Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan

H0-0046-25 Application for an outdoor riding arena at The Paddocks, 106 Siltside, Gosberton Risegate, Spalding, Lincs. PE11 4ET submitted by Mrs Debra Jinks.

Introduction

This thirty year Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) outlines a detailed approach to conserve, enhance and maintain biodiversity within the land owned by the applicant.

Land Description

The applicant's land extends to approximately 4.7 acres in Gosberton Risegate. The site for the riding arena is at present an area of sparse ryegrass used for grazing.

The rest of the land is predominantly laid to ryegrass paddocks. The northern boundary has a mixture of native trees and evergreens. The eastern and western boundaries have native hedgerows planted by the applicant in 2021 and 2023. The hedges are a mix of native plants including hawthorn, blackthorn, dog rose, hazel and hornbeam. The south boundary has a mixture of beech, silver birch, evergreens and cherry trees.

There is also an extensive length of beech hedging, native trees and evergreen separating the two paddocks on the eastern side, which provide shelter for muntjacs, foxes, badgers and numerous birds.

The far eastern paddock has a large area left for wildlife, including badger setts and fox earths which have been inhabited for over 10 years. The grass in this paddock is left to seed each year and provides habitat for grass snakes, food for birds, butterflies, dragonflies etc.

There are many log piles, two small ponds, areas left to allow nettles, brambles etc to grow. The gardens are planted with numerous pollinating plants, and also have many bird and insect boxes. The grass is only mown occasionally and areas are left for clover to flower. There are a number of swallow nests in the stables. Bats are regularly seen.

The land is used for equestrian purposes but also supports a wide range of wildlife and natural habitats. Badgers, foxes, muntjacs, kestrels, owls, buzzards, red kite and grass snakes have all been seen on the land, along with many types of garden birds.

The applicant is committed to supporting an ecosystem which allows for a variety of animals, plants and insects to exist and flourish.

A .HMMP Aims and Objectives and Target

. The primary goal is to achieve a measurable improvement in biodiversity, ensuring the natural environment is in a better state than before the development for the next thirty years.
. To enhance and maintain biodiversity through habitat management.
. To control invasive species and to support native species
. The target is to achieve an uplift of > 10% biodiversity net gain by planting 34 native trees

B. Enhancement

Following the site clearance and preparation of the area, 34 trees are to be planted on land as shown on the location plan, which is owned by the applicant and Mr Gary Jinks . The trees will be planted 2m apart. The trees will consist of the following native species:-

Field maple

Crab apple
Silver birch
Wild cherry
Rowan

Planting

Dig holes at a width of three times the pot and a depth of the pot.
Soak rootball and loosen roots.
Put tree in hole and backfill with soil.
Water well and mulch 2-3 inches thick leaving a 4inch mulch free gap around the base of the trunk.
Stake at a 45 degree angle and attach a flexible tree tie.

C. Habitat Management and Maintenance Actions

Years 1 to 3

Weeding will be done one metre diameter around the trees.
Mulching with bark chips around each tree to suppress weed growth.
Each tree will have a tree guard and a stake. Ensure the tree tie is loosened to accommodate the trunk growth.
Any tree which fails will be replaced.
Watering will be done if necessary, but root growth needs to be encouraged so watering will be kept to a minimum.

Years 3 to 10

As above plus the tree guards will be removed as soon as they split.

Years 10 to 30

The trees will be monitored, and the area around the trees will be kept free of weeds.

Reports and photographic evidence will be obtained.

D. Creation Period

It is proposed that the clearance of the site, the preparation of the land and the planting will take place within eighteen months after the development has been completed. Planting of the trees ideally has to be done during the months between November and March and the eighteen month timescale will allow for this. Once the trees have been planted the thirty year BNG will begin.

E. Monitoring

The proposed new habitat will be monitored in years 1,2,5,10,20 and 30. A report will be sent to the LA in these years. The report will include an assessment of each tree and any necessary remedial work to maintain the trees. Photographs will be taken as evidence and included in the report.

F. Responsibility

The responsibility for planting and managing the trees lies with Mrs Debra Jinks or any successor in title.

G. Risk Management

The tree guards will protect the trees from damage by animals such as rabbits. The stakes will provide more stability in windy conditions.
The biggest threat to the newly created habitat will be climate change and how native trees will adapt to this. Checks will be done to ensure the trees have the best chances to adapt to the ever increasing temperatures.

Conclusion

The aim of this HMMP is to secure the future of the proposed habitat for at least the next thirty years. The planting of the thirty four native trees will provide pollinating, foraging, and refuge opportunities for animals, birds, reptiles and insects and improve the area's natural habitat.
The HMMP will be reviewed periodically and updated if necessary to reflect any challenges that may present over the next thirty years.