

Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan

Site Name:	Holcombe Brook Sports Club
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Author: Verity Webster BSc MSc CEcol MCIEEM Client: Holcombe Brook Sports Club



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Version Control

The 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 altered throughout the management and monitoring period.

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Document Details

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Authorship Details

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Verity Webster

Ecology and Protected Species Consultancy

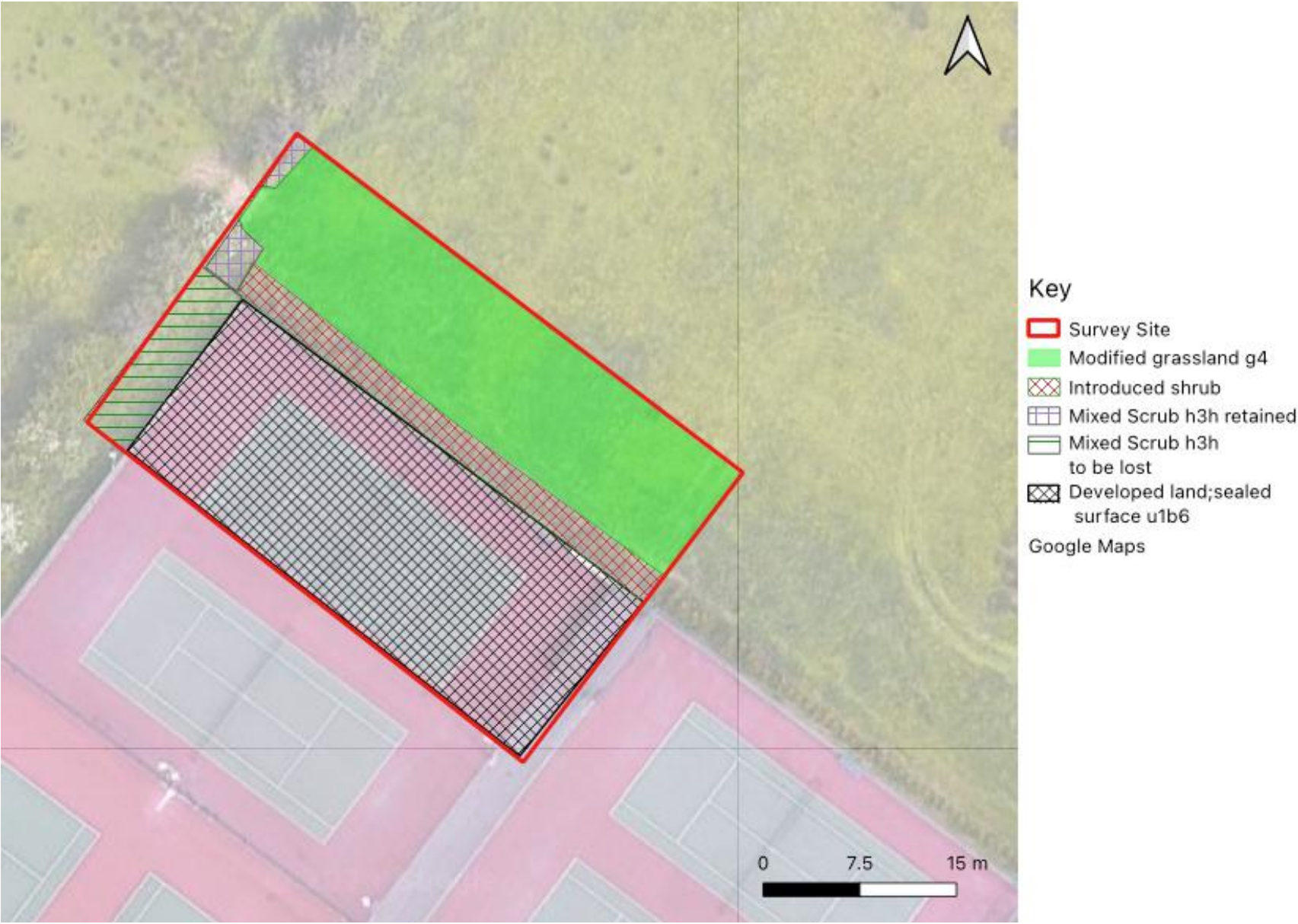
Chorley, Lancashire; www.ecologyconsultant.co.uk; tel: 07917 852 401; Email: info@ecologyconsultant.co.uk

1. Project Background

Site Overview PB-B01	
Project type	On-site
Development Name and Address	Holcombe Brook Sports Club
BNG Project Name and Address	As Above
Author Organisation	Verity Webster Ltd
Landowner	Holcombe Brook Sports Club
Land Manager	Holcombe Brook Sports Club
Responsible person/organisation for creating or enhancing the habitat	Mr Greg Collins
Period covered by this management plan	September 2025 – March 2055 Annual monitoring will take place in years 1-3 (2026,2027,2028). Subsequently 5-year monitoring checks will take place in 2033, 2038, 2043, 2048 and 2053
Planning authority	Bury MBC
Planning reference (if applicable)	
BNG register reference (if applicable)	NA
Central OS grid reference	SD78581417
Metric revision/title	Statutory Site Metric. Version 1.0.3 23 July 2024
Are any Irreplaceable Habitats present onsite	Yes: ☐ No: ☒

Summary of Management Plan

Habitats to be Retained, Created and Enhanced PB-B02
The survey site encompasses the developed land;sealed surface (tennis court), mixed scrub located to the northeast of the court, modified grassland and ornamental shrubs (leylandii). The development will result in the loss of 0.0062ha of mixed scrub and 0.0085ha of modified grassland to allow for enhancement. Enhancement comprises creation of 0.0220ha of mixed scrub to the northeast of the proposed courts.
Timescales for Actions PB-B03
Habitat creation will take place in spring of 2025. In year 1-3 the establishment of the newly planted saplings will be reviewed with a check for non-native invasive species. Any damaged saplings will be replaced. The area of scrub will be temporarily fenced to allow establishment and prevent damage from grazing. Every 5 years the structure and health of the scrub will be reviewed, and a check of non-native invasive species will be undertaken.
Monitoring Requirements PB-B04
Monitoring will take place each year for the first three years and then every five years. This will comprise condition assessment of the mixed scrub and determination of the presence or absence of non-native invasive species.
Required Consents and Licences PB-B05
Planning permission
Funding PB-B06
Holcombe Brook Sports Club will fund the management of the planting.
Legal Agreement PB-B07
The HMMP will form part of a planning condition.





Phasing strategy

Will the proposed work measures be delivered in phases? PB-B08		Yes: ☐ No: ☒	
Habitat creation will take place from March 2025. A mix of shrubs will be planted including hawthorn and hazel, allowing natural herbs and bramble to colonise. Poor condition is considered attainable since the field where the habitat creation is located will be grazed at times by horses. Management to achieve moderate condition is recommended, however, to maximise the benefit of the habitat creation.			

Roles and Responsibilities

Provide details of the responsible persons and organisation(s) for delivering this management plan.

Ecologist or Other Professional Responsible for HMMP PB-B09				
Name or Initials		Ecologist: Verity Webster		
Organisation		Verity Webster Ltd		
Responsibility	Start Date:	17/09/2024	End Date:	04/03/2025
The ecologist Verity Webster BSc MSc CEcol MCIEEM produced the HMMP. She will not be responsible for implementation of the proposals. Management at Holcombe Brook Sports Club will be responsible for implementation of the proposals and management of the habitats.				
Statement of Competency				
Verity Webster is a Chartered Ecologist and a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. Verity has worked as an ecological consultant since 2007. She has undertaken Ecological Assessments and protected species surveys for a large variety of projects and schemes, producing the required impact assessment and subsequent mitigation, management and monitoring schemes when necessary. She is a specialist in botanical survey.				

Management Organisation(s) Responsible for Implementing the HMMP PB-B11				
Name or Initials		Mr Greg Collins		
Organisation		Holcombe Brook Sports Club		
Responsibility	Start Date:	February 2025	End Date:	NA

Land Use Summary

Overview of Baseline Site Use PB-B13

Modified grassland: The modified grassland is present in the horse-grazed paddock on the northeast side of the site.

Mixed scrub: The mixed scrub is located along the northwest boundary of the site adjacent to the existing tennis court.

Introduced shub: This comprises a line of leylandii separating the existing tennis court from the horse-grazed pasture.

Developed land; sealed surface: This comprises the hard standing of the tennis court.

Overview of Proposed Site Use PB-B14

Created habitats

Mixed scrub. 0.0220ha of mixed scrub will be created in the adjacent field (northwest of the existing tennis court).

Developed land; sealed surface. The existing developed land will be extended to allow for construction of two padel courts.

Retained habitats

An area of **mixed scrub** will be retained and encouraged to spread. There will be no specific management, aside from control of the bramble if it spreads in to grassy areas.

Site Context Photos PB-F03



Showing the mixed scrub on the northwest boundary.



Showing the introduced shrub (leylandii) and developed land of the tennis court.



Showing the exiting horse-grazed modified grassland and the location of the proposed mixed scrub planting.

Baseline and Environmental Information

At baseline the site supports very little vegetation and has negligible suitability for protected species or species or habitats of conservation interest. There are no designated sites within 500m of the site. Habitats of Principal Importance under the NERC Act, 2006 are present within 500m, but no direct or indirect impacts are anticipated.



2. Planned Management Activities

Provide the site-wide aims and objectives. These should consider the Project Background information section outlined above as well as the outcomes of the Metric.

Management Plan Aims and Objectives PM-B01

Aim: to create habitats that will support and improve existing ecological functionality but are also easy to maintain.

The objectives below will allow the aim to be achieved.

Objectives:

- 1: To create mixed scrub within an area of native grassland that provide habitat for a range of wildlife in the future.
- 2: To create a biodiverse landscape that is easy to manage long-term

Achievement of objectives.

- 1 – Planting of native species shrubs that will provide mixed scrub within an area of grazed pasture. This will provide improved vegetative structure and provision of foraging habitat and nesting habitat for invertebrates, small mammals and birds.
- 2 – Planting of a range of species will ensure improvement of species diversity on site.

Principles Informed by Design Stage

The project's BNG target(s) should be set and documented early in the design process. Outline how background and baseline information influenced key design principles for the project from an early stage. This can provide useful context for the proposed retention, creation and enhancement measures.

Design Principles Informed by Baseline Information PM-B02

The scrub will create a linear native species habitat continuous to scrub already present and compensating for the loss of the existing scrub.

Habitat and Condition Targets PM-T01

This table presents a summary record of what you have agreed to deliver based on the biodiversity metric. These habitat condition targets form the basis of what the management plan is setting out to achieve. Include the relevant ‘Area’, ‘Hedgerow’, and ‘Watercourse’ types to be implemented and managed throughout the period of 30 years or more.

Baseline Habitat Type	Target Habitat Type	Parcel / Feature Refs	Baseline Condition	Targeted Condition	Years to Targeted Condition	Condition Assessment Targets	Comments
Heathland and shrub	Mixed scrub	Northeast pasture	NA	Poor	1	Poor condition will be targeted by achieving a pass in criteria A and C.	Poor condition only is targeted due to grazing by horses in the field.

Habitat Retention

Provide a concise description of the habitats that are to be retained in their baseline condition. Habitats being retained may still require ongoing measures to maintain their baseline condition.

Measures to be Implemented to Protect Retained Habitats PM-03

Modified grassland:

Modified grassland not lost during works will be retained and managed as it is at present; horse grazed and retained in poor condition.

Mixed scrub:

Retained mixed scrub will be encouraged to spread and develop along with the area of newly created scrub. The retained. Mixed scrub is expected to retain poor condition.



Scrub

Creation, Enhancement and Management Summary (SC-T01)

Provide details of the approach to delivering each of the targeted condition criteria and habitat. Conditions from Statutory Biodiversity Metric habitat condition assessment sheets – Sheet 19. Scrub.

Target Habitat:						
Condition Assessment Criteria		Targeted	Relevant Parcels	Creation approach	Enhancement Approach	Management Approach
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type – the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description (where in its natural range). - At least 80% of scrub is native, - There are at least three native woody species, - No single species comprising more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i>, common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i>, sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i>, which can be up to 100% cover).	Yes	Scrub area	Sapling hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>), hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>) and gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>).		The area of scrub will be fenced to prevent grazing during establishment. This will also allow a boarder of longer grassland to develop, providing an ecotone to the grazed pasture.
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran) shrubs are all present.	No	NA			
C	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 5% of ground cover.	Yes	Scrub area			Site will be monitored for non-native invasive species, which will be treated and eradicated if present.
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	No	NA			
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	No	NA			

Scrub

Creation, Enhancement and Management Detailed Methods (SC-T02)

Provide detailed prescriptions for the creation and management of the habitat.

Action	Relevant parcels	Timing	Prescriptions
Fence area for shrub planting	Scrub area	Mid-November – Mid-March	Fence area of shrub planted such that newly planted shrubs can establish without grazing pressure. Leaving a small buffer of grassland would be of benefit to allow longer grassland to develop as an edge habitat between the scrub and the grazed pasture. Electric fencing can be used as a simple fencing aid for horses.
Plant sapling shrubs	Scrub area	Mid-November – Mid-March	Remove existing ground vegetation where shrubs are to be planted Dig over the soil Ensure newly planted whips are protected from trampling by people and machinery by using fencing Use mulch around and between the base of new plants to prevent growth of competitive grasses. Scrub whips should be planted 30-40cm apart in a mosaic. Sourcing plants Ideally, plants should be sourced from local garden centres within 20km of the site. Shrubs and trees should be bought in 5L pots and will be 60-80cm in height. Pots are recommended over bare root-produce, as bare roots require planting immediately.
YEAR 1 Suppress weeds and replace saplings where necessary.	Scrub area	April - September	Where required clear away long grass and weeds to allow growth of saplings. Replace saplings if they have died. Pruning should not take place.
YEAR 2 Suppress weeds and replace saplings where necessary.	Scrub area	April - September	Where required clear away long grass and weeds to allow growth of saplings. Replace saplings if they have died. Pruning should not take place.

YEAR 3 and onwards	Shrub area	Late-September/October	Cut grasses that may be smothering saplings. Replace saplings that have been damaged by grazing.
YEAR 5 and onwards	Shrub area	Late-September/October	Hazel can be coppiced if required to prevent succession to trees if growing above 5m.

Scrub Species Lists (SC-T03)

Provide a detailed species list for the habitat to be created.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance / %	Comments
Hawthorn	Crataegus monogyna	70	
Hazel	Corylus avellana	20	
European Gorse	Ulex europaeus	10	Bramble is expected to colonise.

What Does Success Look Like? (SC-F01)



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

Provide a site-wide risk register associated with creating, enhancing and, or, managing each habitat type. Consider your approach to delivering the BNG targets in case the management prescriptions do not deliver as expected.

Risk Identification Date	Habitat Type	Risk Factor	Trigger for Action	Remedial Measure
September 2025/2026	Scrub	Newly planted saplings failing to establish	Any single sapling dead in years 1-3	Re-plant with sapling on a like-for-like basis
July-September 2025-2028	Scrub	Grazed saplings	Any single sapling damaged by grazing.	Re-plant with sapling on a like-for-like basis. Temporarily fence area of newly planted scrub to enable establishment of saplings and invasion by bramble.
July/August 2025-2055	Scrub	Invasive non-native species	Presence of non-native invasive species including Himalayan balsam (<i>Impatiens grandulifera</i>), giant hogweed (<i>Heracleum mantegazzinum</i>) or Japanese knotweed (<i>Fallopia japonica</i>).	Regular checks for invasive non-native species. If found present treatment and removal will be necessary specific to the species.
September 2030-2055	Scrub	Overgrown hazel	Hazel over 5m	Coppice long hazel stems to prevent succession.

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)

Scrub: This will be a subjective assessment of the health of the saplings, to determine presence of non-native invasive species.

Monitoring Methods and Intervals MS-T01

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

Habitat Type	Monitoring Methods	Monitoring Interval and Timing
Scrub	Check of sapling health (damaged/dying) Inspect for non-native invasive species	In year 1, 2 and 3, then every 5 years. Surveys to be completed between mid-May and September each year.

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

Provide details of the person or organisation that will be responsible for submitting the monitoring reports. Also state the responsible organisation for receiving and reviewing the reports.

Organisation Responsible for Submitting the Monitoring Reports	Organisation Receiving and Responsible for Reviewing Reports
Holcombe Brook Sports Club	NA

Provide details of when the monitoring surveys and reports will be undertaken and submitted. You can extend the table and adjust according to your required schedule.

Project Year	Month Report to be Submitted	Month Management Plan to be reviewed	Comments
Y1	September	September or October	Report on planted scrub and health of newly planted saplings. Ensure fencing is intact. Replace with permanent fencing if necessary.
Y2	September	September or October	Report on planted scrub and health of newly planted saplings and presence of invasive species.
Y3	September	September or October	Report on planted scrub and health of newly planted saplings, presence of invasive species.
Every 5 years	September	September or October	Report on planted scrub and health of newly planted saplings, presence of invasive species. Ensure fencing is

			intact. Replace with permanent fencing if necessary.
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Adaptive Management

Adaptive Management Approach (MS-B02)

The regular monitoring, and reporting will allow identification of issues early on. Remedial actions, if necessary, can then be undertaken. Any changes must be recorded in this management plan.