



BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

**44 – 48 TOWN LANE
CHARLESWORTH
DERBYSHIRE
SK13 5HQ**

FEBRUARY 2024

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A report for

Direct Care Tameside Ltd
8 Commercial Brow,
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A report by



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February 2024

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

PENNINE ecological have been commissioned by Paul Duffy (Direct Care Tameside Ltd), to complete a Biodiversity and Enhancement Plan for 44-48 Town Lane, Charlesworth, Glossop, SK13 5HQ.

The report has been requested by High Peak Borough Council as part of Planning Condition 18 of Planning Application No: HPK/2022/0536. Planning condition 18 is as follows:

18. No above ground works shall take place until a scheme of biodiversity enhancements for the site including, but not limited to, bird boxes, bat bricks and bat boxes to be integrated to the fabric of the buildings and elsewhere within the site has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The duly approved scheme shall be implemented in full prior to first occupation of the building and retained thereafter.

Reason:- In the interests of enhancing biodiversity and habitat provision within the site in accordance with Policy EQ5 from the High Peak Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.

1.2 SITE LOCATION

The site is located on the junction of Town Lane and Chapel Brow, approximately 300m east of the centre Charlesworth, Derbyshire. The site is in a broadly rural location with pastoral grasslands to the north, east and south of the site. The site is adjacent to neighbouring residential properties to the north, east and west.

The sites central National Grid Reference is NGR: SK 00892 92880.



The site plan below (Figure 2) shows the development and all available land where ecological habitat creation within the red line boundary.



2. HABITAT CREATION, ENHANCEMENT, AND MANAGEMENT

2.1 HABITAT CREATION, ENHANCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT

2.1.1 HABITATS

The following habitats, as detailed in Figure 2 that will be subject to management (if required) are as follows (management prescriptions are grouped where appropriate):

- Trees
 - Existing trees
 - Proposed trees
- Hedgerows
 - Proposed native hedgerows
 - Proposed hedgerows
- Ornamental Shrub Planting
- Turf (Close Mown)

Trees

The management of trees needs to be planned in order to maintain the multiple values of trees and their health. The rooting environment of the trees need to be such that it will allow growth and prevent dieback or even tree death. Soils must be maintained that they do not suffer from compaction and/or waterlogging that may lead to the poor health of newly planted trees. It is unlikely the trees will require any cutting or pruning in the tree's early years of growth. However, should this be required then it should ideally be undertaken in the winter months when the tree is dormant and/or in accordance with the tree's specific requirements. It is recommended an arboriculturist provides advice on such matters when required. All trees which do not establish/are unsuccessful should be replaced as required.

Trees to be planted, as included within Figure 2 are field maple, silver birch, cherry, oak and rowan all of which are native species.

The existing trees within the site boundary, notably those on the north western, south western and south eastern boundaries of the site are recommended to remain in-situ in order to retain a varied age structure of trees within the site of which will be of value to nesting birds, foraging/commuting bats, invertebrates etc. These trees should be subject to inspection with the relevant management dictated by the survey findings. It is likely, as part of the Health and Safety (H&S) Management Plan for the site these trees will be surveyed and any issues from a H&S perspective will be relevant to the tree's health e.g., dieback, broken, torn or diseased limbs which are likely to fall as part of the tree's natural cycle. However, it is recommended, for the existing, mature trees on site that the tree inspections are undertaken by a suitably qualified arboriculturist who will be able to prescribe appropriate management of the trees e.g., pruning, removal of deadwood, felling etc.

Recommendations for cultivation, planting times, depths, etc. is included within Figure 2 (landscape drawing 6910.01).

Proposed Native Hedgerow / Hedge

Native hedgerows will be planted along the site's north eastern and south eastern boundaries. New hedgerows should be planted between the end of October and the end of March although planting earlier in the season, before January is recommended. Plants should never be planted during freezing weather or if the ground is waterlogged.

Hedge plants should be planted in to bare soil with as little competition from other vegetation as possible. They should be planted in a double staggered row of 1m to 2m centres as preferred. Evidence of rabbit/deer was not recorded on site hence guards aren't recommended but can be included as a precaution if preferred.

Once established, light, regular trimming in the hedgerows early years is recommended as it will encourage dense, bushy growth which is more likely to support other species such as nesting birds etc. Any trimming undertaken during the nesting bird season should only be done if nesting birds aren't confirmed to be breeding, this would require a check of the hedgerow by a suitably experienced ecologist.

A mulch beneath the hedgerow can be spread at the hedgerows base. This will suppress weed growth and retain moisture and should be applied immediately after planting. Any fast-growing species such as nettle and bramble should be managed so not to out compete the planted hedgerow plants. All failed plants must be replanted in order to maintain the integrity of the hedgerows. After approximately 15 years it is recommended to maintain the hedgerows structure that they are laid by a suitably experienced person.

The following percentages mixes of hedge plants is recommended. NOTE: In Figure 2, blackthorn is recommended to be planted as part of the hedgerow, however, PENNINE ecological does not recommend blackthorn as it can outcompete other hedgerow species and encroach on lawns or other areas of a site and can be difficult to control. Instead, rowan and Western gorse have been recommended.

Species:	Approximate percentage of total planting area:
Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)	30%
Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>)	20%
Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>)	15%
Rose (<i>Rosa canina/arvensis</i>)	15%
Gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>)	10%
Rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>)	10%

Proposed Shrubs

The shrub beds which are to be planted along the north eastern boundary of the site are likely to require little management. As was recommended for new hedgerow planting shrubs should be planted in ground with bare soil with little competition from grass species. A mulch is also

recommended to suppress weed growth and retain soil moisture. To retain structure pruning should occur as and when required so to reduce any shrub species out competing any other shrubs.

As is included within Figure 2 (landscape drawing 6910.01), many of the species recommended include native species which from an ecological perspective is preferred. Native species to be planted includes the following:

- Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)
- Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)
- Dog rose (*Rosa canina*)
- Guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*)

Other shrub species to be planted such as Escallonia 'Apple Blossom', Laurustinus (*Viburnum tinus*), Vera Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*) etc. whilst no native to the UK will flower throughout the year (species dependent) and as such will serve as an important resource to invertebrates throughout the year.

Turf (Close Mown)

No management recommendations.

2.1.1 SPECIES

Birds

The proposals may consider improving nesting opportunities for birds on site by erecting nesting boxes on proposed buildings. Numerous boxes are widely available for a variety of species, examples of boxes include the following:

- Swift nest boxes which can be incorporated within the building's brickwork;
- 2M Schwegler nest box; likely to be used by a range of species and are durable, long-lasting boxes.
- Vivara Pro Seville 28mm and 32mm WoodStone Nest Box – The material used is long lasting and is unlikely to rot like wood constructed equivalents and are available for numerous species such as tit species, house and tree sparrow, nuthatches, pied and grey wagtail, song thrush and blackbirds.



Figure 3 - Suggestions of general nest boxes for numerous species of birds.

Bats

The proposals should consider good working practice and enhancements for bats so to demonstrate a biodiversity net gain for this site. This is in accordance with local and national planning policy and in addition to the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment which is recommended. A number of potential enhancement measures are provided below.

External lighting

In all cases illumination of the site should be avoided/kept to a minimum. Where lighting is required, this must be low level, low intensity and directed downwards away from boundaries. The following principles will apply.

- Where and if lighting is required, this will be directed internally within the site avoiding any light spillage.
- The use of low powered sodium lights or similar will be used and these will be fitted with cowls / covers that prevent lateral light spillage towards boundary habitats.
- Wherever possible and only if required low level (1-1.5m high) bollard lighting will be used.
- If required, lights will be fitted with timer controls that minimise the duration of lighting.

Lighting requirements will follow guidance provided by the Bat Conservation Trust; links are provided below.

- Bat Conservation Trust's Acritical Lighting Guidance. Webpage link <https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/lighting>

- Bat Conservation Trust and Institute of Lighting Professionals Guidance Note 08/23: Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK. Webpage link <https://theilp.org.uk/publication/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/>

Externally Fitted Bat Boxes

A large number of externally fitted box models for bats exist for buildings and trees. Suitable models for both buildings and trees may include the Schwegler 2F Bat Box (Figure 4) or a Vincent Pro Bat Box (Figure 5).



Figure 4 – Schwegler 2F Bat Box



Figure 5 – Vincent Pro Bat Box

Mammals

Hedgehog nest boxes can be easily situated within a site to provide shelter for hedgehogs. The nest boxes should be located to the north of the woodland in the southeastern section of the site, and in close proximity to the pond. This location is likely to support invertebrates e.g., slugs that hedgehogs will feed upon. The boxes should point away from the prevailing wind.



Figure 6 – Hedgehog nest boxes.