

# Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan

<b>Site Name:</b>	Baysgarth School
<b>Date:</b>	12/12/2025
<b>Version:</b>	Rev00

Author:

Client:



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## Version Control

Version	Issue Status	Prepared by / Date	Approved by / Date
Rev00	Final	CR56 / 09/12/2025	TG29 / 09/12/2025

## Document Details

Authorship Details
<p>RSK Wilding is a part of RSK Biocensus. RSK Wilding (RSK) has prepared this report for the sole use of the client, showing reasonable skill and care, for the intended purposes as stated in the agreement under which this work was completed. The report may not be relied upon by any other party without the express agreement of the client and RSK. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this report.</p> <p>Where any data supplied by the client or from other sources have been used, it has been assumed that the information is correct. No responsibility can be accepted by RSK Biocensus for inaccuracies in the data supplied by any other party. The conclusions and recommendations in this report are based on the assumption that all relevant information has been supplied by those bodies from whom it was requested.</p> <p>No part of this report may be copied or duplicated without the express permission of RSK and the party for whom it was prepared.</p> <p>Where field investigations have been carried out, these have been restricted to a level of detail required to achieve the stated objectives of the work.</p> <p>This work has been undertaken in accordance with the quality management system of RSK Biocensus.</p> <p>Switchboard: +44 (0)330 223 1074      Company contact: <a href="mailto:Enquiries@rskbiocensus.com">Enquiries@rskbiocensus.com</a></p>

# 1. Project Background

Site Overview PB-B01	
<b>Project type</b>	Mixed on-site and offsite
<b>Development Name and Address</b>	Baysgarth School, Barrow Road, Barton-upon-Humber, DN18 6AE
<b>BNG Project Name and Address</b>	Baysgarth School, Barrow Road, Barton-upon-Humber, DN18 6AE Castledyke Primary School, Castledyke W, Barton-upon-Humber DN18 5AW
<b>Author Organisation</b>	RSK Wilding
<b>Landowner</b>	North Lincolnshire Council
<b>Land Manager</b>	Baysgarth School
<b>Responsible person/organisation for creating or enhancing the habitat</b>	Baysgarth School
<b>Period covered by this management plan</b>	TBC
<b>Planning authority</b>	North Lincolnshire Council
<b>Planning reference (if applicable)</b>	PA/2025/815
<b>BNG register reference (if applicable)</b>	TBC
<b>Central OS grid reference</b>	On-site: TA 03625 21639 Baysgarth School off-site area: TA 03759 21691 Castledyke School off-site area: TA 02668 22401
<b>Metric revision/title</b>	3480247-D01 (00) - Baysgarth School Racetrack - BNG Metric (Statutory Biodiversity Metric)
<b>Are any Irreplaceable Habitats present onsite</b>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Summary of Management Plan

### Habitats to be Retained, Created and Enhanced PB-B02

The Proposed Development consists of a racecourse for use by school pupils. The removal of a single tree is anticipated for the Proposed Development, as well as loss of *Modified grassland*. *Urban trees*, *Modified grassland* and *Developed land*; *sealed surface* are to be retained. This will all occur within the 1.20-hectare (ha) site at Baysgarth School.

Onsite compensation measures include:

- Enhancement of 0.01 ha *Modified grassland* in Poor condition → *Other neutral grassland* in Moderate condition

Offsite compensation measures include:

- Baysgarth School Allotment Area
  - Enhancement of 0.07 ha *Modified grassland* in Poor condition → *Traditional orchard* in Moderate condition
  - Enhancement of 0.09 ha *Modified grassland* in Moderate condition → *Other neutral grassland* in Moderate condition
- Castledyke School
  - Enhancement of 0.04 ha *Modified grassland* in Poor condition → *Traditional orchard* in Moderate condition
  - Creation of 0.0326 ha *Urban trees* in Moderate condition

### Timescales for Actions PB-B03

The habitats will be managed and monitored for 30 years. Habitat implementation is expected to be between 2026 and 2027.

### Monitoring Requirements PB-B04

The habitats created as part of this HMMP must be monitored in year 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and then every 5 years until the end of the 30-year period. Monitoring will be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist and will involve repeat UKHab surveys, habitat condition assessments, species lists and recommendations for ongoing management and maintenance activities.

### Required Consents and Licences PB-B05

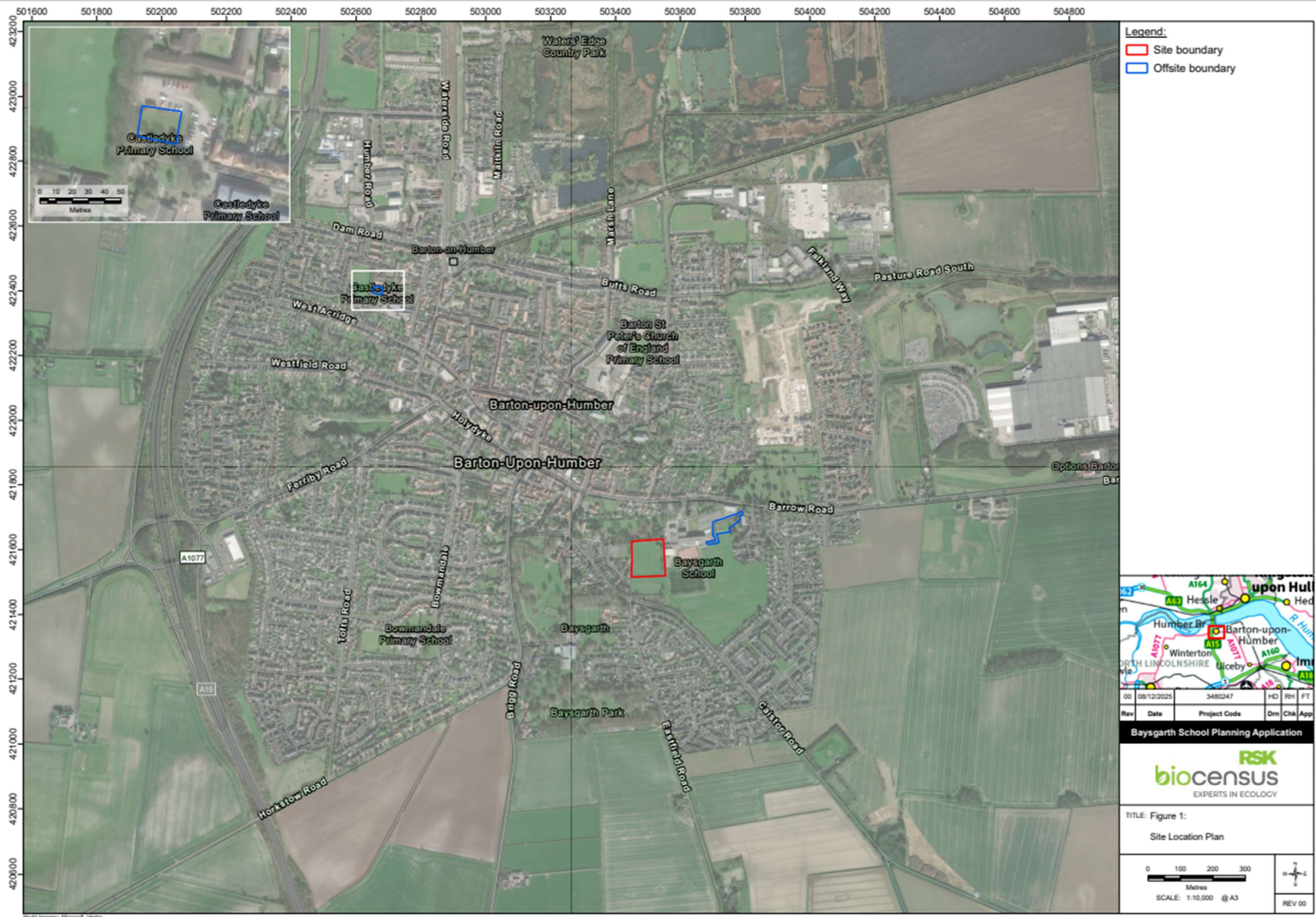
There are no known consents or licences associated with this HMMP.

### Funding PB-B06

Habitat delivery is anticipated to be delivered using private funding.

### Legal Agreement PB-B07

A Section 106 agreement is anticipated between North Lincolnshire Council and Baysgarth School.



Document Path: C:\Users\Hamish.Dennis\OneDrive - RSK Group\OneDrive - RSK Group\Baysgarth School Planning Application\Baysgarth School Planning Application - Figure 1 - Site Location Plan.aprx



## Phasing strategy

Will the proposed work measures be delivered in phases? PB-B08		Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
N/A – the work will not be delivered in phases.			

## Roles and Responsibilities

Ecologist or Other Professional Responsible for HMMP PB-B09				
Name or Initials	CR41 MSc MCIEEM			
Organisation	RSK Wilding			
Responsibility	Start Date:	November 2025	End Date:	December 2025
RSK Wilding have been commissioned by RSK Environment to write an HMMP for the Baysgarth School site and the associated offsite areas. It is RSK Wilding's responsibility to provide an accurate and suitable HMMP for this site.				
Statement of Competency				
CR41 is a Senior Ecological Consultant at RSK Wilding with over four years of experience in ecological consultancy. They have extensive experience with writing complex and bespoke BNG assessments and Habitat Management and Monitoring Plans, as well as acting as a technical advisor for a range of BNG projects for LPAs, developers and other clients.  They are a full member of CIEEM and consistently lead habitat surveys and act as the technical lead for BNG projects. CR41 is also a competent botanist, holding a Level 4 Field Identification Skills Certificate (FISC).				

Landowner or Land Manager PB-B10				
Name or Initials	North Lincolnshire Council			
Organisation	North Lincolnshire Council			
Responsibility	Start Date:	1975	End Date:	n/a
North Lincolnshire Council, alongside Baysgarth School, are responsible for implementing and managing the habitat proposals.				
Statement of Competency				
North Lincolnshire Council, as an LPA, have a wide-range of competencies and personnel that can be used in implementing the habitats.				
Management Organisation(s) Responsible for Implementing the HMMP PB-B11				
Name or Initials	n/a			
Organisation	n/a			
Responsibility	Start Date:	n/a	End Date:	n/a
n/a				
Statement of Competency				
n/a				
LPA or Responsible Body for Reviewing HMMP PB-B12				
Name or Initials	TBC			
Organisation	North Lincolnshire Council			
Responsibility	Start Date:	2025	End Date:	2026
North Lincolnshire Council are responsible for reviewing the HMMP.				

## Land Use Summary

### Overview of Baseline Site Use PB-B13

The Baysgarth and Castledyke school sites support a mix of educational, recreational and community-focused land uses. The primary land uses are institutional, consisting of academic buildings designed to accommodate core learning spaces, administrative offices, specialized instructional areas and support facilities.

Surrounding the academic core and incorporating the site of the Proposed Development, the areas incorporate recreational and open-space land uses, including athletic fields, courts, playgrounds and landscaped green areas. These spaces serve both educational programs and broader community activities.

### Overview of Proposed Site Use PB-B14

The primary land use of the racetrack site will be the creation of a new racecourse for use by school pupils. This development requires limited vegetation removal, including one tree and an area of *Modified grassland*. The majority of existing habitats (*Urban trees, Modified grassland, and Developed land; sealed surface*) will be retained.

To address habitat impacts, a combination of onsite and offsite compensation and enhancement measures is proposed.

#### Onsite Habitat Changes and Management

- Enhancement of existing 0.01 ha *Modified grassland* in Poor condition → *Other neutral grassland* in Moderate condition.
  - Management will focus on improving species diversity, introducing appropriate mowing regimes and reducing nutrient enrichment to deliver a more species-rich neutral grassland habitat.

#### Offsite Habitat Compensation Measures

##### *Baysgarth School Allotment Area:*

- Enhancement of 0.07 ha *Modified grassland* in Poor condition → *Traditional orchard* in Moderate condition.
  - Management will focus on improving species diversity through sowing a seed mix, introducing appropriate mowing regimes and reducing nutrient enrichment to deliver a more species-rich neutral grassland habitat.

- Further to this grassland management, a variety of fruit trees will be planted to form a *Traditional orchard* which benefits the wider community, biodiversity, and provides educational opportunities for students.

- Enhancement of 0.09 ha *Modified grassland* in Moderate condition to *Other neutral grassland* in Moderate condition.  
Management at this site will include establishment of wildflower-rich swards, selective mowing, and ongoing tree care.

##### *Castledyke School:*

- Enhancement of 0.04 ha *Modified grassland* in Poor condition to *Traditional orchard* in Moderate condition.
  - Under the same management as outlined for Baysgarth School Allotment Area.
- Creation of 0.0326 ha *Urban trees* in Moderate condition.
  - Management will involve tree planting, routine arboricultural maintenance and long-term monitoring to ensure successful tree establishment.



## Site Baseline, Environmental Information and Associated Impacts Checklist PB-

T01

Baseline and Environmental Information	Check box if included	Document Reference or Reason if not included
<b>Statutory / Non-statutory Designated Sites</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The project is located sufficiently far from any designated site such that no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects are anticipated. Given the separation distance, nature of the proposed activities and absence of potential impact pathways (such as hydrological connectivity or disturbance risk), further assessment of designated sites is not required for this HMMP.
<b>Protected and Notable Species</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The site is highly modified and regularly maintained. No protected or notable species were identified in the Ecological Walkover Report (2488701 D01– Baysgarth School – Ecological Constraints Walkover Survey Rev00).
<b>Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The site is highly modified and regularly maintained. No INNS were observed or detected in the baseline surveys within or immediately adjacent to the onsite or offsite areas.
<b>Biological Records Plan - Sites and Species</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No specific designated sites, notable or protected species were observed onsite during the baseline surveys. This has been commented upon in the Ecological Walkover Report (2488701 D01– Baysgarth School – Ecological Constraints Walkover Survey Rev00).
<b>Baseline Habitats Survey</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A – included.
<b>Public Access</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A – included.
<b>Climate</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A – included.
<b>Geology and Topography</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	None present.
<b>Agricultural Land Status</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	All on-site and off-site areas have been educational premises since the mid-20 <sup>th</sup> century. Therefore, the site has not been used for agricultural purposes for a significant period of time, and this is not considered a significant constraint.
<b>Soils and Substrates</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No soil data has been collected for the on-site or off-site areas; however, this section has been excluded as the proposals are achievable and realistic on a wide-range of soil types.
<b>Contaminated Land</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No contaminated land is likely to be present due to past agricultural land-use and the now educational land-use.

<b>Hydrology and Drainage</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Castledyke and Baysgarth Schools reside outside of any flood risk zones; therefore, this information has not been included as a significant constraints.
<b>Flood Risk Zones</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Castledyke and Baysgarth Schools reside outside of any flood risk zones; therefore, this information has not been included as a significant constraints.
<b>Landscape Character and Designations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A – included.
<b>Historic Land Use</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There are no historic land use considerations that would affect the habitat proposals.
<b>Historic Environment and Earth Heritage</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There are no historic environment designations that would affect the habitat proposals.
<b>Other – please specify</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A

## Baseline and Environmental Information

### Baseline Habitats Survey

1.1.1.1.1 Ecologist responsible for baseline surveys (BI-T03)	
Name or Initials	CR41 MSc MCIEEM
Organisation	RSK Wilding
Survey Date	22 May 2025
Statement of Competency	
CR41 is an accomplished surveyor of habitats and habitat conditions. They hold a Field Identification Skills Certificate Level 4 and can recognise botanical indicator and diagnostic species on a wide-range of habitats.	
Survey conditions and limitations	

The grassland was subject to routine mowing, but this is not considered a significant limitation as vegetative elements were sufficient to identify species.

*Habitat Degradation*

**Are there any signs or evidence that the baseline habitats have been purposefully degraded since 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020? (BI-B05)**

None present.

**If habitats have been purposefully degraded, provide details of how this has been accounted for (BI-B06)**

N/A – no evidence present of purposeful degradation.

1.1.1.1.2 Habitats (BI-T04)

Parcel Refs	Habitat Type and Code	Irreplaceable	Priority	Description and Condition Justification	Condition	Area (ha)
Baysgarth School Racetrack (Onsite)	g4 – Modified grassland 108 – Frequently mown; 814 – Educational premises open space; 820 Natural sports pitch	No	No	Criteria A - Fail Criteria B - Fail Criteria C - Pass Criteria D - Fail Criteria E - Fail Criteria F - Pass Criteria G - Pass	Poor	1.000
	32 – Scattered trees 203 – Mature tree; 523 – Nonnative	No	No	Criteria A - Fail Criteria B - Pass Criteria C - Pass Criteria D - Fail Criteria E - Pass Criteria F - Pass	Moderate	0.130
	32 – Scattered trees 203 – Mature tree; 522 – Native	No	No	Criteria A - Pass Criteria B - Pass Criteria C - Pass Criteria D - Fail Criteria E - Pass Criteria F - Pass	Good	0.016
	u1b6 – Other developed land	No	No	N/A	N/A	0.050
Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite)	g4 – Modified grassland 108 – Frequently mown; 814 – Educational premises open space	No	No	Criteria A - Fail Criteria B - Fail Criteria C - Pass Criteria D - Pass Criteria E - Fail Criteria F - Pass Criteria G - Pass	Moderate	0.092

	g4 – Modified grassland 108 – Frequently mown; 801 – Road verge or island	No	No	Criteria A - Pass Criteria B - Fail Criteria C - Pass Criteria D - Pass Criteria E - Fail Criteria F - Pass	Poor	0.070
	u1 – Built-up areas and gardens 616 – Allotments	No	No	Criteria A – Fail Criteria B – Pass Criteria C - Pass	Moderate	0.150
Castledyke School (Offsite)	g4 – Modified grassland	No	No	Criteria A - Fail Criteria B - Fail Criteria C - Pass Criteria D - Fail Criteria E - Fail Criteria F - Pass Criteria G - Pass	Poor	0.044





## Land Tenure and Public Access

### Relevant Land Tenure Information (EI-B01)

The land ownership is not expected to change throughout the 30-year management and monitoring period.

### Potential Impact to Scheme (EI-B02)

There is no anticipated potential impact from land ownership.

### Public Access Information (EI-B03)

Public access to the Site is currently limited, with use largely restricted to school staff, pupils and authorised visitors. The Proposed Development does not introduce new areas of public access nor open the Site for wider community use. As a result, public access is not expected to change during the lifetime of the HMMP.

However access arrangements should ensure protection of sensitive habitat areas. Habitat enhancement zones will remain managed spaces without unrestricted public entry to ensure successful establishment and long-term ecological outcomes, but pupil use should be monitored to ensure habitat damage does not occur.

### Potential Impact to Scheme (EI-B04)

The presence of pupils during recreation, outdoor learning and use of the racecourse introduces potential pressures on newly enhanced habitats. As a result, prescriptions will focus on protecting sensitive areas through clear zoning, defined access routes, and the use of signage or soft barriers where necessary.

Management actions will also include periodic monitoring of pupil use to identify any emerging risks of trampling, disturbance or compaction within grassland enhancement areas, orchard plantings, and young tree establishment zones. Where impacts are detected, adaptive measures such as temporary exclusion, reinforcement planting, or revised mowing and maintenance schedules should be considered.

## Climate

Current Climate Information (EI-T01)	
Nearest weather station details	Leconfield
Days of rain per year	123.96
Average annual rainfall mm	660.90
Average temperature °C	Maximum – 13.85 Minimum – 6.19
Highest temperature – Month and temperature °C	July Maximum – 21.30 Minimum – 11.83
Lowest temperature – Month and temperature °C	January Maximum – 7.24 Minimum – 1.64
Average annual hours of sunshine	1574.97
Sunniest month and average hours of sunshine	May – 204.18
Average number of days with air frost	40.06
Frostiest month and number of days	December – 8.83
Potential impact of current climate on project (EI-B05)	
<p>The climate at Barton-upon-Humber is (Leconfield weather station) is characterised by relatively moderate rainfall (660.9 mm/year), relatively cool average temperatures (max 13.85 °C; min 6.19 °C), and a high number of rain days (123.96 per year). This provides broadly suitable conditions for establishing and maintaining neutral grassland, orchards and urban trees as it is not too dissimilar from regional, or England and Wales mean values.</p> <p>Precipitation is broadly regular which will generally support successful establishment of newly created habitats and reducing water demand during most of the year; however, the rainfall is less than that of the England average (950.81 mm/year) so watering during dry periods will be important when plants (especially young trees) are establishing.</p> <p>Despite this, overall, the prevailing climate is favourable for the habitat proposals in this HMMP, provided habitats are not implemented during frost, winter wetness and periods of drought. Moderate temperatures in summer and mild temperatures in winter will facilitate successful establishment.</p>	

## Potential Impact of Climate Change on Proposals (EI-B06)

The climate is expected to change in the coming decades, with hotter and drier summer months, warmer and wetter winters and more frequent weather extremes.

This may alter the composition of the desired grassland community as more drought-tolerant or high-temperature adapted species become overly represented. This may impact the ability of the grassland to reach the desired distinctiveness or condition. Similarly, orchard habitats may benefit from a longer growing period as a result of climate change; however, these periods of hot and dry weather could increase the risk of heat and moisture stress which would affect flowering and fruiting of trees.

Furthermore, more intense rain events and storms (including wetter winters) could increase soil compaction, erosion and nutrient runoff in grassland areas. Waterlogging may inhibit root development in new plantings and orchard trees, reduce grassland diversity; thus, favouring competitive and moisture-tolerant species unless drainage and soil structure are managed proactively. Drainage and soil structure should be continually monitored, and remedial action taken to improve drainage and aerate the soil if required.

Climate change may accelerate successional processes within enhanced grassland and orchard habitats due to a longer-growing season, making it more challenging to maintain target conditions over the long term. This would require more frequent monitoring, revised mowing regimes, selective species re-introduction or altered tree stock selection to maintain the desired condition.

## Landscape Character and Designations

### Summary of Landscape Character and Designations (EI-B21)

Baysgarth School (onsite) resides within 43 Lincolnshire Wolds NCA. This is characterised by chalk, sandy limestone, ironstone and clay with soils generally shallow and lime rich. Grassland types range from chalk and neutral grassland typically found in higher areas to acidic mires found in the valley marshes. The onsite of Baysgarth School also fall into this area.

Baysgarth School Allotment Area (offsite) resides within 42 Lincolnshire Coast and Marsh NCA. This is characterised by quaternary sand, gravel and clay underlaid by cretaceous chalk creating fine and fertile loamy soils supporting neutral to calcareous habitats.

Castledyke School (offsite) resides within the 41 Humber Estuary NCA, also underlaid with cretaceous chalk supporting neutral to calcareous habitats.

### Potential Impact on Project (EI-B21)

The management prescriptions within this HMMP present grassland as a single-entity to be managed. Despite the NCAs not differing significantly in their character, it is probably that micro-niches in the soil and conditions become more apparent as habitats establish.

Adaptive management will therefore be key in responding to the grasslands and orchards across the onsite and offsite locations to ensure long-term conditions are acquired.

All three sites reside in close proximity to one another, with a clear limitation of NCAs ignoring the nuances between these boundaries and presenting them as distinct entities. In reality and NCA description, these areas are not significantly dissimilar where the habitat proposals are concerned.

## 2. Planned Management Activities

### Management Plan Aims and Objectives PM-B01

The aim of the proposed management activities is to deliver '*Other neutral grassland*' within the onsite area and '*Other neutral grassland*' and '*Traditional orchard*' offsite at Baygarth School allotments, with additional '*Traditional orchard*' and '*Urban trees*' offsite at Castledyke school.

The objectives for each habitat are detailed below:

A strip of poor condition *Modified grassland* consisting of 0.01 ha will be enhanced to moderate condition *Other neutral grassland* within the on-site area and then maintained for a period of at least 30 years. The main aim of improving the ecological value or 'distinctiveness' of the grassland will be to reduce the prevalence of perennial ryegrass, and where also dominant, white clover. This will be done through a combination of scarification, overseeding with a suitable seed mix and implementing a relaxed mowing regime.

Offsite, around the allotment area of Baysgarth School, an area of moderate condition '*Modified grassland*' adjacent to the car park will be enhanced to moderate condition *Other neutral grassland*' and then maintained for 30 years. Additionally, two areas of poor condition '*Modified grassland*' located at Baysgarth School and Castledyke School will be enhanced to '*Traditional orchard*' in moderate condition. This will involve the same management approach as for '*Other neutral grassland*', supplemented by the planting of fruit trees in an orchard layout. Finally, '*Urban trees*' will be planted at Castledyke School.

### Principles Informed by Design Stage

#### Design Principles Informed by Baseline Information PM-B02

Baseline survey information from the original planning application has been used to inform the design and chosen habitats. Soil data has not been provided for either the onsite or offsite areas designated for habitat creation and enhancement, therefore habitats have been proposed that are achievable and realistic on a wide range of soil types, expected in 42 Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes, 43 Lincolnshire Wolds and the 41 Humber Estuary NCA. To mitigate any risk of suboptimal soil conditions in these areas, moderate condition has been targeted.

## Habitat and Condition Targets PM-T01

Baseline Habitat Type	Target Habitat Type	Parcel / Feature Refs	Baseline Condition	Targeted Condition	Years to Targeted Condition	Condition Assessment Targets	Comments
Modified Grassland	Other neutral grassland	(Onsite)	Poor	Moderate	11 <sup>1</sup>	Moderate condition will be targeted by achieving a pass in criteria A, B and D.	
Modified Grassland	Other neutral grassland	(Baysgarth)	Moderate	Moderate	11	Moderate condition will be targeted by achieving a pass in criteria A, B and D.	
Modified grassland	Traditional orchard	(Baysgarth)	Poor	Moderate	21 <sup>2</sup>	Moderate condition traditional orchard will be targeted by achieving a pass in criteria C, D, E, F and H.	
Modified grassland	Traditional orchard	(Castledyke)	Poor	Moderate	21	Moderate condition traditional orchard will be targeted by achieving a pass in criteria C, D, E, F and H.	
	Urban trees	(Castledyke)		Moderate	28 <sup>3</sup>	Moderate condition Urban trees will be targeted by achieving a pass in criteria A, B, D and F.	

<sup>1</sup> The standard time to condition for this habitat is 10 years; however, a one-year delay has been added to the delay in starting habitat enhancement as a precaution.

<sup>2</sup> The standard time to condition for this habitat is 20 years; however, a one-year delay has been added to the delay in starting habitat enhancement as a precaution.

<sup>3</sup> The standard time to condition for this habitat is 27 years; however, a one-year delay has been added to the delay in starting habitat enhancement as a precaution.

## Habitat Retention

### Measures to be Implemented to Protect Retained Habitats PM-03

Of the onsite baseline habitats, the area of 0.05 ha of developed land; sealed surface will be retained, along with 0.90 ha of poor condition modified grassland and 0.1303 ha of good condition urban trees. In the offsite area at Baysgarth Allotments, 0.15 ha of allotments will be retained.

### Specification of Protective Measures to be Used PM-04

Sensitive site design will enable protection of individual trees within the onsite area. This will prioritise root protection through the installation of fencing around the retained trees, to avoid root damage.

The Allotment in the offsite areas at Baysgarth school will be retained and continue to be utilised by members of the school, and enhancement of the adjacent grassland will be designed to support this.

## Habitat Retention Plan PM-F01



## Creation, Enhancement and Management Targets and Prescriptions

### Grassland (Medium, High, and Very High Distinctiveness)

#### Creation, Enhancement and Management Summary (GH-T01)

Target Habitat		g3c - Other neutral grassland			
Condition Assessment Criteria		Targeted	Relevant Parcels	Enhancement Approach	Management Approach
A	<p>The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relevant to the specific habitat type.</p> <p><b>Note – this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.</b></p>	Yes	<p>Baysgarth School Racetrack (Onsite),</p> <p>Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite)</p>	<p>Prior to sowing, the grassland surface will be heavily scarified to break up the soil, creating 50-70% bare ground to provide adequate soil access for seed germination.</p> <p>Sowing or spreading will take place in spring or autumn, avoiding periods of drought, prolonged frost, or waterlogged ground, using a species-rich, native seed mix.</p> <p>Following sowing, the area will be rolled to ensure good contact between the seed and the subsoil substrate, promoting successful germination.</p>	<p>Once established, the grassland will be subject to an annual hay cut in August, with the arisings removed from the Site. The grassland should be scarified every 5 years following the hay cut and collection to provide pockets of bare ground for flower seed to germinate in.</p> <p>The continual removal of grass arisings will in turn reduce the soil nutrient levels further promoting wildflowers to establish.</p>
B	<p>Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20 per cent is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.</p>	Yes	<p>Baysgarth School Racetrack (Onsite),</p> <p>Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite)</p>	<p>Introducing a wide range of species will promote a diversity in height across the grassland area.</p>	<p>Scarifying will create a varied sward. The management regime will also promote a diversity of different plant species which will have varying growth heights throughout the sward. This will create microclimates for invertebrates, birds and small mammals to live, forage and breed.</p>
C	<p>Cover of bare ground between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.</p>	No	<p>Baysgarth School Racetrack (Onsite),</p> <p>Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite)</p>	<p>Not targeted, however the entire area will be seeded appropriately, and signage will be used to minimise disturbance.</p>	<p>Due to these areas of grassland being open access and adjacent to heavily utilised areas, damage from recreational use is currently present and could be difficult to control. Therefore, this will not be targeted; however, reseedling will aim to minimise areas of bare ground and scarification will be done with sensitivity to this.</p>
D	<p>Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble) less than 5%.</p>	Yes	<p>Baysgarth School</p>	<p>Not targeted, however there is no scrub or bracken present in the baseline habitats.</p>	<p>Areas will be frequently cut to prevent the establishment of scrub and ensure the cover of scrub within the grassland habitat remains less than 5%.</p>

			Racetrack (Onsite), Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite)		Bracken will be controlled if present, though it is unlikely to establish.
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 activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area.  If any invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	No	Baysgarth School Racetrack (Onsite), Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite)	N/A	The grassland currently in place has been maintained at a low sward height with encroachment controlled to allow for function as amenity grassland, therefore species indicative of suboptimal conditions should not be abundant. However, due to high levels of physical damage from use as an amenity field, this criterion will not be targeted.
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m <sup>2</sup> present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type.  <b>Note – this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.</b>	No	Baysgarth School Racetrack (Onsite), Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite)	N/A	Due to the low baseline level of species richness this criterion will not be targeted.

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## Grassland (Medium, High, and Very High Distinctiveness)

### Creation, Enhancement and Management Detailed Methods (GH-T02)

Action	Relevant Parcels	Timing	Prescriptions
Cut the pre-existing grassland and remove arisings	Baysgarth School Racetrack (Onsite), Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite)	Prior to seeding (Year 1 only)	This should occur prior to scarification to reduce seedheads of modified grassland species, and remove thatch to enable access to bare ground for seed sowing.
Scarification (prior to seeding)	Baysgarth School Racetrack (Onsite), Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite)	Prior to seeding (Year 1 only)	This should occur prior to sowing of seed to open up the sward and expose bare ground. Lush areas should be targeted. This can occur via manual or mechanical means (such as chain harrowing if ground conditions allow). Avoid harrowing following periods of heavy rainfall to avoid ground compaction.
Sowing of seed mix	Baysgarth School Racetrack (Onsite), Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite)	Spring: March – April or Autumn: September – October (Year 1)	A commercial seed mix with species listed below included can be used (eg. Naturescape N1) Seeding should ideally be done between March to April or September to October.
Initial hay cut and collect	Baysgarth School Racetrack (Onsite), Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite)	April and late July – August (Year 1)	In the first year following seeding, a cut and collect should be implemented in spring and late summer. Keep a close eye on the developing vegetation as this could need to be repeated in the second year if signs of high nutrient soils are evident, to decrease nutrient levels. Additionally, perennial weeds such as docks, and Creeping Thistle (also Ragwort) will have to be opposed.
Annual traditional hay cut and collect	Baysgarth School Racetrack (Onsite), Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite)	July – August (Years 2-30)	Top grassland to 50 - 100 mm, collect arisings and remove from the site. Cutting dates will vary each year dependent on weather conditions. Varying the timing of the summer hay cut within this window each year is beneficial to promote late flowering/seeding species. An indicator that can be used is when the Yellow-rattle has shed most of its seed, usually in August. Mechanical cutting may be undertaken where sward and ground conditions are suitable.
Scarification	Baysgarth School Racetrack (Onsite), Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite)	Following the annual hay cut (Years 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30)	The ground should be scarified once every five years to create areas of bare ground suitable for seed germination. Bare ground should comprise between 5-10% following scarification. Avoid mechanical means once grassland is established.
Infill of bare ground	Baysgarth School Racetrack (Onsite), Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite)	April - May or September – October (Years 2&3)	Any extensive areas of bare ground will be seeded with an appropriate species seed mix. This will match the seed mix used for the rest of the grassland using the ground preparation and sowing prescriptions above. The amount of bare ground will be monitored and infilled wherever necessary.
Watering	Baysgarth School Racetrack (Onsite),	Regularly during periods of drought and while	Water the grassland once a week throughout the growing season in periods of low rainfall, drought or warm weather and whilst seeded areas are establishing where possible. The grassland should not need to be watered during the winter months, but if grassland appears to be in drought water can be applied.

	Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite)	enhancement species are establishing.	
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## Grassland (Medium, High, and Very High Distinctiveness) Species Lists (GH-T03)

### Wildflowers

Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance / %
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	5%
Lesser Knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	8%
Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>	8%
Ladys Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>	8%
Rough Hawkbit	<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	1%
Oxeye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	8%
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	5%
Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>	1%
Self-Heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	9%
Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	8%
Yellow Rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	7%
Common Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	8%
Salad Burnet	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	8%
White Champion	<i>Silene Latifolia</i>	8%
Red Champion	<i>Silene dioica</i>	8%

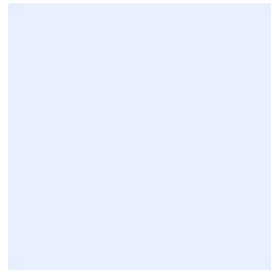
### Grasses

Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance / %
Crested Dogstail	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	15%
Common Bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	5%
Hard Fescue	<i>Festuca Trachyphylla</i>	20%
Slender Creeping Red Fescue	<i>Festuca Rubra ssp litoralis</i>	20%
Strong Creeping Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra ssp. rubra</i>	20%

Smooth Stalked Meadow Grass	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	20%
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## What Does Success Look Like? (GH-F01)

The following plates show examples of what success looks like for moderate condition *Other neutral grassland*.



## Orchard

### Creation, Enhancement and Management Summary (OR-T01)

Target Habitat:		g3c – Other neutral grassland (27 - Traditional orchard)			
Condition Assessment Criteria		Targeted	Relevant Parcels	Enhancement Approach	Management Approach
A	<p>Presence of ancient and or veteran trees. <b>Note – this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition.</b></p>	No	<p>Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite), Castledyke School (Offsite)</p>	N/A	<p>There are no trees in these areas for traditional orchard enhancement, and planted trees will not reach ancient or veteran age within the 30-year period.</p>
B	<p>Presence of deadwood in or on trees, or on the ground: at least 20% of mature trees have deadwood associated with them.</p> <p>Some examples of deadwood are: standing, attached and fallen trees or limbs; dead stems; branches and branch stubs greater than 10 cm diameter; and internal cavities. The types and distribution of deadwood provide a range of habitats suitable to support a wide assemblage of saproxylic invertebrates.</p> <p><b>Note – this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition.</b></p>	No	<p>Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite), Castledyke School (Offsite)</p>	N/A	<p>There are no trees in these areas for traditional orchard enhancement, and planted trees will not reach ancient or veteran age within the 30-year period.</p>
C	<p>Less than 5% of fruit trees are smothered by scrub. Small patches of dense scrub and or scattered scrub growing between trees can be beneficial to biodiversity, however these occupy less than 10% of ground cover.</p>	Yes	<p>Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite), Castledyke School (Offsite)</p>	The baseline grassland is free of scrub encroachment.	<p>Once enhanced grassland is established around the trees, a traditional regime of April and late July cutting will be instated to manage grassland. This will involve control of encroachment from bramble and ivy.</p>
D	<p>There is evidence of formative and or restorative pruning to maintain longevity of trees.</p>	Yes	<p>Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite),</p>	N/A	<p>Instated trees will be pruned regularly to maintain tree health and promote vigorous new growth and fruiting.</p>

			Castledyke School (Offsite)		
E	At least 95% of the trees are free from damage caused by humans or animals, for example browsing, bark stripping or rubbing on non-adjusted ties.	Yes	Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite), Castledyke School (Offsite)	Tree guards should be instated during planting to prevent damage from deer, rabbits and school-related activities.	Stakes should be checked every six months and be removed after 1-2 years.  Guards should be checked frequently and must remain in place for at least the first 10 years of establishment.
F	Grassland is not overgrazed, poaching is not evident around the trees, with no more than 10% of trees poached under the canopy.	Yes	Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite), Castledyke School (Offsite)	Grassland will be managed through a relaxed mowing regime to avoid over-cutting, and livestock will not be used therefore poaching will be minimal.	The grassland will be managed through manual cutting rather than livestock therefore overgrazing and poaching will be minimal.
G	Species richness of the grassland is equivalent to a medium, high, or very high distinctiveness grassland.	No	Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite), Castledyke School (Offsite)	N/A	N/A
H	There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and species indicative of suboptimal condition make up less than 10% of ground cover.	Yes	Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite), Castledyke School (Offsite)	There is an absence of invasive and non-native species in the baseline habitats and seeding of a diverse species mix will encourage desirable species to dominate.	Management of the grassland as outlined above will control any invasive species and species indicative of suboptimal conditions.

## Orchard

### Creation, Enhancement and Management Detailed Methods (OR-T02)

Action	Relevant Parcels	Timing	Prescriptions
Fruit tree planting	Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite), Castledyke School (Offsite)	November – March (Years 1-5 only)	<p>The optimum time for planting is late autumn/early winter to allow trees to establish before spring and utilise seasonal water availability. Fruit trees should generally be planted in a square formation, with about 10m spacing in rows and columns, with some variance between fruit types.</p> <p>In line with traditional orchard design these trees should be planted in rows 8-10m apart and with 8-10m between trees within rows. The Baysgarth Orchard area is 700m<sup>2</sup> and will therefore require a maximum of 70 – 80 individual fruit trees at 8 - 10m spacing. The Castledyke Orchard will be 400m<sup>2</sup> and will therefore require a maximum of 40-50 individual trees at 8-10m spacing.</p> <p>Periods of drought and extreme cold should be avoided for planting. Areas of heavy shade and waterlogged conditions should also be avoided.</p>
Mulching	Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite), Castledyke School (Offsite)	Following planting and maintained (Years 1-3)	<p>A 1m diameter circle of ground directly around each tree should be maintained free of weeds to minimise competition for water and nutrients. This can be done with the use of a weed suppressant mat, hoeing or mulch. Mulch is the best option as it has the dual function of supplying nutrients and retaining moisture in the soil, as well as suppressing weed growth.</p> <p>This clear ground should be maintained for the first three years. Once trees are well established, sward height may be allowed to increase around the trees. Encroachment from bramble and ivy should be controlled, however.</p>
Watering	Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite), Castledyke School (Offsite)	Weekly (weeks 1-4) and then April – September (Years 1-5)	Saplings should be watered thoroughly following planting and then weekly for a few weeks to promote establishment. Monthly watering in the summer months should then be sufficient during Years 2 – 5. Watering should be early in the morning or in the evening.
Pruning (following planting)	Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite), Castledyke School (Offsite)	Monthly from April – September and twice during the dormant season as a minimum (Year 1 only)	Removal of dead, damaged or straggly branches after planting.
Pruning	Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite), Castledyke School (Offsite)	October – February (Years 5 -10 and then annually from 10 years onwards)	<p>Pruning of apple and pear trees should be done in winter, and plum trees in the growing season, to maintain an open crown and avoid crossing branches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strongly growing shoots (&gt;25 cm annual growth) should be left alone;</li> <li>• Moderately growing shoots (10-25 cm annual growth) should be pruned lightly; and</li> <li>• Poorly growing shoots (&lt;10 cm annual growth) should be pruned hard.</li> </ul> <p>Pruning should occur on each tree on a three to five-year cycle, allowing the new growth to grow for this period before another prune.</p>

Fruit collection	Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite), Castledyke School (Offsite)	September – November (annually from first year of fruiting)	Fruit should be harvested for use, with some windfall allowed to remain as it is a valuable food source for birds and invertebrates.
Seeding of grass mix beneath trees	Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite), Castledyke School (Offsite)	March – April or September – October (Year 1 only)	Grassland between the trees should be mown and the ground scarified prior to seeding as outlined in the grassland enhancement section. The ground should then be seeded using the same seed source as the grassland. This will promote a suitable grassland sward establishing amongst the fruit trees. This can be done mechanically (if ground conditions allow) while maintaining a 1m buffer around planted trees. This should be done in the first year of enhancement and can be done before or after tree planting.
Remove stakes	Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite), Castledyke School (Offsite)	Any time of year (Year 2)	Remove stakes from planted trees after one year.
Remove Ties and fencing	Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite), Castledyke School (Offsite)	Any time of year (Year 10 onwards)	Remove excess plastic from the site by removing ties and guards from planted trees after 10 years.
Replacement of failed trees	Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite), Castledyke School (Offsite)	November - March (years 2&3 only)	Replace significant failures (more than 10% of the planting stock) with fruit tree species to ensure the establishment of the orchard should any stock fail. This should be done following previous planting methodology.
Reseeding grassland	Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite), Castledyke School (Offsite)	April - May or September – October (Years 2&3)	Areas of grassland that have not established well should be reseeded the following 2 years to ensure a full species-rich sward establishes. Grassland should be mown and scarified prior to reseeding following previous methodology.
Consider plug planting	Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite), Castledyke School (Offsite)	April - May or September – October (Years 2&3)	If targeted species diversity failing to establish, the grassland may be supplemented by plug planting.
Grass maintenance (cut and collect)	Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite), Castledyke School (Offsite)	Mid-July to August (Years 1-10 and then annually)	Once the trees are well established the sward can be allowed to grow up to the trunk, although tall weeds, bramble and ivy should be removed from around the trees.  The grass should be cut once annually, with the cuttings removed from site. Care should be taken with strimmer's or mowers around the trees.  1m wide paths should be mown in spring (April) and summer (July) each year to allow access to the orchard.

Manage undesirable species	Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite), Castledyke School (Offsite)	April – September (Years 1 -10 and then annually)	Undesirable species should be managed/treated prior to flowering to reduce the ground cover of undesirable species indicative of nutrient enrichment. Appropriate methods include spot treatment with herbicide, topping before flowering or hand pulling. Species indicative of suboptimal condition for this habitat type includes Creeping Thistle, Spear Thistle, Curled Dock, Broad-leaved Dock, and Common Nettle.
Check plants are firmed in where required	Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite), Castledyke School (Offsite)	Once every 2 months (years 1-30)	Aims to ensure stock establishes correctly.
Checks to replacement planting e.g. adjusting tree protection, watering	Baysgarth School Allotment Area (Offsite), Castledyke School (Offsite)	November – February (Year 3 or the year following planting)	Ensure all trees are establishing and any new planting has survived.

## Orchard Species Lists (OR-TO3)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance / %
Apple	<i>Malus domestica</i>	33%
Plum	<i>Prunus domestica</i>	33%
Pear	<i>Pyrus communis</i>	33%

## What Does Success Look Like? (OR-F01)



## Individual Trees

### Creation, Enhancement and Management Summary (UT-T01)

Target Habitat:		Individual Trees in Moderate condition			
Condition Assessment Criteria		Targeted	Relevant Features	Creation Approach	Management Approach
A	The tree is a native species (or more than 70% within the block are native species).	Yes	Castledyke School (Offsite)	Planting only native species – Silver Birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> ) and Wild Cherry ( <i>Prunus avium</i> ).	Ensure the establishment of trees in at least the first two years by watering thoroughly in summer, particularly during warm, dry weather. Watering should be early in the morning or in the evening. Any failed trees to be replanted with native trees.
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Yes	Castledyke School (Offsite)	N/A – individual trees	N/A – individual trees
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	No	Castledyke School (Offsite)	N/A	N/A
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Yes	Castledyke School (Offsite)	Stakes will be installed alongside and guards instated around the trees during planting and checked regularly to ensure they are kept in place, to protect them from recreational school activities.	Avoid having a regular pruning regime where possible. However, not essential.
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	Castledyke School (Offsite)	N/A	N/A
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes	Castledyke School (Offsite)	All planted within grassland, ensuring that at least 20% of the tree canopy of all trees will be over the grassland.	Retain vegetation underneath at least 20% of the tree canopy of all trees.

## Individual Trees

### Creation, Enhancement and Management Detailed Methods (UT-T02)

Action	Relevant Parcels	Timing	Prescriptions
Tree planting	Castledyke School (Offsite)	November -March (Year 1 only)	<p>Plant trees in the winter months. Tree planting will consist of native species.</p> <p>Prepare a hole 2-3 x wider than the root ball of the tree and equal in depth to the root ball. Back fill the hole around the root ball with soil removed, gently press down to eliminate air pockets, and water thoroughly to settle the soil.</p> <p>Trees should be planted at least 2 meters from each other and surrounding structures.</p>
Mulching	Castledyke School (Offsite)	Following planting and maintain (Years 1-3)	<p>Apply a layer of mulch 1m around the base of the tree, leaving a small gap between the trunk and the mulch to prevent rot. This should be maintained free of weeds. This can be done with the use of a weed suppressant mat, hoeing or mulch. Mulch is the best option as it has the dual function of supplying nutrients and retaining moisture in the soil, as well as suppressing weed growth.</p> <p>This clear ground should be maintained for the first three years. Once trees are well established, sward height may be allowed to increase around the trees. Encroachment from bramble and ivy should be controlled, however.</p>
Watering	Castledyke School (Offsite)	Weekly (weeks 1-4) and then April – September (Years 1-5)	Saplings should be watered thoroughly following planting and then weekly for a few weeks to promote establishment. Monthly watering in the summer months should then be sufficient. Watering should be early in the morning or in the evening.
Pruning (following planting)	Castledyke School (Offsite)	Monthly from April – September and twice during the dormant season as a minimum (Year 1 only)	Removal of dead, damaged or straggly branches after planting
Pruning	Castledyke School (Offsite)	October – February (Years 5 -10 and then annually from 10 years onwards)	<p>Pruning should follow the same regime as for the orchard trees;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strongly growing shoots (&gt;25 cm annual growth) should be left alone;</li> <li>Moderately growing shoots (10-25 cm annual growth) should be pruned lightly; and</li> <li>Poorly growing shoots (&lt;10 cm annual growth) should be pruned hard.</li> </ul> <p>Pruning should occur on each tree on a three to five-year cycle, allowing the new growth to grow for this period before another prune.</p>
Remove stakes	Castledyke School (Offsite)	Any time of year (Year 2)	Remove stakes from planted trees after one year.
Remove Ties and fencing	Castledyke School (Offsite)	Any time of year (Year 10 onwards)	Remove excess plastic from the site by removing ties and guards from planted trees after 10 years.
Replacement tree planting where necessary	Castledyke School (Offsite)	November - March (Year 2 or as necessary)	Replace any failed trees with new stock to ensure that the correct number of trees are allowed to establish on site. These will be native species.

Checks to replacement planting e.g. adjusting tree protection, watering	Castledyke School (Offsite)	November – February (Year 3 or the year following planting)	Ensure all trees are establishing and any new planting has survived.
Check plants are firmed in where required	Castledyke School (Offsite)	Once every 2 months (years 1-30)	Aims to ensure stock establishes correctly.
Monitoring and pruning / remedial surgery	Castledyke School (Offsite)	Monthly from April – September and twice during the dormant season as a minimum. Additional visits after strong winds (Years 1 -30)	Try and avoid implementing a regular pruning regime but pruning may be required if any branches become damaged.

## Individual Trees Species Lists (UT-T03)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance (%)
Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	50
Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	50

## What Does Success Look Like? (UT-F01)



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## Habitat Creation and Management – Risk Register and Remedial Measures PM-T02

Risk Identification Date	Habitat Type	Risk Factor	Trigger for Action	Remedial Measure
04/12/2025	Other neutral grassland	Undesirable/invasive species colonise	Presence of invasive species or more than 5% of the grassland habitat has cover of undesirable species indicative of a sub-optimal habitat.	Plan and implement eradication / control measures following specialist advice if necessary
04/12/2025	Other neutral grassland	Excessive scrub or bracken establishes	More than 5% of the grassland habitat has scrub or bracken cover.	Adjust grassland management to prevent further scrub encroachment. Establishment of bramble scrub will be identified and remedied as early as possible.
04/12/2025	Other neutral grassland	Seed mix fails to establish	The grassland following year 1 shows less than 50% of the species in the mix establishing and large areas of bare ground.	Scarify and resow with same grassland mix to achieve required sward. Consider supplementary plug planting.
04/12/2025	Other neutral grassland	Lack of variable sward height and structural diversity	Grassland across the stand is of largely uniform height (< 20% below 7 cm and < 20 cm above 7 cm) and density (up to end of management plan period)	Plan and implement additional management to promote age and structure such as thinning and restocking.
04/12/2025	Other neutral grassland	Lack of species diversity	Species diversity is not high enough to achieve moderate condition.	Scarify and resow with same grassland mix to achieve required species diversity. Consider soil nutrient content as limiting factor and remedial measures for this such as increased frequency of cut and collect.
04/12/2025	Traditional orchard	Grassland fails to establish around trees	Less than 20% of canopy is oversailing vegetation	Reseed grassland as above and consider change in grassland management regime
04/12/2025	Urban trees	Failure of trees to establish	Any of the trees have died	Ensure replacement planting is undertaken and consider changing the management regime to ensure success of stock
04/12/2025	Traditional Orchard and Urban trees	Anti-social behaviour and damage to habitats	Over 5% of the trees are showing damage caused by humans or animals, for example browsing or bark stripping, or there is evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism).	Check fencing and reinforce or increase protection measures if required.
04/12/2025	All habitats	Deer and rabbit over-grazing	Grassland is showing overgrazing, or poaching is evident around or under the canopy of more than 10% of the trees, or over 5% of the trees are showing damage caused by animals, for	This is very unlikely due to the nature of this site, however, if damage is evident, additional protection measures such as fencing should be considered.

			example browsing or bark stripping or rubbing on non-adjusted ties.	
04/12/2025	All Habitats	Lack of suitable management and oversight for the scheme	Monitoring consistently shows targets are not being met.	It may be necessary to outsource management of the sites.

### 3. Monitoring Schedule

To deliver BNG, a robust strategy is critical to monitor successes and challenges. Routine monitoring informs progress and facilitates the required management plan updates at set intervals.

#### Monitoring Strategy

**Provide details of the monitoring strategy to encourage successful implementation of the management plan (MS-B01)**

Site management will be overseen by school ground site staff. Monitoring will consist of full UKHab and condition assessment surveys carried out by suitably qualified ecologists. In addition, species lists of the grassland taken from quadrats will be carried out to study the diversity of the sward. A total of 3 quadrats will be taken in each of the new sections of grassland with a full species list recorded. The average number of species per quadrat will also be calculated for each of the newly enhanced grassland areas. The first of these surveys would take place within a year of the habitat being established and repeated at the intervals specified below. Monitoring will be performed by suitably qualified ecologists and the results of the monitoring will be fed back to the school and habitat management team/contractors to ensure that any changes in management or other forms of remediation are carried out if necessary. In addition, photos will be taken during each survey so that progress can be seen visually.

The following will be recorded as part of the condition assessment of the grassland:

- Plant species present and their relative abundance according to the DAFOR scale
- Presence of invasive plants
- Establishment, losses and health of newly established grassland
- Evidence of unwanted and damaging animal grazing/browsing
- Note on sward height variation and structural diversity
- Presence and extent of colonising trees, scrub and/or bracken
- Evidence of any other issues relating to damage or management that could have a bearing on BNG delivery

The need for management intervention or management changes to meet BNG targets

#### Monitoring Methods and Intervals MS-T01

Habitat Type	Monitoring Methods	Monitoring Interval and Timing
Other neutral grassland	UKHab and habitat condition assessments, fixed photography and species list by an SQE/ECOW will determine whether target habitat types and conditions have been achieved.	April – July prior to grassland hay cut  (Years 1 to 5 and then 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30)
	Monitoring by an ECoW will determine whether habitat is establishing properly	
Orchard	UKHab and habitat condition assessments, fixed photography and species list will determine whether target habitat types and conditions have been achieved	
	Monitoring by ECoW will determine whether habitat is establishing properly	
Urban trees	To be undertaken on all newly planted trees. Undertake a condition assessment and record information on tree health and species.	

## Monitoring Reports

Following completion of habitat creation and initial enhancement works, prepare for your monitoring report for the Local Planning Authority or Responsible Body. You should monitor each habitat type comprising the BNG project. Provide sufficient detail for the reviewing authority to assess the progress. The 'Monitoring Report Template' can help you do this. The requirements and regularity with which the monitoring reports are required are at the discretion of the LPA or Responsible Body. Prepare the monitoring requirements below.

### Monitoring Report Schedule MS-T02

TBC	RSK Wilding
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Project Year	Month Report to be Submitted	Month Management Plan to be reviewed	Comments
Y1	September	September or October	Report on results of initial grassland enhancement and tree planting measures.
Y2	September	September or October	Report on results of monitoring surveys and any remedial actions required
Y3	September	September or October	Report on results of monitoring surveys and any remedial actions required
Y4	September	September or October	Report on results of monitoring surveys and any remedial actions required
Y5	September	September or October	Report on results of monitoring surveys and any remedial actions required plus review of progress of all habitats.
Y10	September	September or October	Report on results of monitoring surveys and any remedial actions required
Y15	September	September or October	Report on results of monitoring surveys and any remedial actions required

Y20	September	September or October	Report on results of monitoring surveys and any remedial actions required
Y25	September	September or October	Report on results of monitoring surveys and any remedial actions required
Y30	September	September or October	Report on results of monitoring surveys and any remedial actions required

## Adaptive Management

### Summary of Adaptive Management Approaches (MS-B02)

The monitoring results will be used to inform the need for further unforeseen intervention and management changes to ensure that BNG targets are on track and can be delivered in line with the target set out in the statutory biodiversity metric and HMMP. The monitoring report would highlight any unexpected, external influences such as new plant disease, an invasive species that is thriving due to climate change, or changes to site access due to site flooding.

Observations and notes from day-to-day management will also be collected and where necessary discussed with a competent ecologist to understand any implications for BNG delivery and for delivering adaptive management.