Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan

For use with
Small Sites Metric
(Statutory Biodiversity Metric)

Site Name:	Howards Nursery RH13 6NX
Date:	14th November 2026
Version:	Version 1
Small Sites Criteria Met	The site fulfils the criteria for use of the Small Sites Metric (Statutory Biodiversity Metric) calculation tool
Applicant	Julien Slade
Plan completed by	Oliver Lewis CBE

Non-technical Summary	Creation of new units. Developed land; sealed surface. Planting of 9 small native trees

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Version Control SM-T02

Version	Issue Status	Prepared by / Date	Approved by / Date
1	For approval	15th November 2026	n/a

Authorship Details SM-B01

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1. Project Background

Project information SM-T01	
Project type	On-site gains
Development Name and Address	Howards Nursery Handcross Road, West Sussex, RH13 6NX
Author	Oliver Lewis CBE
Landowner	J Slade
Period covered by this management plan	30 Years
Planning authority	Horsham
Planning reference	DC/26/1753
Total Site Area	2184m²

Planning Condition

Details of Planning Conditions to be Discharged by this Document SM-B02
This HMMP sets out the habitat creation, management and monitoring measures supporting the development's Biodiversity Gain Plan. It should be read alongside the approved biodiversity metric calculation and habitat proposals plan.

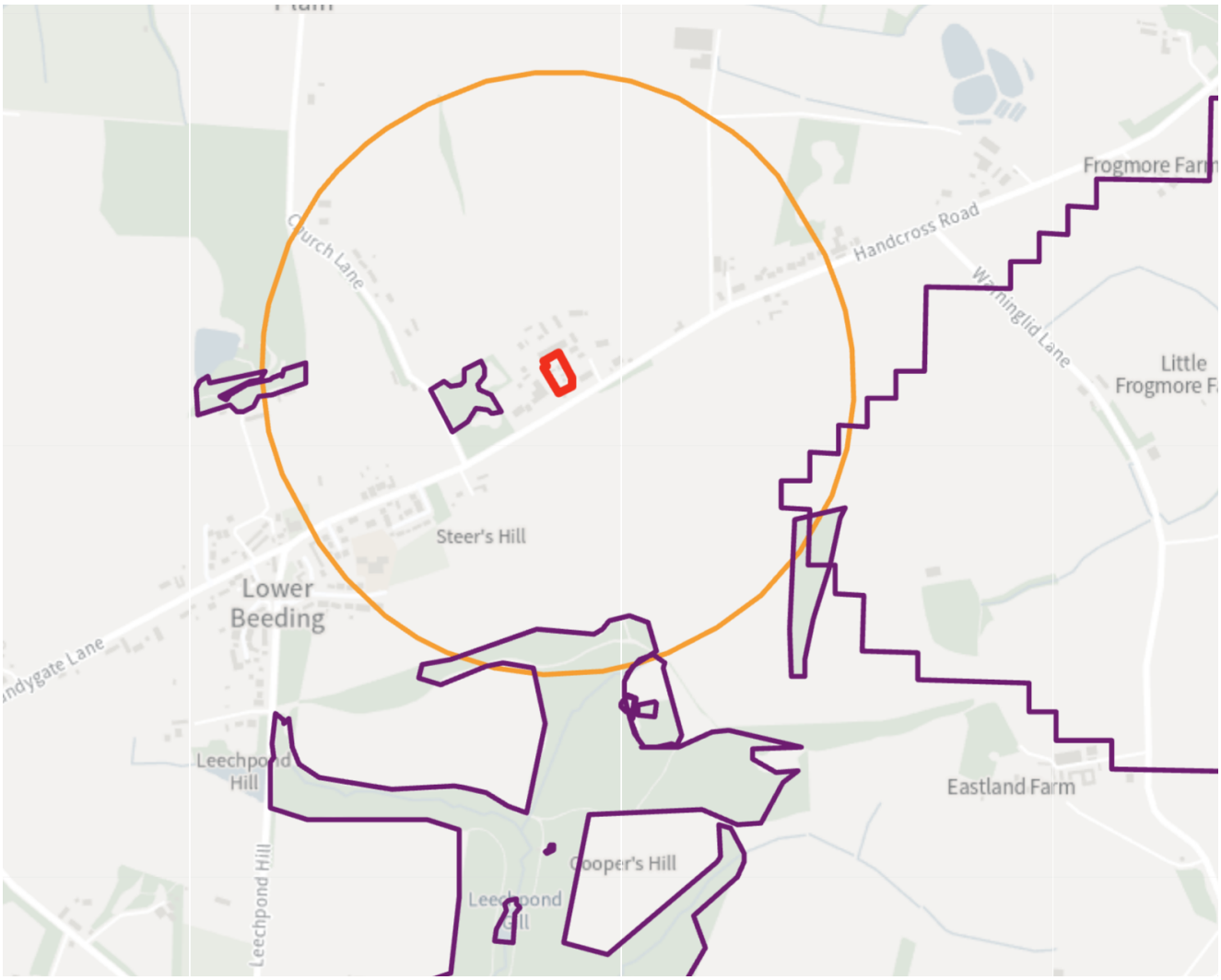
Roles and Responsibilities

Author Responsible for Preparing HMMP SM-B03	
Name or Initials / Role	Oliver Lewis CBE
Responsibility Start Date	n/a
Responsibility End Date	n/a
Statement of competency	The competency of the SSM 'user' is aligned with definition set out in the British Standards. Applicant has completed a significant number of SSM applications for a variety of habitats
Landowner / Management Organisation Responsible for Delivering HMMP SM-B04	
Name or Initials / Role	J Slade
Responsibility Start Date	n/a
Responsibility End Date	n/a
Statement of competency	Long standing land owners

Site Boundary Plan SM-F01



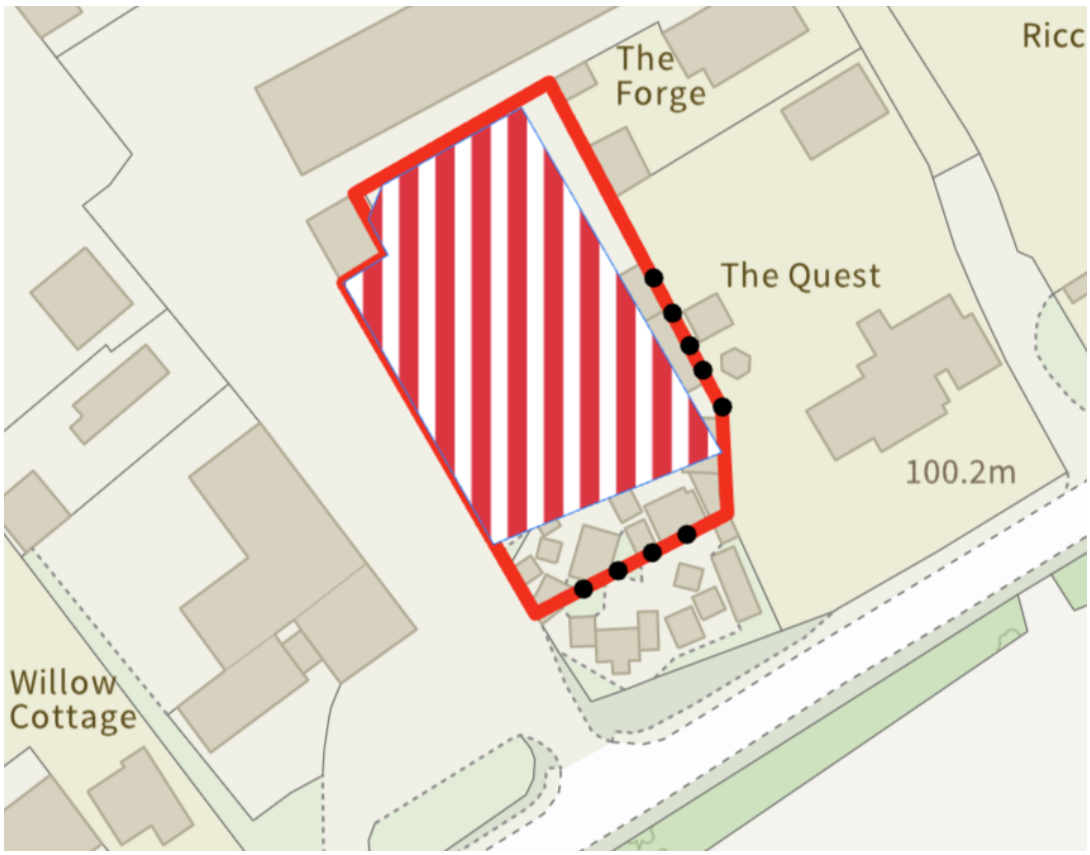
Site Context Plan SM-F02



Priority and designated habitats within 500m of the site

ority Habitat Inventory - Deciduous Woodland (England)	Within 500m
Priority Habitat Inventory - Deciduous Woodland (England)	Within 500m
Priority Habitat Inventory - Deciduous Woodland (England)	Within 500m
No main habitat but additional habitats present	Within 500m
Priority Habitat Inventory - Deciduous Woodland (England)	Within 500m
Priority Habitat Rivers - Headwater Areas	Within 500m

Site Proposals Plan SM-F04



Description of Site Use - Baseline SM-B05	Vegetated garden, Developed land; sealed surface, 3 small trees
Description of Site Use - Proposed SM-B06	Creation of new units. Developed land; sealed surface. Planting of 9 small native trees (all new, none in private garden space). Two preexisting trees lost

Site Photos SM-F03





2. Management Plan Aims and Objectives

Overview of Proposed Habitat Aims and Objectives SM-B07	The primary aim of this Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) is to ensure the long-term preservation, enhancement, and creation of habitats within the project area to achieve a measurable Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) over a minimum period of 30 years. This will be accomplished by: Maintaining Retained Habitats: All existing habitats that are to be retained will be managed to maintain or improve their current ecological condition. This involves implementing appropriate management practices that support the health and diversity of these habitats, ensuring they continue to provide valuable ecosystem services and wildlife support. Enhancement and Creation Measures: We aim to implement enhancement measures and create new habitats as described in this HMMP as promptly as possible to expedite ecological benefits. Achieving Compliance and Beyond: The plan not only meets the statutory requirements for habitat conservation but also strives to exceed them by contributing positively to local biodiversity targets and environmental strategies set forth by the council and relevant conservation bodies. The intention is that this document will provide a robust monitoring program which will be established to track the progress of habitat conditions and the success of the enhancement measures. Regular surveys and assessments will inform adaptive management strategies, allowing for timely interventions to address any issues and ensure the HMMP's objectives are met efficiently. This includes the strategic planting of a small number of saplings to offset any habitat loss resulting from development activities.

Summary of Adaptive Management Approaches SM-B09	The authors recognise that over the 30-year duration of the Biodiversity Net Gain Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (BNG HMMP), adjustments may be necessary to ensure habitats continue to meet the outcomes specified in the original biodiversity gain plan approval. To this end, regular reviews will be conducted, and adaptive changes to the management approach will be implemented if it becomes evident that the original commitments cannot be fully met. Adaptive management is a structured, iterative process that allows for responsive decision-making in the face of environmental uncertainties. It involves setting clear biodiversity objectives, implementing management actions to achieve these objectives, monitoring habitat conditions and biodiversity indicators, and adjusting management strategies based on monitoring results. Monitoring will be integral to this approach, with regular assessments scheduled throughout the 30-year period (see below for details). This will involve habitat condition assessments and, as and when the LPA deems it necessary, surveys based on the UKHAB and Natural England definitions of the relevant habitats, and evaluation of environmental parameters. All adaptive changes will be documented, with significant adjustments requiring consultation with relevant stakeholders and approval from the council. Communication will be maintained through regular reports detailing monitoring results, management actions taken, progress towards objectives, and recommendations for future actions. The commitment is to ensure that all habitats continue to meet or exceed the biodiversity outcomes specified in the original plan. By embracing an adaptive management approach, the BNG HMMP demonstrates a proactive and flexible strategy that acknowledges the dynamic nature of ecosystems and the potential for unforeseen environmental changes. This method ensures that management practices remain effective and responsive over time, thereby enhancing the likelihood of achieving sustained biodiversity net gains for the benefit of the environment and the community. For the saplings, should there be low survival rates or poor growth, measures such as enhanced maintenance, species replacement with more suitable native species, or soil condition improvements may be undertaken.

Habitat Management Proposals

Habitat Baseline Description SM-B10	Vegetated garden, Developed land; sealed surface, 3 small trees

Enhanced Habitats SM-B12	N/A

Created Habitats SM-B13	We propose planting native saplings that are well-suited to local climatic conditions, straightforward to maintain, and widely available from nurseries. These species establish reliably over a 30-year period and are appropriate for long-term management under the Biodiversity Net Gain Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan. The selected species may include Rowan (Sorbus aucuparia), Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna), Hazel (Corylus avellana), and Field Maple (Acer campestre). Where canopy spread permits, species such as Wild Cherry (Prunus avium), Silver Birch (Betula pendula), and Alder (Alnus glutinosa) may also be considered. Silver Birch is a fast-growing tree with distinctive pale bark and a light, open canopy. Rowan produces white spring flowers and autumn berries and grows well across a range of soils. Hawthorn forms dense foliage and is widely used in native planting schemes. Hazel typically grows as a multi-stemmed small tree and can be coppiced if required. Field Maple has a compact form and develops characteristic yellow leaves in autumn. Wild Cherry produces conspicuous spring blossom and rounded fruit. Alder is suited to damper ground conditions and is commonly planted near wetter areas. Saplings will be spaced approximately 2–3 metres apart (minimum 1 metre), arranged to reflect site conditions and expected canopy spread. Where further space is possible, species such as wild cherry and silver birch may be considered. Planting will follow standard methods, including the use of guards, maintenance of a clear area around each sapling, and occasional watering during prolonged dry periods. Once established, these species generally require minimal ongoing intervention, other than periodic checks in line with HMMP monitoring. Final species type will be determined at the moment of detailed landscaping. The use of native saplings ensures ease of sourcing, suitability for local growing conditions, and long-term stability over the 30-year management period. This approach supports the objectives of the HMMP by setting out a clear, maintainable planting structure that remains appropriate for the site throughout the management term.

3. Creation, Enhancement and Management

Creation, Enhancement and Management Targets and Prescriptions SM-T02

The trees will be selected to suit site conditions. Stock to be 8–10 cm or 10–12 cm girth standards (or 60–90 cm transplants where space or visibility dictates), planted in hand-dug pits sized to at least 2× rootball diameter and backfilled with site-won subsoil/topsoil (no fertiliser). Each tree to be staked (single or double, leeward side) with adjustable rubber ties and fitted with a guard or cage appropriate to local browsing pressure. A 1 m diameter mulch ring (75 mm depth) will be established around each stem and kept weed-free. Initial watering will be provided at/after planting and during the first two growing seasons in dry spells (indicatively 15–25 L per tree per week May–September, adjusted to weather/soil).

Targets:

Survival: ≥ 90% survival in Years 1–5; ≥ 95% thereafter.
Replacement: Any loss replaced like-for-like in the next dormant season to maintain numbers.
Crown form & health: Single clear leader and balanced crown by Year 5; < 10% crown dieback/ deadwood outside normal species habit; no significant mechanical damage to stem.
Support & protection: Stakes/ties/guards removed by Year 5 or earlier if stable; mulch ring ≥ 1 m diameter, ≥ 50–75 mm depth, maintained weed-free for 5 years.
Time-to-target: Moderate condition achieved by Year 10; maintained through Year 30.

Risk Register and Proposed Remedial Measures SM-T03

Risk Factor	Habitat/Hedgerow/Watercourse Typ	Trigger for Action	Remedial Measure
Damage caused by site operations	All	Clear, sustained evidence of damage due to site operations	Steps to amend site operations on or near the location of the gains. Ongoing iteration to ensure that tree health is maintained and not compromised.
Damage caused by site footfall	All	Clear, sustained evidence of damage due to site footfall	Steps to reduce footfall on relevant sections via among other steps, signage.
Establishment failure	All	Failure to meet conditions within 1 year of establishment.	Steps to identify the reason for failure and then rectify. Take steps to reestablish the habitat and inform the LPA of the failure
Failure from extreme weather	All	Extreme weather event has clear impact	Steps to identify if weather event is likely to occur again and then rectify. Take steps to reestablish the habitat and inform the LPA of the failure

Any material change will trigger a Minor Material Amendment to the HMMP that must be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

4. Monitoring

1. Monitoring Strategy for Each Habitat, Hedgerow and Watercourse Present On-Site SM-T04

Habitat/Feature Type	Monitoring Methods	Monitoring Interval and Timing
All	On site surveys will be made of the site, and each intended habitat will be measured against the relevant criteria set out in the Small Sites Metric User Guide and UKHAB definitions	Maintenance inspections will be undertaken annually in years 1–5, with formal monitoring and reporting in years 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30. Monitoring frequency may be increased if requested by the LPA. Reports will be produced by the landowner or commissioned from a third party, including an ecological consultant.

Additional Details

Monitoring of the planted **Native Saplings** will be undertaken annually for the first five years and thereafter at five-year intervals. Each inspection will record survival rate, height and crown development, stem diameter, and general health, including evidence of pest, disease or drought stress. Support and protection measures such as stakes, ties and guards will be checked to ensure they remain secure but non-restrictive, with removal scheduled once trees are self-supporting. The condition of mulch circles and surrounding ground vegetation will be reviewed to confirm a weed-free zone of at least 1 m diameter and absence of soil compaction or damage from mowing. Fixed-point photographs will be taken at each visit to track growth and crown form. Results will be mapped and compared year-on-year to confirm that target survival (≥ 90 %) and healthy crown structure are maintained. Where monitoring shows mortality, poor vigour, mechanical damage, or pest/disease infestation, remedial measures such as re-planting, improved watering, guard replacement, or selective pruning will be triggered in the following dormant season, with follow-up inspection to verify successful recovery.