

Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy

Document reference	AR186 – Camelia Botnar.BES
Site	Camelia Botnar Foundation, Ivorys Drive, Horsham, RH13 8DQ, West Sussex
Client	Mr E. Rodda
Author	Alex Rosenfeld Ecologist
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The assessment and appraisal are considered relevant for a maximum of 18 months due to the possibility of changes in the habitats on-site and scope of proposals. Should alterations to the proposals or site occur, the ecologist should be consulted to confirm that the appraisal is still valid.

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Mr E Rodda has commissioned a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for land at Camelia Botnar Foundation, Ivorys Drive, Horsham, RH13 8DQ, West Sussex (*grid reference: TQ19822384, hereafter referred to as 'the site'*). A site walkover was undertaken on 25th May 2025 in suitable conditions (6°C, overcast with a light westerly breeze).
- 1.2 The proposals are for the installation of solar panels. Current proposals are for the panels to be located in the south of the site. Plans may change when works commence to move the panels to the north of the site.
- 1.3 Should the plans change, the enhancements shall be revised to mitigate the loss of the trees in the north of the site.
- 1.4 This Biodiversity Enhancement Statement has been produced with the intention of satisfying the Horsham District Council planning decision reference: DC/25/0973.
- 1.5 The report will address the following points:
 - Purpose and conservation objectives for the proposed enhancement measures;
 - Detailed designs or product descriptions to achieve stated objectives;
 - Locations, orientations and heights of proposed enhancement measures by appropriate
 - Maps and plans (where relevant);
 - Persons responsible for implementing the enhancement measures; and
 - Details of initial aftercare and long-term maintenance (where relevant).

This Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy produced on 6th September 2025 is based on the following reports:

- Ecological Impact Assessment (Alex Rosenfeld, 30th May 2025)
- Biodiversity Net Gain Exemption letter (Alex Rosenfeld, 29th May 2025)
- Proposed Site Plan (Mark Alford Design, May 2025)

2.0 Ecological Context of Site

Site Baseline

- 2.1 The site consists primarily of modified grassland with scattered trees, ruderal vegetation, bare ground and paved paths.

Surrounding Landscape

- 2.2 Bordering the site beyond the wall and hedgerow lies grass gardens belonging to the same owner to the east. To the south and west are grass areas with tracks and vacant land also in the same land holding. To the north runs Ivorys Drive.
- 2.3 The wider area consists primarily of arable fields with hedgerows and woodland.

Proposals

- 2.4 Proposals are for the installation of solar panels with associated battery storage and cabling.

3.0 Baseline Conditions

- 3.1 The following section outlines the ecological state of the site and its context against designated sites within a 2.0km radius.
- 3.2 No statutory designated sites are noted within a 2.0km radius of the site.

Baseline Ecological Site Conditions

- 3.3 The majority of the site consists of modified grassland of limited species diversity. A small patch of Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris* is located in the north western corner of the site. Area of ruderal vegetation is noted along the western boundary.
- 3.4 The habitats onsite are of 'low' ecological value.
- 3.5 The site offers foraging and roosting / nesting opportunities for bats / birds and foraging invertebrates.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

Aims

- 4.1 The aim of the BES is to;
- To maximise biodiversity value of the scheme;
 - To ensure sensitive management of new and existing features to maximise their biodiversity value;
 - To ensure that proposed enhancement measures are appropriately managed into the future;
 - To provide a long-term management plan of the site.

Objectives of the Proposals

4.2 The below objectives have been identified, which, when implemented, shall ensure the aims of the BES are achieved:

- To identify areas of suitable soft landscaping for use within the site.
- To provide ecological enhancements which provides shelter and foraging opportunities for a range of species. This is achieved through the provision of species which offer a known wildlife value, such as those listed on 'RHS Plants for Pollinators'.
- To create habitat areas at the optimal time of year for their successful establishment.
- To manage these areas to maximise their value.
- To provide additional habitat opportunities for birds, bats, reptiles and invertebrates through the provision of suitable boxes.

5.0 Compensation and Enhancement Measures

- 5.1 The below features are proposed as enhancement and compensation measures. The plan in Appendix ... shows approximate locations of enhancements.
- 5.2 The following enhancements shall provision active nesting, roosting and hibernating opportunities for a range of species.

Log Piles

- 5.3 2no. log pile of a minimum 0.5m³ are to be created within the hedgerows and northern boundary which shall provide shelter and hibernation and foraging opportunities for invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians.

Bat and Bird Boxes and Invertebrate Features

- 5.4 2no. bat boxes such as Beaumaris supplied by Wildcare or similar shall be installed to the southern aspect of existing mature trees across the wider site.
- 5.5 2no. bird boxes such as the Vivipara Pro Woodstone Open Nest Box supplied by NHBS or similar shall be installed to the northern aspect of the walls surrounding the site.
- 5.6 2no. 'Bug Hotel' or invertebrate boxes as supplied by NHBS or similar shall be installed in a sunny position within an undisturbed corner of the site.

Shade Tolerant Seed Mix

- 5.7 The areas beneath the solar panels are to be sown with a shade tolerant seed mix such as the Hedgerow and Light Shade Seed Mix provided by British Wildflower Seeds. The seed mix shall contain species such as:

Wildflowers (30%):

- Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)
- Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*)
- Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)
- Lesser Burdock (*Arctium minus*)
- Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*)
- Greater Knapweed (*Centaurea scabiosa*)
- Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*)
- Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*)
- Vipers Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*)
- Hedge Bedstraw (*Galium mollugo*)

- Ladies' Bedstraw (*Galium verum*)
- Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*)
- Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*)
- Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)
- Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*)
- Red Campion (*Silene dioica*)
- White Campion (*Silene latifolia*)
- Upright Hedge-parsley (*Torilis japonica*)*

Grasses (70%):

- Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*)
- Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*)
- Slender-creeping (Red-fescue *Festuca rubra*)
- Wood Meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*)
- Crested dogstail (*Cynosurus cristatus*)

Implementation Schedule

- 5.8 The construction works are scheduled to begin from spring 2026. The planting of wildflower lawn shall be undertaken in March / April 2026. The other wildlife features can be implemented at any time.

6.0 Management Prescriptions

- 6.1 In order to ensure the long-term viability and maximum ecological value of the scheme, detailed prescriptions for initial establishment and long-term management are provided within this section.

Shade Tolerant Wildflower Seed

Sowing

- 6.2 The area beneath the solar panels subject to shade is to be sown with an appropriate seed mix (such as that described in paragraph 5.7) during the spring 2026. Before sowing, the top layer of turf and soil (100mm) is to be removed, to reveal bare soil. The ground shall be prepared by spreading a thin layer (1cm thick) of multi-purpose, peat-free compost. When sowing, the seeds shall be broadcast lightly at a rate of 3 grams per square meter. Once sown, the areas shall be fenced or protected with rabbit proof netting.

6.3 Cutting

- 6.4 During summer months, both areas shall be cut every 3 weeks to a height of no shorter than 5cm. Alternately, half the lawn can be cut on rotation every 10 days to maximise flowering potential.
- 6.5 The final cut of the season shall take place in late summer. All arisings shall be removed with each cut. This will ensure the lawn will flower in the next year of growth. This also avoids excess nutrients re-entering the soil and promoting unwanted excess grass growth.

Weed Removal

- 6.6 The sward shall be maintained free of unwanted species during establishment by hand pulling or use of a selective spot herbicide where necessary. Once established, the requirement for weed removal shall be minimal.

Rectification of defects

- 6.7 Should bare patches of grass develop, area is to be cultivated to 100mm and then seeded with a seed-mix such as that stated in paragraph 5.7. To be cross-sown in two directions at right angles to each other, (half the seed being used in each direction) at the rate of 3 grams per square meter and the ground lightly raked over on a still, dry day.

Log Piles

Maintenance

- 6.8 Log piles are to be checked annually and topped up as necessary.

Bat Boxes

Maintenance

- 6.9 The bat boxes specified above do not require any cleaning. A visual inspection shall be carried out annually to ensure the boxes remain in good condition. shall they require cleaning or opening, this shall be undertaken by an ecologist with an appropriate bat licence.

Bird Boxes

Maintenance

- 6.10 No maintenance necessary. A visual inspection shall be carried out annually to ensure the boxes remain in good condition.

Invertebrate features

Maintenance

- 6.11 No maintenance necessary. A visual inspection shall be carried out annually to ensure the box is in good condition.

Maintenance

Watering

- 6.12 All plants shall be watered as may be required to maintain healthy growth following planting, during the maintenance period and subsequently in cases of extreme drought (Trees – 5Ltr's per tree, Shrubs 1Ltr each, Grass 5Ltr's/m²). Watering to commence following 10 consecutive days of no rainfall, during the months of June to August.

Weeding

- 6.13 Areas around the trees shall be kept clear of weeds to allow the plants to establish by weeding twice a year in the spring and autumn. Any litter or debris shall be removed as soon as it is found.

7.0 Long-Term Management and Monitoring

Shade Tolerant Seed Mix

Rectification of Defects

- 7.1 The condition of the wildflower areas beneath the solar panels shall be inspected and monitored on an annual basis. Should bare patches of grass develop during this time, the area is to be cultivated to 100mm and then seeded with the appropriate seed mix (see paragraph 5.7); to be cross sown in two directions at right angles to each other (half the seed being used in each direction) at the rate of 3 gm per square metre and the ground lightly raked over on a still, dry day when the top 25 mm of soil is dry. Should the area drastically die back, it shall be re-seeded / re-turfed in its entirety.

Log Piles, Bird and Bat Boxes and Invertebrate Features

Inspection and replacement

- 7.2 Log Piles - areas of dead wood shall be created as the logs breakdown and replenished. The condition of log piles shall be checked on an annual basis and replenished where necessary.
- 7.3 Bird and Bat Boxes - the bat boxes specified above do not require any cleaning. A visual inspection should be carried out annually to ensure the boxes remain in good condition. If the boxes have broken down or disintegrated, they shall be replaced. A visual inspection shall be carried out annually to ensure the boxes remain in good condition. Boxes which have shown no signs of use after 3 years shall be moved to a more appropriate location if considered necessary during the monitoring visits.
- 7.4 Invertebrate boxes – Inspection annually and replace if significantly degraded.

8.0 Implementation Schedule

Table No 01 – Annual Maintenance Schedule

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Shade Tolerant Seed Mix				X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Mowing												
Strimming					X					X		
Weed Control				X								
Top Dressing										X		

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bird and Bat Boxes and Invertebrate Features												
Cleaning (bird boxes)										X		
Check Condition											X	

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Log Piles												
Restock if needed	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

9.0 References

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MAGIC Interactive Map Tool (Accessed September 20th 2025): www.magic.gov.uk

Appendix A – Ecological Enhancement Positions

