NATURAL ENGLAND

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan

For use with

Small Sites Metric

(Statutory Biodiversity Metric)



Site Name:	Spalding Academy
Date:	8th December 2025
Version:	2513_HMMP_00
Small Sites Criteria Met	The site fulfils the criteria for use of the Small Sites Metric (Statutory Biodiversity Metric) calculation tool. Yes ☒ No ☐ If 'No' use the Main HMMP Template for the full statutory biodiversity metric instead of this one.

Author:

EVANS McDOWALL ARCHITECTS

Client:

South Lincolnshire Academies Trust

Template Document User Guide

Context – The Small Sites Metric

The Small Sites Metric Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan Template (SSM HMMPT) is designed to complement The Small Sites Metric (Statutory Biodiversity Metric) (SSM) calculation tool. It follows the same criteria as the SSM.

The SSM calculation tool can only be applied to 'small sites' as defined in **The Small Sites Metric (Statutory Biodiversity Metric) User Guide**.

This means:

- residential development where the number of dwellings is between 1 and 9 on a site of an area 1 hectare or less, or if the number of dwellings is unknown, the site area is less than 0.5 hectares, or
- commercial development where floor space created is less than 1,000 square metres or total site area is less than 1 hectare, or
- development that is not the winning and working of minerals or the use of land for mineral-working deposits, or
- development that is not waste development

It is not possible to use the SSM, and SSM HMMPT, on all sites defined as 'small sites'. The following criteria also need to be met to use the SSM:

- where only the habitats available in the SSM are present on-site
- where no priority habitats are present on-site (except some hedgerows and arable field margins that are medium distinctiveness)
- where no statutory protected sites or habitats are present
- where no European protected species are present

Supporting documents

SSM HMMPT Habitat Guide

Tools and Guidance

GOV.UK Statutory biodiversity metric (small sites) tools and guides

GOV.UK Government Collections Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)-Guidance

Template User Guide

This template provides a series of tables, figures and text boxes. Complete these to show how you'll create, enhance, manage, and monitor the biodiversity net gain (BNG) habitats.

Small Sites HMMPT Habitat Guide

The accompanying **Habitat Guide** provides descriptions of proposed habitat types and conditions allowed in the Small Sites Metric (SSM). These are to assist authors in preparing the habitat creation, enhancement, management and monitoring activities and instructions (the 'prescriptions') in sections 3 (SM-T02) and 4 (SM-T04), to achieve the required BNG outcomes. The guide includes target habitat descriptions for a range of typical habitats that can be assessed through the SSM calculation tool. The descriptions illustrate what target habitats should look like in line with the range of conditions possible in the SSM.

Use the guide to help you prepare your plan to achieve the outcomes needed for the habitat(s) selected in your metric calculation. Factor the site-specific conditions of your site into the design. Refer to reputable sources and competent professionals to inform the creation and management methods most suitable to deliver the specific habitat outcomes targeted.

Formatting

The Template uses standard Microsoft Word formatting that has not been locked for editing. Adjust it, as required, to tailor your HMMP for the specific site and according to your preferences. You can increase or reduce the text box sizes, or increase or reduce the size of images, to fit the requirements of your plan.

You can provide and reference additional photographs and plans as separate appendices if required. Provide the reference number of the appropriate appendix. If necessary to include in a separate report, reference the location using the appropriate box within the template. Provide at least one photograph for each relevant area habitat, hedgerow or watercourse feature.

Text in grey is provided as a prompt. Replace grey text with your own words. Remember to change to black text then delete any remaining grey 'prompt' text.

Each text box in this HMMPT has a unique ID to assist reviewers. Do not change the reference code of any Boxes or Tables.

Template published by Natural England. We acknowledge the significant input from the HMMPT user-testers and production on Natural England's behalf by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd.

Checklist of Contents SM-T01

Please complete the table below to confirm the sections in this Template that have been completed.

Checklist of Contents Completed		Sections completed (please tick)
1.	Project Background	
1a	Project Information	☒
1b	Planning Condition	☒
1c	Roles and Responsibilities	☒
1d	Site Boundary Plan	☒
1e	Land Use Summary	☒
1f	Site Photos	☒
1g	Site Proposals Plan	☒
2.	Management Plan Aims and Objectives	
2a	Site Aims and Objectives	☒
2b	Retained and Enhanced Habitats Protection Measures	☒
2c	Habitat Management Proposals	☒
3.	Establishment and Management	
3a	Creation, Enhancement and Management Targets and Prescriptions	☒
4.	Monitoring	
4a	Monitoring Strategy for Each Habitat, Hedgerow and Watercourse Present On-Site	☒

Version Control SM-T02

Version control is used for updates to the content. Record the initial version and further version control details in this table each time the management plan is adapted throughout the management and monitoring period.

Version	Issue Status	Prepared by / Date	Approved by / Date
2513_HMMP_00	DRAFT	Ethan Kocot / 08.12.25	

Document Details

Provide ownership, copyright and licensing information within this table.

Authorship Details SM-B01
This HMMP has been produced by Ethan Kocot for and on behalf of Evans McDowall Architects. South Lincolnshire Academies Trust will own and manage the scheme. Ordnance survey maps have been reproduced under licence 100022432 Note: The original baseline survey including a BNG Assessment in Statutory Metric was conducted by Evans McDowall Architects in August 2025.

1. Project Background

Summarise the key aspects of your management plan in this section. Tables can be extended to suit the specific needs of individual projects.

Project information SM-T01	
Project type	Non-Residential
Development Name and Address	Spalding Academy Netball Courts, Neville Avenue, Spalding, PE11 2EJ.
Author	Ethan Kocot (Evans McDowall Architects)
Landowner	South Lincolnshire Academies Trust
Land Management Organisation	South Lincolnshire Academies Trust
Period covered by this management plan	30-Year Period as per Condition 3 of the Decision Notice.
Planning authority	South Holland
Planning reference	H16-0762-25
Central OS grid reference	TF 25691 22578
Total Site Area	1420m2

Planning Condition

Details of Planning Conditions to be Discharged by this Document SM-B02
Condition No. 2 (Biodiversity Net Gain Plan) Condition No.3 (Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan)

Roles and Responsibilities

Provide details of the responsible people and organisation(s) delivering this management plan and the legal and funding mechanisms in place to secure the habitat outcomes proposed.

Author Responsible for Preparing HMMP SM-B03			
Name or Initials / Role	Ethan Kocot		
Organisation	Evans McDowall Architects		
Responsibility Start Date	July 2025	End Date	Feb 2026
Statement of Competency			
Evans McDowall Architects have undertaken relevant training in relation to utilising the statutory Small Site Metric for applicable sites and have developed and submitted several schemes since the introduction of the legislation. Evans McDowall's appointment is to conclude with the submission of an Approval of Condition application and therefore, the responsibility for the implementation of this HMMP will be with the Landowner / Contractor beyond this stage of works.			

Landowner / Management Organisation Responsible for Delivering HMMP SM-B04			
Name or Initials / Role	Alex Roffe		
Organisation	South Lincolnshire Academies Trust		
Responsibility Start Date	July 2025	End Date	April 2056
Statement of Competency			
South Lincolnshire Academies Trust have experience in undertaking arboriculture projects across school sites and in employing the relevant competent persons as required.			

Site Boundary Plan SM-F01

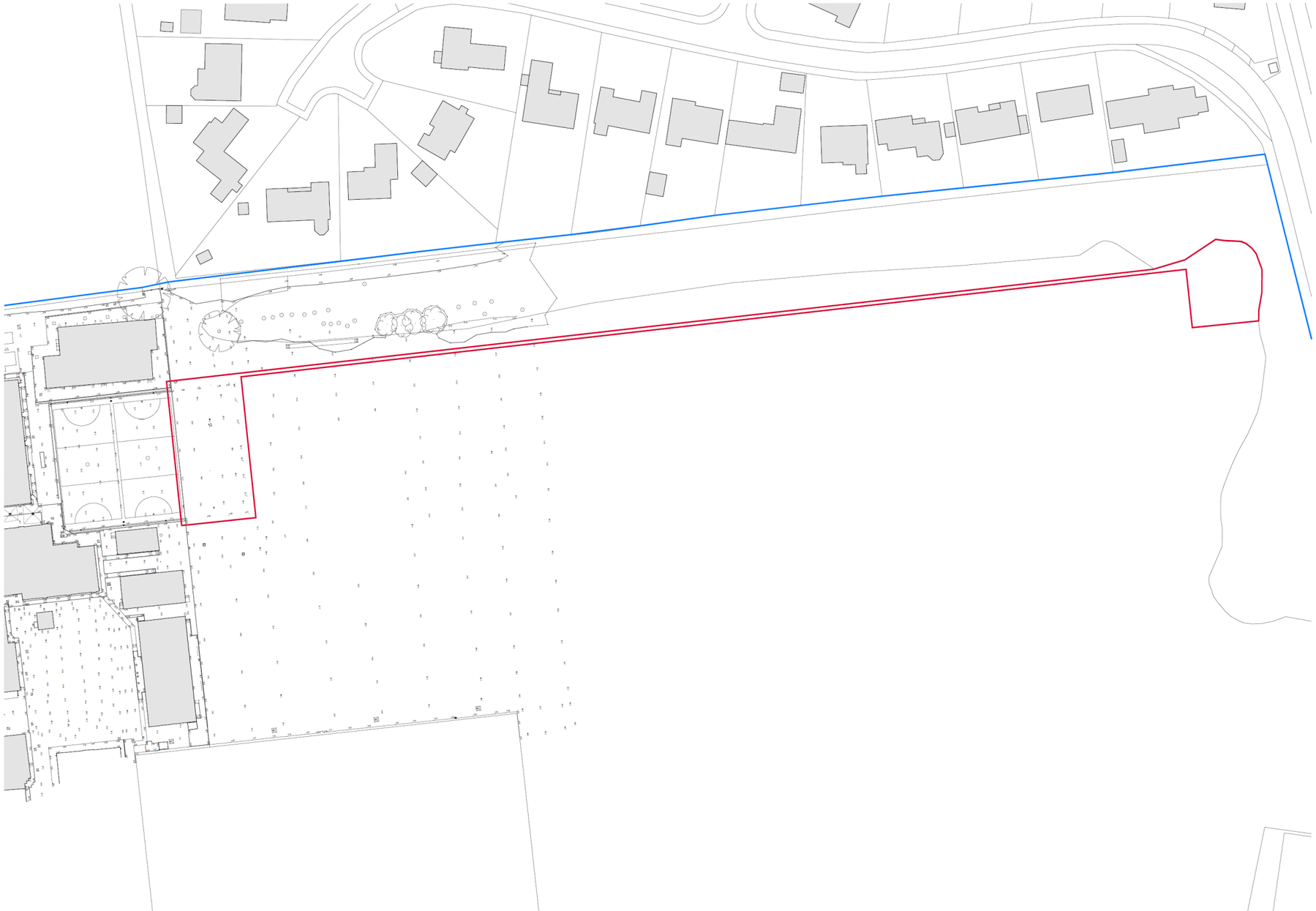
Scale Bar 1:500

0 25m 50m

10m 20m 30m 40m

Note: Do not scale. Only use figured dimensions.
All discrepancies to be notified to this office.

Rev	Description	Dr	Date



Existing Site Block Plan
Scale 1:500

N

Legend:

Boundary of Application Site
Boundary of Land in Applicant Ownership

STATUS
EXISTING

EVANS
McDOWALL
ARCHITECTS
E27 Sparkhouse Studios, Rope Walk, Lincoln, LN6 7DQ
Tel: 01522 837280
Email: mail@emcdarchitects.com

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CLIENT
SPALDING ACADEMY

PROJECT
Netball Court Extension at Spalding Academy, PE11 2EJ

TITLE
Existing Site Block Plan

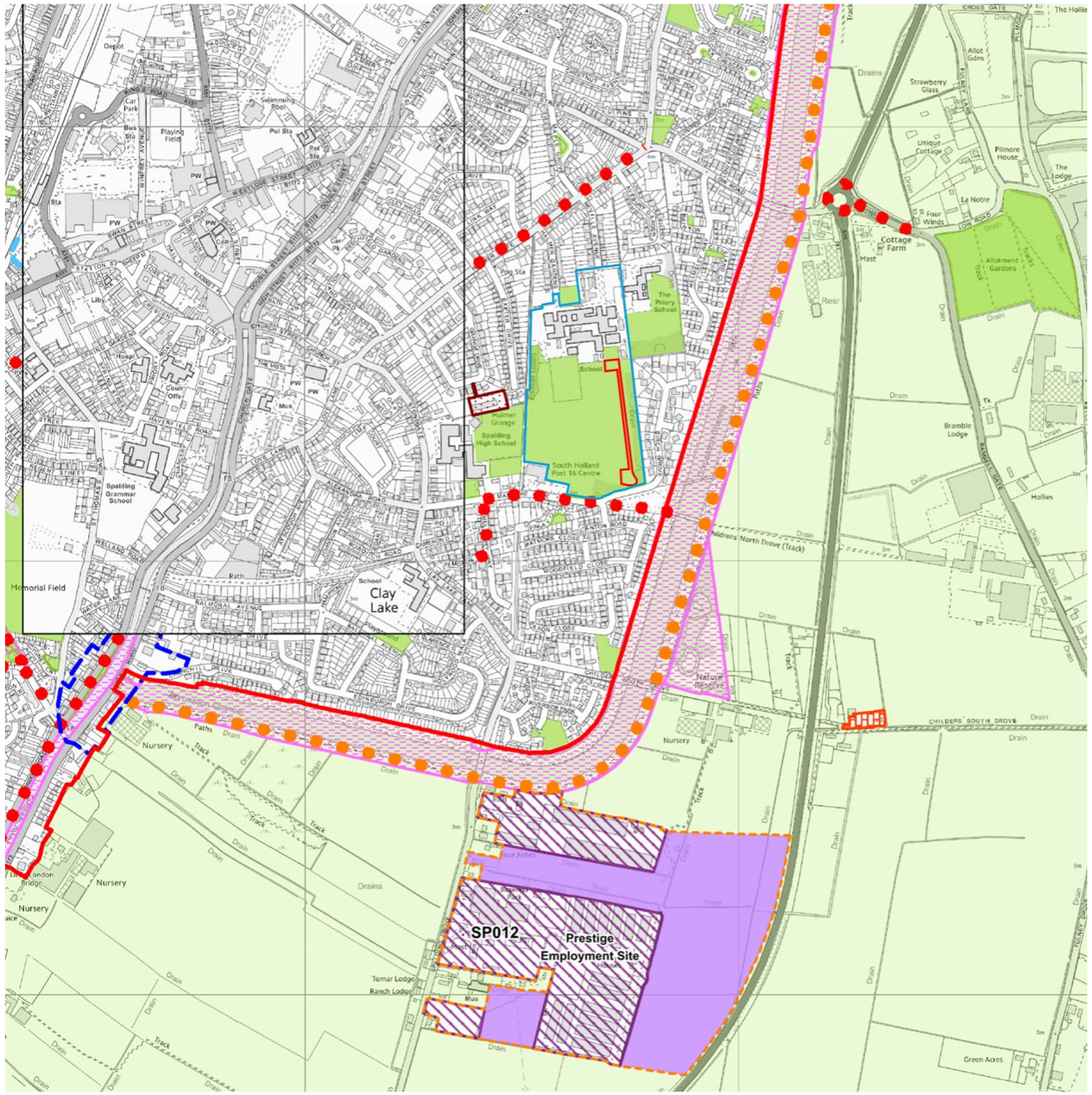
DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	DATE
EK	EMA	Aug 2025

SCALE	PROJECT NUMBER
1:500 @ A1	2534

DRAWING NUMBER	REV
EX002	00

Site Context Plan SM-F02

Show the location of the site in context with relevant geographical information, such as National or Local planning policies, that have informed Site and landscape design. These may include (but are not limited to) the National and Local Character Areas, Local Nature Recovery Networks and Biodiversity Opportunity Areas. As a minimum, this plan should illustrate any information that has informed the decision on assigning strategic significance. See the Small Sites Metric (Statutory Biodiversity Metric) User Guide for more information.



Land Use

Description of Site Use - Baseline SM-B05

The Site forms part of the Spalding Academy school campus. The proposal relates to the existing netball courts to the south of the main buildings, the existing courts are buffered by substantial playing fields to the south, a belt of mature trees to the east and, artificial sports pitches to the west. The Site comprises modified grassland forming part of the school playing fields. The area is regularly mown, frequently used for sports and is of low ecological value (UKHab g4; site-level value).

Description of Site Use - Proposed SM-B06

Under this application, the proposed works are centred around the extension of an area of existing hardstanding to accommodate an additional netball court at Spalding Academy. The aim of the project is to enhance and upgrade existing sport / recreation facilities at the school. The area of the extension has been designed to accommodate a full-size netball court with suitable run-off, occupying an area of approximately 600m^2. The area of the extension is be resurfaced with close-graded asphalt course to match the adjacent courts. To compensate for grassland loss and secure 10% BNG, 24no. native broadleaved trees will be planted within suitable areas of the school grounds.

Site Photos SM-F03

Please include two overview photographs of the site in its current form here. Include additional photographs in the appendix if needed. You can adjust the size of these to suit your management plan.

Tick if additional photographs are provided in the Appendices ☐ Reference: Click or tap here to enter text.



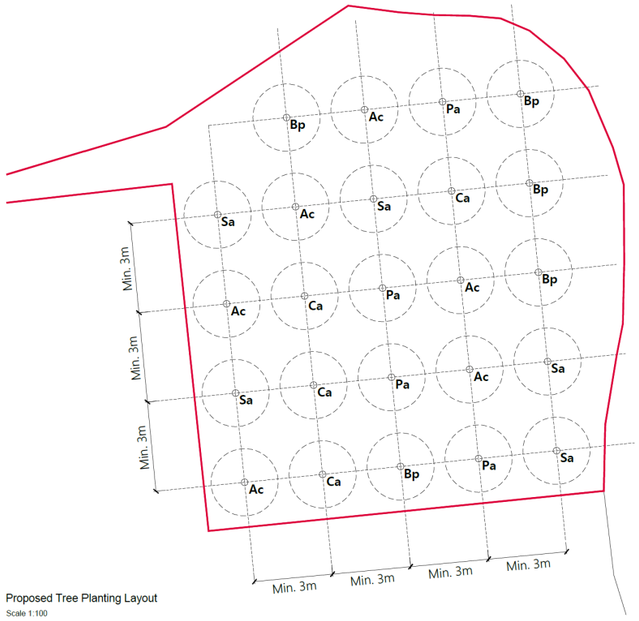


Site Proposals Plan SM-F04

As a minimum, show all the proposed habitats to be retained, created or enhanced.
The map could be on an aerial photo, or a sketch map showing mapped habitat polygons. Include parcel references if possible. It is also helpful to include a north arrow and scale.



Proposed Site Block Plan
Scale 1:500



Proposed Tree Planting Layout
Scale 1:100

Note: Do not scale. Only use figured dimensions.
All discrepancies to be notified to this office.

Rev	Description	Dr	Date

N

Legend:

- Boundary of Application Site
- Boundary of Land in Applicant Ownership
- Polygon 01 - Developed Land; Sealed Surface (600m²)
- Polygon 02 - Modified Grassland (820m²)
- Mixed Native Tree Species Planting (refer to planting schedule)

TREE PLANTING SCHEDULE:

REF:	SPECIES:	QTY:
Bp	Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*)	5
Ac	Field Maple (*Acer campestre*)	6
Sa	Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)	5
Pa	Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*)	4
Ca	Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)	4

STATUS
PLANNING

EVANS McDOWALL
ARCHITECTS
E27 Sparkhouse Studios, Rope Walk, Lincoln, LN6 7DQ
Tel: 01522 837280
Email: mail@emcdarchitects.com
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CLIENT
SPALDING ACADEMY

PROJECT
Netball Court Extension at Spalding Academy, PE11 2EJ

TITLE
Proposed Site Landscaping Plan

DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	DATE
EK	EMA	Dec 2025

SCALE	PROJECT NUMBER
1:500 / 1:100 @ A1	2534

DRAWING NUMBER	REV
PP002	00

2. Management Plan Aims and Objectives

Overview of Proposed Habitat Aims and Objectives SM-B07

The objective is to deliver BNG compliance by creating new urban tree habitat of measurable biodiversity value to compensate for the removal of modified grassland, achieving a +10.31% biodiversity unit gain. The ecological objectives of the scheme are; to successfully establish an area of native tree planting, with a less than 10% failure rate across the management period, to achieve a moderate target creation condition by the end of the management period and, ensure that the trees contribute to long-term ecological enhancement and visual amenity.

Retained and Enhanced Habitats Protection Measures SM-B08

Areas of modified grassland which are to be retained will be suitably protected throughout the duration of works, along with boundary vegetation that is outside of the red line boundary but is associated with any works / access during the construction phase of the project. Adjacent areas of modified grassland will continue to be maintained in line with existing management regimes. Any existing trees adjacent to the site boundary are to be similarly protected with root protection zones kept clear of vehicle movement and storage.

Summary of Adaptive Management Approaches SM-B09

The Landowner shall be responsible for ensuring that the monitoring strategy is implemented as set out within this HMMP and ensuring that Monitoring Reports are produced and issued following each monitoring visit as prescribed within this HMMP. The Landowner shall ensure a consistent approach to monitoring and recording and is to ensure the data set is comparable year-on-year and thereby the development of habitats to prescribed target conditions can be robustly monitored. The Land Manager and persons/organisations responsible for implementing the day-to-day management set out within this HMMP shall be familiarised will the management targets for each habitat and will duly report constraints, challenges, issues and opportunities in meeting the said targets, to allow for iterative changes to the management approach as well as to inform Monitoring Reports. All subsequent Monitoring Reports will be duly issued to the responsible authority for comment.

Habitat Management Proposals

Habitat Baseline Description SM-B10

The application site accommodates a single habitat type, comprising an area of modified grassland (UKHabs g4), currently utilised as school playing fields. The habitat is identified as P1 within the accompanying Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment, a brief description is provided below.

'Polygon 1 is the primary habitat on the Site and comprises an area of recreational field which is maintained at a low sward height with a frequent mowing regime and frequent usage. The area is generally of a short sward with several areas of bare ground and the grassland is generally of poor condition.'

Retained Habitats SM-B11

Site preparatory activities are expected to result in the loss of areas of modified grassland to facilitate the new netball court (600m2). The remaining modified grassland within the red-line boundary (820m2) are to be retained and suitable protected throughout the works. There are no habitats of ecological value identified that will require retention within the development footprint.

Enhanced Habitats SM-B12

No enhancements are proposed as part of this scheme.

Created Habitats SM-B13

The landscape proposals included 24no. new broadleaved tree specimens to be introduced onto the site, with a native species mix as outlined below;

- Field maple (Acer campestre)
- Silver birch (Betula pendula)
- Rowan (Sorbus aucuparia)
- Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*)
- Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)

The Small Site Metric calculation tool was used to generate a pre-works and post-works comparison of biodiversity units. Provided that the proposed landscaping scheme is implemented, the calculator has indicated a GAIN in habitat (area) biodiversity units of 0.0586 units (+10.31% change) post-works. This exceeds the standard National biodiversity net gain expectations mandated as part of the Environment Act 2021 (i.e., +10%). This outcome assumes that areas of compensatory planting have successfully established and that a plan of adequate, long-term management and monitoring is implemented to ensure longevity for a minimum of 30 years.

3. Creation, Enhancement and Management

Creation, Enhancement and Management Targets and Prescriptions SM-T02

Complete the planned prescriptions for each area habitat, hedgerows and watercourse proposed on-site in the table below to confirm how created and enhanced habitats will be established and managed. Include details on how retained habitats will be managed. At a minimum, list each area habitat, hedgerow or watercourse entered into the Small Sites Metric (Statutory Biodiversity Metric) calculation tool in the 'Habitat/Feature Type' column in the table below (SM-T02) and provide specific creation or enhancement and management prescriptions. If preferred, provide multiple rows for the same habitat/feature type where different prescriptions are to be used in different parcels/features, hedgerows or watercourse. Refer to the SSM HMMPT **Habitat Guide** for additional guidance on target habitat types and conditions to guide your prescriptions. If appending any additional documents that contain prescriptions or work schedules, please tick here and provide a reference: ☐ Reference: Click or tap here to enter text.

Habitat/Feature Type	Target Condition	Parcel/ Feature Ref	Habitat Creation or Enhancement and Management Prescriptions
Urban Tree	Medium	T1-T24	All landscape soft works are to be carried out in accordance with BS4428: 'Code of Practice for General Landscape Operations' and BS 3936: 1992 'Recommendations for Cultivations and Planting in the Advanced Nursery Stock category'. Works should be carried out at the appropriate season and only in appropriate weather conditions. Prior to starting works, the contractor will verify locations of all services and obtain instruction if required. Planting areas as shown on the Approved Landscaping Strategy will be set out prior to planting.
Urban Tree	Medium	T1-T24	Tree stock will be heavy standards 350-425cm high. Individual tree pits shall be dug to be of dimensions sufficient to contain the root ball with an additional 5cm around for backfill material. Loosen the base and mix excavated material with 2kg of well-rotted manure. Excavate the pit bottoms with a slightly raised centre to spade depth. Scarify the pit sides. Place tree with roots spread throughout the pit with the good side of the plant facing to the front. For support, install a single vertical stake on the windward side, close to the tree position, driven in at least 300mm into bottom of pit. Secure the tree firmly but not rigidly to the stake within 25mm of the top of the stake with a tie. Prevent the tree from touching the stake using spacer blocks or cushions if required. Fasten the tie to the stake using galvanised nails to BS1202-1. Backfill and firm down. Install growth tubes around each tree. Water to field capacity. Mulch to 75mm depth around each tree. If mulching is insufficient weed control, additional control can be carried out by periodic herbicide spraying at intervals to be agreed with the Land Manager.
Urban Tree	Medium	T1-T24	A minimum of two maintenance visits shall be made annually during each establishment year in spring and autumn. Failed trees shall be replaced with the equivalent trees after completion; replacements to either match the size of adjacent or nearby plants of same species or match the original specification, whichever is the greater. All failures must be made good during the planting season/or the next planting season. The following works shall be undertaken to trees during the establishment period: • Top up total cover of mulch to specified depth annually in March; • Water all new trees in the growing season during April to September as necessary to ensure effective establishment and growth;

			• Replace failed trees to specified requirements during November to February. • Maintain a weed free area around each tree during the growing season April to September - diameter (minimum): the larger of 1m or the surface of original planting pit; • Gently firm loosened soil around trees, straighten leaning trees; • Tree accessories: Check the condition of stakes, ties, guys, guards. Replace broken or missing items. Re-firm loose stakes in the ground or replace as necessary to provide support to the tree. Adjust ties to accommodate growth and prevent constriction or abrasion. If bark damage has occurred cut back neatly with sharp knife and adjust to prevent further damage. Stakes and ties are to be removed when the trees are fully established (at Year 5); • If necessary, prune to promote healthy growth and natural shape; removing dead, dying, diseased wood and suckers during the spring or autumn during the establishment period; • Firm in and straighten any trees loosened and prune out dead, leggy and broken branches, without damage to natural habit of the plant; • Remove windblown litter and other rubbish and fallen leaves; • Control pests and diseases as necessary.
Urban Tree	Medium	T1-T24	Allow the natural growth and spread of new trees with minimal management, where this does not conflict with access or safety. Pruning of trees (only where required) shall be undertaken to current best practice arboricultural methods (BS 3998:2012) ensuring clean and neat cut faces with no jagged ends, tears or scars.
Urban Tree	Medium	T1-T24	During the operational phase of the Scheme, failed trees shall be replaced to specification to maintain the ecological condition and integrity of these habitats, informed by monitoring inspections.

Risk Register and Proposed Remedial Measures SM-T03

Complete the risk register by identifying likely risks that could impede the successful delivery of target habitats, hedgerows or watercourses. List all risks that could reasonably be anticipated. This should not be an exhaustive list as it will not be possible to anticipate all potential risks.

Risk Factor	Habitat/Hedgerow/Watercourse Type	Trigger for Action	Remedial Measure
Briefly describe the anticipated risk to delivery of the proposed habitat type and condition.	List the habitat(s), hedgerow or watercourse which could be affected by the risk identified.	Clearly and concisely describe the trigger which will indicate that remedial measures are required.	Describe the remedial measures required. This can be an adaptation to management prescription listed in table SM-T04 or can be specific action to address risk.
Newly planted trees and shrubs failing to establish.	Urban Tree	Greater than 10% of failed trees/shrubs in planting areas and lines (Years 1-30).	Replace failed trees like for like and to specification. Consider changing tree species if local conditions may be affecting establishment i.e. climatic conditions, soil chemistry. Control pests and diseases where possible - pruning of damaged branches if appropriate.

4. Monitoring

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

Provide details of the methods you will use to monitor the progress towards the targets stated in the management plan and as agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

Habitat/Feature Type	Monitoring Methods	Monitoring Interval and Timing
Urban Trees	To be undertaken across all parcels/habitat areas. Estimate the percentage of failed trees (to species, where possible). Estimate percentage cover of vegetation beneath tree canopies. Determine whether trees have been allowed to grow naturally (i.e. look for evidence of excessive pruning).	Years 1, 3 & 5 (establishment). Then Years 10, 20, 30. Surveys to be completed between May and August.

Monitoring Reporting SM-B14

Organisation Responsible for Submitting the Monitoring Reports	South Lincolnshire Academies Trust	Organisation Receiving and Responsible for Reviewing Reports	South Holland District Council

The monitoring strategy shall be undertaken as set out below to determine whether habitats are on target to reach the prescribed target conditions as set out within this HMMP, based on individual condition criteria for the specific habitat type. Methods of monitoring will include collating species lists and quantitative assessments (including area and cover estimates) to check against prescribed condition criteria. Photographs will be taken during each monitoring visit to document the development of habitats.