watering is required during the first two growing seasons. The Parish Council will employ a contractor to make 2 weekly visits throughout the year to inspect the tree and conduct watering.

Maintenance: Annual weed control (mulching) and adjustment of stakes/ties to prevent bark damage.

Replacement: Any tree that fails to establish within the first five years must be replaced with a specimen of the same species and size.

5. Monitoring and Remedial Actions

Target Condition: Habitats must reach the target condition defined within the biodiversity metric.

Reporting: Periodic ecological inspections should be conducted to assess sward height variety and the absence of invasive species. The Parish Council will monitor all new planting fortnightly during the first 5 years.

Remediation: If the wildflower grassland fails to reach 6-8 vascular plant species per m², supplementary over-sowing or soil nutrient testing will be required annually.